



Country SA News April 2021 Edition

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COUNTRY SA
An Australian Government Initiative



Message from the Chair

Breakthrough in Point of Care Testing – Health Minister Greg Hunt announces Medicare rebate

As an organisation we are continually making small collective steps to bridge the gap in health inequity for country South Australians. Sometimes these steps come together to make a giant leap forward - encapsulating the effort, creating significant change and ultimately resulting in tangible improvements to people's health and wellbeing.

Point of care testing is one such leap with Health Minister Greg Hunt giving the green light to a Medicare rebate for point of care glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c) tests from November 1 - funding 190,000 tests for Australians with previously diagnosed diabetes.

Along with other key national organisations, Country SA PHN (CSAPHN) Health Policy Manager, Ali Krollig, has been passionately advocating and working directly towards making point of care testing a reality for general practices and their patients. Point of care testing allows both the testing and the analysis to happen in one appointment - enabling the opportunity for rapid clinical decision making, treatment and interventions. As such, this rebate announcement is welcome movement towards Medicare recognising its overwhelming benefits.

As a country South Australian GP I regularly see the effectiveness of point of care testing and the big difference it makes for country patients in-particular. At the Broughton Clinic in Port Broughton, we are using point of care testing supported by iCCNet, for a range of tests and have found HbA1c testing one of the most useful in significantly reducing turn-around times for our diabetes patients. Like many rural practices with no laboratory in town, without access to point of care testing the lag time between testing and the results can be at least a few days. HbA1c testing allows the sample to be tested and discussed in the same visit – providing faster access to test results saving rural patients significant waiting and travel time and money and enabling faster treatment.

While of particular benefit to regional, rural and remote patients this rebate will now also be available to all Australian practices. Approximately one in 20 Australian adults has diabetes with the chronic disease accounting for about ten per cent of all hospital admissions. Monitoring diabetes is vitally important. HbA1c is a blood test showing how much glucose has been in the blood over a particular period-of-time. This is an important part of treating people with diabetes, as those with a high HbA1c level are at higher risk of developing diabetes related complications including: heart disease; kidney disease; blindness and lower limb amputation.

For nearly 20 years, many Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) have been using point of care testing for both diagnosis and management of diabetes. Observing the benefits of this testing, CSAPHN followed this lead and commissioned well respected clinical provider iCCNet to offer point of care testing as part of a trial package to practices and ACCHOs throughout country South Australia. The trial was called My Health Point of Care Innovative Technologies Trial or (My Health PoCiTT). The trial's overwhelming success led us to fund the program for another two years. We also commissioned Brentnalls SA –

Health Division to build a business case and tools to help support other rural health providers across Australia to use point of care testing.

CSAPHN's ongoing funding of My Health PoCiTT continues to support country practices to financially and otherwise support the use of point of care testing such as HbA1c. While it remains to be seen if the Medicare rebate will adequately cover the costs of consumables and staff time for HbA1c testing without CSAPHN's ongoing financial support it is, however, a very welcome step in the point of care testing journey. Hopefully, it is the start of a useful change in improving patient flow and may pave the way for further Medicare rebates for other point of care testing to increase the speed and efficiency of diagnosis and treatment – ultimately saving patient time and most significantly resulting in better patient health outcomes.

Practice Network Meeting Port Lincoln

Over 30 Practice Managers, Nurses and Administration staff recently attended a Practice Network Meeting in Port Lincoln.

Staff travelled from Wudinna, Coober Pedy, Whyalla, Port Augusta, Cleve and Lower Eyre Peninsula with the opportunity to upskill and network. Practice staff indicated after a year of isolation the opportunity for face-to-face interaction was invaluable.

Training sessions were provided by Julie Di Rito from Country SA PHN Practice Support Team in Pen Cat, Top Bar and The Model for Improvement - PDSA cycles with a hands-on breakout session for Practice Managers and Nurses targeting specific practice learnings from the training day and in particular focussing on the PIP QI 10 measures.

The Immunisation update on the COVID-19 Vaccine rollout by Angela Newbound provided an excellent overview of the different vaccines and side effects. This was followed by the Influenza Immunisation update and the importance of keeping other immunisations up to date.

Jane Williams and Keith Siggers presented on Accreditation Standards; training was provided on the use of the 5th Map Accreditation Tool which has now been distributed to 101 general practices and funded by Country SA PHN practices.

Modules on Communication and Staff Wellbeing were provided by Dan Aubin which supported practice staff with skills on selfcare, dealing with difficult conversations and practice communication.



