

WellSouth Update

14 December 2022

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Immunisation top up payment

We have been working with Te Whatu Ora to distribute the immunisation top up payment for MMR due to practices from 1 August 2022.

One payment was made in August, so the payment that will be made on 15 December 2022 will be made for the period 16 August to 30 November 2022.

Payments will be made quarterly thereafter.

Clinical Programme Claims

Reminder - WellSouth clinical programme claims need to be lodged in the portal by the end of the month in order to be paid the following month.

E.g. A claim lodged on July 30 will be paid on August 20, but a claim lodged on August 1 will not be paid until September 20.

We want to extend a thank you to practices, we have noticed an improvement in the number of CPI exports being submitted on time this month, and this helped update the register process in a timely manner.

GP Advice Clinic Survey

The GP Advice Clinic is a short video or phone appointment booked by a GP (or other primary care worker) with a clinician from a Southern District secondary care specialty.

The Rheumatology service has piloted this clinic over the past year.

The booking link is available under rheumatology requests on HealthPathways. Te Whatu Ora Southern is looking to expand the GP advice clinic to other services.

We would love to know from you, as a primary care worker, which secondary care specialist services you would like to access advice from using the GP advice clinic.

Please take 2 minutes to give us your opinion by completing the survey at the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=jHoQRXxtHkGaf3h2hKMD3xevCMoTYutKjbLrVEWfd2RURFBUN0w4RVNBN09CNE M1SFNYQVZRWTQ2SC4u>

Thank you for your valued time and input!

This survey will take less than 2 minutes of your time.

Registered Nurse Prescribing in Community Health programme NEW 2023 Dates and Q+A session

Enrolment Dates for 2023 - Registered Nurse Prescribing in Community Health (RNPCH) programme

The 2023 dates have been finalised for the Registered Nurse Prescribing in Community Health (RNPCH) programme.

Cohort 23A: 7 February 2023 – 11 August 2023

Cohort 23B: 2 May 2023 – 17 November 2023

Cohort 23C: 5 September 2023 – 19 April 2024

Applications for the next cohort close on **Monday 30 January 2023**, with the programme commencing on **7 February 2023**.

Information about the programme, including eligibility criteria, programme dates, and application forms are available on the [WellSouth website](#).

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Ellen Clearwater at ellen.clearwater@wellsouth.org.nz.

Congratulations to Nicky Burwood and Ellen Clearwater – the team behind the Registered Nurse Prescribing in Community Health (RNPCH) programme – which has been a big success in a challenging year.

38 nurses have participated in three cohorts in 2022 – and 10 RNs have completed the programme and are prescribing in primary care.

This programme is having a big impact helping increase capacity and capability in primary care and delivering funded training for nurses in primary and community care.

RNPCH Programme Virtual Q+A Session

Join us for a brief info/Q+A session on our exciting new Registered Nurse Prescribing In Community Health (RNPCH) Programme. The free of charge, online based programme

could see you prescribing common medications for minor ailments under supervision within 6 months. The programme is Nursing Council approved and applications are open now for our October intake.

Monday 23 January 2023, 4pm – 4.30pm

Teams Link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Further [Workforce Development](#) opportunities are available on the WellSouth website.

Covid-19 Antivirals

Message from Te Whata Ora Covid Care in the Community Team



You may have seen last weekend's [media coverage of COVID-19 antiviral medicines](#). As demand increases, Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand would like to thank you for your mahi helping people most at-risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 access these medicines, and remind you of the resources available to help you raise awareness and respond to questions from patients or the public.

Free medicines to treat COVID-19

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if antiviral medicines are right for you.
Visit COVID19.health.nz to find out more.

Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri
New Zealand Government

Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand

[Posters for general practices](#) – displaying a poster in your waiting room may prompt patients to ask you about COVID-19 antivirals during a scheduled appointment, rather than calling the practice separately later.

[Posters for pharmacies](#) – thank you to all of the pharmacies that have come on board to offer antivirals to our communities. Displaying a poster will help to raise awareness of COVID-19 antivirals amongst eligible groups, and direct people to your pharmacy for this service. Pharmacies are an important access point for antiviral medicines and Te Whatu Ora appreciates your support. We're keen to see photos of posters on your walls so if you'd like to share one with us, please email COVIDCareintheCommunity@health.govt.nz.

New translations - Te Whatu Ora has developed a COVID-19 antivirals [factsheet](#) for the public, and Health Navigator now offers COVID-19 antivirals factsheets in [te reo Māori](#), [Samoan](#), [Tongan](#), [Chinese \(simplified\)](#) and [Cook Islands Māori](#).

New video – Te Whatu Ora has developed an [explainer video on COVID-19 antiviral medicines](#), which will be promoted this week on social media. The video is available for downloading and sharing from the [Unite Against COVID-19 online resources toolkit](#).

A reminder to pharmacies and general practices to please update your details on [Healthpoint](#) about COVID-19 antivirals supply, including holiday hours.

Virtual GP Consults

We have created a new page on our website with information about virtual GP consults through online providers.

These online services may be a valuable resource if your practice experiences staff shortages or illness. Patients can utilise the online service as a casual patient if there is a wait time for appointments in practice.

Further information about the service is available on the [WellSouth website](#).

Workforce Challenges and Solutions - GPNZ

GPNZ CEO Maura Thompson has shared a draft document on primary care workforce challenges and solutions, developed by the GPNZ working group.

