

WellSouth Update

27 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.

In this issue:

- Primary Care Patient Experience Survey (PES)
- Workforce Development and Training
- Upcoming Webinars
- Best Start Kōwae
- Accuretic Changeover - New Thalamus Dashboard
- ACC GPMRI Referral Programme
- Ophthalmology outpatients going paperless, patients records moving to HealthConnect South/ HealthOne
- Paediatric Flu Vaccinations 2022
- Advance Prescriptions for Oral COVID-19 Antiviral Medicines

Primary Care Patient Experience Survey (PES)

Practices are asked to please display information and promote the PES survey to patients during the period of **25 July – 7 August 2022**

Patient-focused communications should be shared and displayed within this window as part of the informed consent to be invited for patients. It also assists in boosting the response rates by building awareness that the invitation to participate will be coming. Existing example communications include:

- The patient flyers available on the Commission's [website](#)
- A draft message to share online through social media:

We want to hear your views!

Over the next few weeks you may receive an email or text message inviting you to take part in a patient experience survey about your recent experience at [practice name].

By taking part in the survey, you would be helping to improve the care you and your whānau receive, as well as care and access to health services in local communities across New Zealand.

Taking part in the survey is voluntary and anonymous.

Please ensure the contact details we have for you are up to date. This can be done by contacting [practice name] reception.

Workforce Development and Training

LEAN workshop

The Health Care Home team is holding the **LEAN workshop from 9am – 12.30pm, on Thursday 4 August 2022, Petridish, 8 Stafford St, Dunedin.**

Mel Juer will lead the workshop for general practice staff.

Please register:

<https://wellsouth.arlo.co/register?sgid=2d63c8bba6aa430a80c9eada80c03c01>

RSVP: [Here via our Workforce Calendar](#) by Monday 1 August.

National Rural Health Conference

The National Rural Health Conference will take place on 9-10 September at Te Pae Conference Centre in Christchurch.

The Otago Community Trust will be sponsoring up to 15 rural health professionals to

attend the conference, you can read more information [here](#). Early Bird registrations close on 29 July 2022. You can find all the information you need on the [conference website](#).

Certificate of Advanced Dermatoscopy

Skin Cancer Symposiums provide CME-endorsed courses that empower GPs to detect and remove melanomas earlier and save kiwi lives.

The next course is the 6-7 August, early bird registrations close on 1 August 2022.

[Event Details](#)

Useful Resources on the WellSouth Website

The Workforce Development section of the WellSouth website has a variety of useful training resources.

Understanding Bias in Healthcare has just been added, and we recommend that all your staff (clinical and admin) view these modules. The modules are an introduction to bias in health care and encourage health professionals to examine their biases and how they affect the health care they provide, their interactions with consumers, and therefore their health outcomes.

Sign up to Learn Online for free and complete the modules at the following link:

<https://learnonline.health.nz/course/view.php?id=394>

GP-referred MRI - training dates and registration available on the WellSouth website

GP-referred MRI training sessions continue to be available across the district through until October. [Click here](#) for a full list of training session dates and registration information.

Vocationally-registered general practitioners and GP registrars working in general practice who complete the 3-hour training session will be eligible to make the MRI referrals.

Upcoming Webinars

Primary Care Update 2022

The Goodfellow Unit is holding a Primary Care Update online webinar on 27 August 2022. Information on the event, guest speakers, and registration are available online [here](#).

When a patient dies by suicide

Dr Annette Beautrais, Suicidologist and University of Canterbury adjunct professor, recently presented a webinar that reviews evidence about the challenging nature of suicide assessment and management to SDHB staff. The link to the recording is below.

Here is the link to the Zoom recording and the passcode:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/q-VQagOsnqnaPB8wdkMkUE-2zrrY7_Zwel2-4GkzNnfYI2GycLtiWdZp9cjoE5_A.KduzpfHs0f7pK5nn

Passcode: WF#0?f1e

This recording is for individual use only. If you would like to share this recording, please first obtain consent from the presenter, Dr Beautrais, by emailing your request to abeautrais@scdhb.health.nz. Southern DHB staff must not use this webinar as the basis for their own educational presentations. Instead, please contact Dr Beautrais or the Suicide Prevention team at WellSouth (suicideprevention@wellsouth.org.nz) who will provide guidance and assistance.

Best Start Kōwae

Manaaki Māmā - During August, September and October, Gen2040 are offering \$50 prezzy cards to each Māori pregnant woman assessed using Best Start Pregnancy.

For more information see the [Best Start Kōwae August Update](#).

If you would like to sign up for the Gen2040 Best Start and Six Week Pepi program, please contact Karen Bolch at karen.bolch@wellsouth.org.nz

Accuretic Changeover - New Thalamus Dashboard

WellSouth's new Accuretic Changeover dashboard is now live on Thalamus. The dashboard is for identifying patients eligible for the Accuretic Change Over Programme.