Immunisation: Influenza and Adverse Event update – April 2021

As of 13 April 2021, any adverse event following immunisation (AEFI) is a notifiable condition in South Australia. See [SA Health website](#) for details regarding how to notify.

Influenza Immunisation pathway is updated with 2021 seasonal influenza vaccination program detail incorporating information from SA Health and ATAGI. [Influenza Immunisation](#)

The pathway contains details about vaccinating specific patient groups and includes ATAGI advice regarding the recommended intervals between influenza and COVID-19 vaccine administration.

Dr Couchman in collaboration with Angela Newbound (Adelaide PHN) have reviewed and updated the current immunisation suite with 2021 vaccination recommendations and regulations:

- [Immunisation in Adults](#)
- [Immunisation in Children \(< 10 years\)](#)
- [Immunisation in Children & Adolescents \(> 10 years\)](#)
- [Immunisation in Pregnancy](#)

HealthPathways SA is free and available for all South Australian health professionals. To access or to find out more: <https://saproject.healthpathwayscommunity.org/Home.aspx>



Influenza Immunisation

COVID-19 note

The COVID-19 pandemic will continue to have a widespread impact upon healthcare delivery and patient care in South Australia. Information in this pathway may be superseded by recently released COVID-19 guidelines and resources from key organisations and peak bodies. Please refer to the following pages for guidelines and resources which may be relevant to this pathway:

- [COVID-19 Information](#)
- [COVID-19 Impact on Clinical Care](#)

Clinical editor's note

See [SA Health – Influenza Immunisation Program 2021](#) + [SA Schedule](#) + [ATAGI advice](#)

Flucelvax Quad is a cell-based influenza vaccine which has been newly registered for use in patients aged ≥ 9 years.

By 1st June 2021, all staff and visitors to residential aged care facilities must be vaccinated against 2021 seasonal influenza. Residents of RACFs have the right to refuse influenza vaccination. See [SA Health](#) for details including eligible exemptions (see page 4).

See the [current ATAGI advice](#) about the timing of the COVID-19 vaccination and influenza vaccination in 2021. **Note that advice about the COVID-19 vaccination program is changing frequently.**

It is now mandatory for immunisations to be notified to the Australian Immunisation Record (AIR).

AEFI

As of 13 April 2021, any adverse event following immunisation (AEFI) is a notifiable condition in South Australia. Medical practitioners and diagnostic laboratories are legally required to notify AEFI. See [SA Health website](#) for details regarding AEFI and how to notify.

See also:

- [Influenza](#)
- [Pandemic Influenza](#)

Let's Talk Aged Care

Council of the Ageing SA (COTA) recently held an Aged Care Expo in Port Lincoln focusing on My Aged Care, Advanced Care Directives, and the opportunity for community members to meet local service providers.

The session funded by Country SA PHN attracted over 100 community members and 10 service providers.

Practice Nurses from Lincoln Medical Centre attended the session to be better informed of local services available. Lincoln Medical currently assists elderly clients to register with My Aged Care online and provides the Advanced Care Directives package during practice consultations.

A show of hands on the day indicated less than one third of the community were registered with My Aged Care or had an Advanced Care Directive in place.



Kate Thomas and Joanne Perham from Lincoln Medical Clinic attended the Let's Talk Aged Care Expo pictured with Practice Support Officer Jane Cooper



Community members attending the Let's Talk Aged Care Expo

Emergency Response Planning Tool (ERPT) Expression of Interest

Country SA PHN is providing funding for country SA general practices to access and use the ERPT. An up-to-date plan which best positions your practice to appropriately prepare for, respond to and recover from, the impacts of emergencies within your community.

What is the ERPT?

The Emergency Response Planning Tool (ERPT) is a cloud-based tool which assists general practices in better preparing for, responding to and recovering from the impacts of emergencies and pandemics.

The ERPT is managed by Healthpoint ANZ and was developed in collaboration with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

How does it work?

The critical information entered into the ERPT is used to create an emergency response plan which is individually tailored to your practice, providing a roadmap to recovering from emergencies.

Maintaining an up-to-date emergency plan helps ensure the safety of your staff, the smooth recovery of your practice and reduces the risk of financial loss.

