

WellSouth Update

12 July 2022

Kia ora koutou -

WellSouth Update is a regular e-newsletter for general practice teams, community pharmacy and other providers in Southland and Otago.

To subscribe or to provide feedback or submissions, please email communications@wellsouth.org.nz Thank you.

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Important: COVID-19 Consenting Process

Informed consent is required for **all vaccination events** – this includes discussing possible reactions and what to do / where to go if these are experienced.

This is not being done in all situations. In some cases, this is due to not wanting to put the consumer off being vaccinated, or is being missed during second or booster doses because of an assumption that the consumer has already had this information.

A written post-vaccine handout ([Getting your COVID-19 vaccine: What to expect](#)) is recommended as part of the consenting process. Sites should ensure they have access to the latest leaflet and offer it at **all vaccination events**. You can request this collateral through romilly.smith@southerndhb.govt.nz.

We recommend vaccinators watch the video on informed consent, myocarditis and pericarditis which is available free through the online IMAC e-learning page.

[Updated vaccine consent form \(including second boosters\).](#)

Updating Healthpoint

Please remember to update Healthpoint straight away if there are any changes in your practice, especially whether or not you are currently enrolling. Many practice listings also have out of date information around staffing and COVID services.

Pipelle Biopsy Update

The Pipelle biopsy programme has been available for several years, in practices who have opted into providing this service and who have an appropriately trained provider in their team.

Some recent changes to the provider section of the WellSouth portal now means that this programme will only be visible to those providers for whom we have received an agreement, and evidence of their training/experience in providing the procedures.

If you are a provider of Pipelle biopsies, and can no longer see this programme on the WellSouth portal, please contact Katrina Braxton katrina.braxton@wellsouth.org.nz

If you are not currently a provider of Pipelles but are trained and would like to offer this procedure, please also make contact as above.

IV Iron Infusion - Increased Maternity eligibility

We are pleased to advise that the criteria for WellSouth funded iron infusion in pregnant women (Trimester 2 & 3 only) has been extended. See the updated criteria below:

Maternity Trimester 2 or 3 – must have:

- a. Hb < 105g/L
- b. Ferritin < 30ug/L (or Ferritin < 50ug/L if the CRP is > 5mg/L) with other deficiencies excluded or corrected
- AND
- c. At least 1 of the following:
 - i. Fetal compromise
 - ii. Failure of oral iron therapy trial, e.g. < 10 g/L rise in Hb and ferritin remains low, poorly tolerated side-effects, or high oral iron requirements
 - iii. 36 weeks or more gestation
- OR
- Severe iron deficiency anaemia with both of the following:
 - i. Hb < 85g/L
 - ii. Ferritin < 20ug/L (or Ferritin < 50ug/L if the CRP is > 5mg/L) with other deficiencies excluded or corrected

The key changes are an increase to the Hb and Ferritin levels, and a more appropriate oral iron trial criteria.

We hope these changes will increase the number of women who are able to access much needed iron infusions with you as their primary care provider.

Invoicing Community Connectors

WellSouth has had feedback from community connectors that they are receiving invoices from General Practice regarding payment of routine appointments or scripts for patients. While this may be coming via patient request, Community connectors do not pay invoices for whānau they work with.

MMR and influenza vaccine administration payment

The Ministry of Health has advised the temporary administration top-up payment for the MMR vaccine has been extended until 30 September 2022. During this time they are also offering a temporary top up payment for influenza vaccine for patients who meet the criteria outlined in the document below.

Please review the [full document](#) for details about the payment process and eligibility.

Gen2040 Best Start and Six Week Pepi Programme

We're two thirds of the way through the Triple Best Start campaign and we'd like to say a big **THANK YOU**.

Thank you for the extra effort you are putting in to remember to use the forms. Thank you for taking the time to get familiar with them both. Thank you for making a positive contribution to women's health. And thank you for positively contributing to Māori māmā and the next generation.

As a reminder the goal is to provide equitable healthcare for Māori māmā and pēpi and with this comes incentive payments which remain tripled until the **end of July**. Plus, if you triple the number of Best Start assessments during this period, you will be shouted a workplace lunch.

If you have not yet signed up for the Gen2040 Best Start and Six Week Pepi programs, please email karen.bolch@wellsouth.org.nz and we can get the installation done this this week.

Upcoming Training and Education

Please review our upcoming Training and Education courses. For course dates and registration please click [here](#).

Upcoming training:

- Advance Care Planning
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Southern Spirometry Training Courses
- Nuts and Bolts Sessions

Reminder: Registrations are still open for our ACC GPMRI Referral training running next week on July 19, register [here](#).

GP Based Sentinel Respiratory Virus Surveillance

The Ministry of Health are looking for practices to take part in sentinel respiratory virus surveillance. This surveillance system provides important information on respiratory viruses circulating in the community, the population groups most affected, and the effectiveness of vaccines and other preventative measures

Please review the following resources for more information:

[General Practice information pack](#)
[GP Influenza-like Illness Surveillance](#)

Please direct any questions about the programme to influenza.surveillance@esr.cri.nz

Bowel Screening National Multimedia Campaign

The first national multimedia campaign promoting the National Bowel Screening Programme launched on 6 July 2022 and will run until at least the end of June 2023. The campaign has been developed by the National Bowel Screening Programme, working with agency the Puhimoana Ariki Collective.

[Information sheet for primary care](#)

Approved Community Strength and Balance Classes

Every person in New Zealand aged 65 and over who is at risk of falling and who is able to access and engage in a group format should be encouraged to attend a group strength and balance class in their community.

WellSouth is the Southern Districts Lead Agency for the Live Stronger for Longer Falls Prevention Programme and helps to support and grow access to community group strength and balance classes.

We're adding community group strength and balance classes as they become available in your area.

Exercise providers that meet our clinical criteria will carry the endorsement tick and help

build strength and balance.

[More about the endorsement tick](#)
[Find classes in your area](#)

Postgraduate Study in Nursing

The Health Workforce Directorate (HWD) is appealing to registered nurses who are interested in undertaking postgraduate study in 2023.

If this may be you, please review the following information about the HWD Study Expo, funding information, and an application form:

[Study Expos](#)
[Funding Information](#)
[Application form](#)

The HWD Funding application period is from **Thursday 1 September and will close at 5 pm, Friday 30 September 2022.**

If you have any queries, please contact the HWD Funding PGNE office: HWDfunding@southernhb.govt.nz

Gout Resources

Health Literacy NZ have developed a [useful resource](#) for those who experience Gout. The [Gout booklet](#) is currently available in English, Samoan, and Tongan. If you would like to order some Gout booklets, please complete the online [order form](#).

Park and Ride Feedback

Dunedin City Council is requesting feedback on the Mosgiel Park and Ride. Please see the poster and information on how to provide feedback [here](#).



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