Patient lists are based on Pharmac guidance - June 2022 NES enrolments, Dispensing for quinapril/hydrochlorothiazide, Dispensing during Feb - May 2022 inclusive. The system is

fully set-up for Evo,M32, My Practice, and limited functionality for Profile Practices. Our digital team is still developing the lists for Profile PMS and appreciate input if any practices would like to help.

ACC GPMRI Referral Programme

Message from Dr Richard Macharg:

I am very pleased to have been appointed as the Clinical Lead for the ACC GPMRI Referral Programme coming on stream through WellSouth under contract to the ACC.

I believe this does indeed have the potential to “reduce the time from 1st assessment to diagnosis” as ACC envisages and that freeing up of access in this way is well overdue.

ACC GPMRI referral to investigate knee, lumbar spine and neck injuries can be actioned by all doctors working in general practice who have undergone the specific training session as provided through WellSouth and applying the provided ACC Clinical Guidelines.

The contract however at this time excludes Nurse Practitioners and physios and indeed the ACC GPSs who remain in place and who can continue to provide appropriate assessment and investigation of injuries at other sites.

The consultation for the follow up of the scan results and management planning is fully funded, precludes co-payment and is to be claimed through the WellSouth portal (“WPGMRI”). This funding however is in addition to the ability to claim and charge normally for all other consultations related to the injury both before and after the scan result has been delivered. Please make time to register for the training [here](#) and be ready to take advantage of the service as it comes on stream.

ACC GPMRI Referral is being rolled out across the South Island as a new service and we as the WellSouth team are genuinely keen to hear all feedback on the scheme itself, the training, the guidelines or any other aspect of the effects on clinical practice or support required. Please contact us on GPMRI@WellSouth.org.nz

Further information including confirmation of referral pathways will follow as soon as possible.

- Dr Richard Macharg FRNZCGP

Opthamology outpatients going paperless, patients records moving to HealthConnect South/ HealthOne

Patient records for Eye Department consultations (inclusive of Eye Department Diabetic Screening) will be moving on to Health Connect South/HealthONE as of the 1st August.

From August 1st GPs will be able to access their patients HealthConnectSouth electronic file to see clinical detail of their recent visit to the Eye Department. Some elements of its dictation process will change on the back of this as below:

- o For all Diabetic screening consultations referrers will receive a copy of the consultation when it occurs.
- o For all Eye Department consultations, unless there is a specific communication, the department will likely **not** contact the referrer. A standardised letter will be sent to notify that a consultation form is available for viewing in HCS/HealthONE.
- o A letter for the patient’s very first consultation, or a significant change in status (complications, medications, risks etc) and discharge will still be completed.

Changes to ERMS triage

In line with this electronic transition, the Eye Department has also streamlined how it triages through ERMS. There is now a specific form for cataract referrals where we ask that if a patient needs surgery, an optometry assessment occurs, and the optometrist completes the referral (this is the preferred method of referral for public patients). A CPAC score is included with the referral, and SDHB optometrists are enabled to submit this also.

By having optometrists complete the referral –means that the most accurate information and tests can be sent in on the referral – speeding up the triaging process and hopefully speeding up the time in which we will see the patient.

▼ Ophthalmology

[Acute Ophthalmology Referral \(Online\)](#)

[Cataracts Referral \(Online\)](#)

[Diabetes Retinal Screening Referral \(Online\)](#)

[Ophthalmology Referral \(Online\)](#)

Paediatric Flu Vaccinations 2022

Te Whatu Ora is encouraging increase in influenza vaccination for our younger tamariki.

Through tracking influenza vaccinations this season, they are aware that while there has been increased uptake of vaccination in older children and adults, we have fallen behind in offering it to younger tamariki under 3 years old.

[FAQ for paediatric nurses and doctors in hospitals in Aotearoa](#)

Advance Prescriptions for Oral COVID-19 Antiviral Medicines

Te Whatu Ora has released draft guidance information on “Advance Prescriptions for Oral COVID-19 Antiviral Medicine”.

The guidance clarifies a process whereby an authorized prescriber can issue a prescription in advance to a higher risk person who will meet the eligibility criteria set by Pharmac if they get COVID-19 in the future. They cannot be dispensed unless the person develops COVID-19, but providing the advance prescription means they will have fewer steps to complete to fill the prescription and access the medicine. This is part of a suite of changes aimed at improving equity and timeliness of access to COVID-19 antivirals.

Further information and guidance to support this reclassification will be provided separately in the near future, and we will work to update the current published information and guidance for health practitioners to align with these changes.

[Guidance Advance Prescriptions for Oral COVID-19 Antiviral Medicines](#)



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