To ensure business continuity, the ERPT provides suggested contingency measures for staff so that, in the event of an emergency, they will know how to respond to:

- a pandemic
- loss of power supply to the practice
- disruption to water and gas supplies
- disruption to telecommunications systems
- loss of IT systems or data
- loss of business records
- complete or partial loss of practice premises
- loss of medical supplies, equipment and furniture
- loss or non-availability of key staff
- COVID-19 safety plan

For more information and registration of your expression of interest in receiving the Emergency Response Planning Tool (ERPT) please email support@countryrphn.com.au and a member of the Practice Support Team will contact you to arrange access.



Living with my diabetes education events

These sessions are for nurses and Aboriginal Health Professionals.

Learning outcomes from these sessions are: Discuss the benefits and challenges of person-centred diabetes care; Examine ways to approach the diagnosis of diabetes; Examine the essential elements of a person-centred care approach as a health professional

Port Pirie held on 4 May 2021, 6.00pm - 8.30pm [Register Here](#)

[Victor Harbor](#) and [Berri](#) held on 13 May 2021, 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Berri session will be held concurrently with the education session in Victor Harbor. The presenter will be streamed live and participants in Berri will be able to see and speak with the presenter and participants in Victor Harbor. There will be SAPMEA staff on site to support the delivery of this session. SAPMEA staff will be on site to support the delivery of this session.

[Mount Barker](#) and [Mount Gambier](#) held on 20 May 2021, 6.00pm - 8.30pm
Mount Gambier session will be held concurrently with the education session in Mount Barker. The presenter will be streamed live and participants in Mount Gambier will be able to see and speak with the presenter and participants in Mount Barker. SAPMEA staff will be on site to support the delivery of this session.



Chronic Disease Integrated Partnership Grants Now Open

The Chronic Disease Integrated Partnership Grants Program is now open for applications. These grants are a Wellbeing SA initiative to support government and non-government organisations, General Practice, Primary Health Networks, Local Health Networks and the community working collaboratively to improve health outcomes for people living with chronic conditions.

Projects must demonstrate how they will contribute to improved integration and quality healthcare for people living with chronic conditions through a partnership-based approach.

Grant funded projects will ideally build on existing services, programs and initiatives to further develop or bring to scale. Proposals seeking to test new and innovative strategies, including use of new or emerging technologies, products and processes that support better healthcare integration for people living with a chronic condition will also be considered.

There is a total funding pool of \$250,000 (GST exclusive) available and individual grants will be allocated up to \$60,000 each (GST exclusive).

Applications for all grants are due by 5.00pm (ACST) on Thursday 6 May 2021.

For guidelines, eligibility, and how to apply, please visit <https://openyourworld.sa.gov.au/chronicdiseasegrants> or contact Wellbeing SA Integrated Care Systems at WellbeingSA.IntegratedCareSystemsAdmin@sa.gov.au or phone 08 8226 5511.





Accreditation Webinar Series, CSAPHN Practice Support Team have recorded a series of webinars focussing on accreditation. There are 11 in the series, with all the information you will need to take the stress out of the accreditation process. If you would like access to the webinars and are a current member, please log onto our [Health Connections Community portal](#) or contact support@country@saphn.com.au to register your interest and your username and password will be forwarded with the instructions on how to register and gain access to all general practice resources.

Supporting people with cancer grant initiative, the grant aims to support people affected by cancer through the provision of grants to community organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations. [Click here](#) for more information.

Meningococcal B vaccination - a guide for healthcare providers, NCIRS has released this resource to facilitate effective communication about meningococcal B vaccination. [Click here](#)

Omega-3 status testing now available, in partnership with the SA Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), SA Pathology now offers omega-3 status testing for all women with singleton pregnancies as part of the established SAMSAS program. [Click here](#)

5th Map Accreditation Expression of Interest, an accreditation infographic summarising the RACGP's Modules, Standards, Criteria and Indicators has been developed by Keith Sagers and endorsed by the RACGP. The 5th Map aims to provide a structured flow of information with space in the margins to record tasking, resource allocation, and tracking, assisting practices to prepare and manage pre-accreditation activities. For more information and registration of your expression of interest please email [Practice Support](#) and a member of the Practice Support Team will contact you to arrange access.

Reframing Children's Mental Health - a communications toolkit, the toolkit is intended for child mental health experts and organisations who communicate about children's mental health to assist in creating messages that resonate and inspire positive change. [Click here](#)

Delivery of Hospice in RACF tender, the tender is being delivered via a competitive open market approach, with all relevant Specifications and Response form available via [Tenders SA](#). Tender closes on Monday 3 May 2021 at 2.00pm.