[Health Workforce Engagement summary](#)

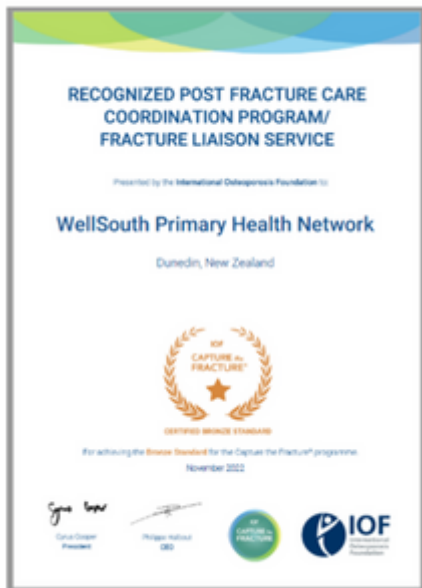
[Letter from Minister Little](#)

[GPNZ health workforce objectives](#)

WellSouth Fracture Liaison Team garners international recognition

WellSouth's Fracture Liaison Service has achieved international recognition for quality management of fragility fractures, falls risk, and osteoporosis.

Just a year since its launch, FLS has attained Bronze status on the [International Osteoporosis Foundation's 'Capture the Fracture' programme](#) achieving high standards for good process, comprehensive coverage, and patient management.



WellSouth FLS is the only such service in Aotearoa/New Zealand based in primary care – there are 14 others services across the country based in secondary services - and aspires to champion the integration of comprehensive fragility fracture care and osteoporosis management across tertiary, secondary and primary sectors.

Not resting on its laurels, WellSouth Fracture Liaison Lead and Queenstown GP Dr Richard Macharg says the service has already actioned further improvements including extending Te Whatu Ora-funded Bone Density scans for fragility fracture patients, participating in an international quality initiative ANZ Fragility Fracture Registry, and promoting more and better engagement with primary and secondary care sectors.

“We have an outstanding falls prevention and fracture liaison team in place and we’ve made big advances quickly – and more is planned: We are working to bring fully subsidised IV treatment for osteoporosis, improved vertebral fracture case finding and continuing to build co-operation throughout the health system in the care of fragility fracture patients.

“We expect to reach the top step of the Capture the Fracture podium at our next attempt!

Want to know more?

Southern FLS welcomes all input and help to reach this goal.

[More information](#) or [email](#) the fracture liaison team.

Residents in Aged Residential Care and Covid

We encourage you to indicate whether your patients in ARC would be eligible for oral

antivirals and if so consider an advance prescription for these patients.

This will be helpful over the busy Christmas/New Year period.

Pharmac to widen access to meningococcal B vaccine and secure supply of the shingles vaccine

Pharmac have announced their decision to fund the meningococcal B vaccine (Bexsero) from **1 March 2023** to protect against meningococcal disease in children up to 12 months of age, administered as part of the childhood immunisation programme.

It will also be funded for people aged 13 to 25 years who are entering into or in their first year of specified close-living situations. Catch-up programmes will also be funded for these groups.

Pharmac have also secured ongoing supply of the shingles vaccine (Shingrix) from **1 December 2022**. There are no changes to the current funding of Shingrix.

More information is available on their [website](#).

HPV Primary Screening Project

The National Cervical Screening Programme have released their last sector update for the year.

The update includes information on a new resource with information about the HPV Primary Screening Project.

A webinar was presented in September on moving to HPV testing for primary cervical screening, the webinar recording and other related resources are available on the National Screening Unit website [here](#).

The target date for the move to HPV Primary Screening is **July 2023**.

Read the full sector update [here](#).

Mirror Youth Day Programme

The Mirror Youth Day Programme are open for referrals for term one next year.

Whakaata Tohu Tohu/Mirror Youth Day Programme is a therapeutic day programme for taiohi (young people) between 13 and 18 years old who have significant alcohol and other drug issues. The programme runs for the school term up to 10 weeks, or longer as negotiated case by case with staff.

The team can come and support the referral process by meeting any potential young people and completing the referral and assessment in a meeting alongside the young person, their whanau, and you the referrer.

This pre-engagement work is focused on providing a supportive referral pathway and building a relationship for when the young person chooses to attend.

Please find attached a [referral form](#) and [information booklet](#) on the programme.

Please contact Piripi Matthews if you have any questions:

Piripi Matthews
Kaihautu Oranga
Whakaatatohutohu o tai tama wahine tai tama tane
Mirror Youth Day Programme
PO BOX 276, Dunedin 9054
Phone: 03 4821366
Mobile: 027 298 0701
www.mirror.services.org.nz

Primary, Community and Rural Early Actions Programme

Te Aka Whai Ora (Māori Health Authority) and Te Whatu Ora (Health New Zealand) held a webinar on 28 November 2022 introducing the Primary, Community, and Rural Early Actions programme.

Here is a link to the session recording: [Primary, Community & Rural Early Actions Webinar \(vimeo.com\)](#), the slides from the presentation are available [here](#).

They will be doing more targeted information and feedback sessions in the New Year to discuss the work that is underway and what it means for you.

Locum needed - Kurow

Kurow Medical Centre is looking for a Locum for the last two weeks of January to cover annual leave. Please contact Juliet Gardner if you are able to assist:

Juliet Gardner
Practice Manager
Kurow Medical Centre
8 Wynyard Street
Kurow 9435
Ph: 0275267464

Update Healthpoint please

In the coming days you will receive a reminder from HealthPoint to update your practice/pharmacy information on the HealthPoint web site. This includes opening hours and dates, after hours information and more

Updating HealthPoint is now easier and their email to you will include a link to a 'Refresher Guide' for updating your page.

So please ensure your information is current as we head into the busy holiday season.

Thank you.

WellSouth Christmas Hours

Christmas is just around the corner, so we would like to remind you that WellSouth will be observing a closedown period over this time.

All WellSouth Offices will close at **5pm Friday 23 December 2022** and reopen on

About this newsletter

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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