Country Heart Attack Prevention (CHAP) Project, a four step model of care and clinical pathway for the translation of cardiac rehabilitation and secondary prevention guidelines into practice for rural and remote patients. [Read More](#)



Registered Nurse Position Available

Southern Fleurieu Family Practice is an established general practice located in Yankalilla on the Fleurieu Peninsula and currently have an opportunity for an experienced Registered Nurse to join the team on a full-time basis.

Looking for an experienced general practice Registered Nurse with high level knowledge of triage; wound care; immunisations; cold chain management; infection control and sterilisation; ordering of medical supplies and vaccines; recalls and reminders; ear syringing; ECG; spirometry; health assessments; chronic disease management including preparation of GPMP & TCA; excellent interpersonal, organisation and time management skills.

Submit your application to pm@sffp.com.au attention to the Practice Manager.

Rural GP Adv Dip Obstetrics (or equivalent)

Working as a GP on Kangaroo Island (KI) will allow you to combine the challenge and reward of working in a busy rural practice, with a great lifestyle in the perfect location. KI is just 25 minutes to Adelaide by plane, yet being an MMM7 area, lucrative rural retention allowances and incentives are available. For more information about the General Practice Rural Incentives Program, [see here](#).

The clinic is currently staffed by 6 GP's (who also provide emergency on-call services to the KI Health Service), supported by 2 practice nurses, a practice manager and administration team, all with a commitment to providing high quality care to our patients.

At this boutique rural practice, we can offer a 3-4 day working week; up to 8 weeks annual/up-skilling leave for associate; a dynamic and supportive practice team; and combine the opportunity to practice your emergency and procedural medicine skills with a great lifestyle in the perfect location.

Essential requirements, FACRRM or FRACGP; Adv Dip Obstetrics; and Emergency medicine experience

For more information, please contact our Practice Manager, Tanya Biddell on 08 8553 2037 or at practice.manager@kimedical.com.au.



For more professional development opportunities go
to www.countrysaphn.com.au

Central Region

Obesity Management in Primary Care - Victor Harbor

Tuesday 4 May 2021
6.30pm - 9.00pm

[Register Here](#)

Living with my diabetes - Victor Harbor

Thursday 13 May 2021
6.00pm - 8.30pm

[Register Here](#)

Living with my diabetes - Mount Barker

Thursday 20 May 2021
6.00pm - 8.30pm

[Register Here](#)

Deepen Your Understanding - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Training for General Practice - Hahndorf

Friday 28 May 2021, 10.30am - 5.30pm

[Register Here](#)

Medicines and Weight - Mount Barker

Wednesday 16 June 2021
6.00pm - 8.30pm

[Register Here](#)

Advance Training in Suicide Prevention - Gawler

Thursday 17 June 2021
9.00am - 5.00pm

[Register Here](#)

North & West Region

Don't Despair: Diabetes Diagnosis and Drugs? - Port Augusta

Tuesday 4 May 2021
6.30pm-9.00pm

[Register Here](#)

The Breathless Patient - Port Lincoln

Tuesday 1 June 2021
6.30pm - 8.30pm

[Register Here](#)

Management of Chronic Kidney Disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Patients - Port Lincoln

Monday 21 June 2021, 6.00pm - 9.00pm

[Register Here](#)

Hepatitis & Harm Reduction - Ceduna

Wednesday 23 June 2021
10.00am - 12.30pm

[Register Here](#)

South & East Region

Living with my diabetes - Berri

Thursday 13 May 2021
6.00pm - 8.30pm

[Register Here](#)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Pathologies - Murray Bridge

Thursday 13 May 2021
6.00pm - 9.00pm

[Register Here](#)

Advance Training in Suicide Prevention - Mount Gambier

Sunday 27 June 2021

9.00am - 5.00pm [Register Here](#)

Foundations Skills for understanding and working with people living with Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) - Mount Gambier

Save the Date - Tuesday 29 June 2021

Living with my diabetes - Mount Gambier

Thursday 20 May 2021
6.00pm - 8.30pm

[Register Here](#)

Wound Closure Workshop - Mount Gambier

Friday 6 August 2021
8.45am - 4.30pm

[Register Here](#)

Yorke & Northern Region

Living with my diabetes - Port Pirie

Tuesday 4 May 2021
6.00pm - 8.30pm

[Register Here](#)

Doing the Diabetes Limbo: how low can you go? - Kadina

Tuesday 25 May 2021, 6.30pm - 9.00pm

[Register Here](#)

Metro Region

2021 RDWA Rural GP Conference: Stronger Together - Adelaide

Friday 7 May to Saturday 8 May 2021

[Register Here](#)

Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA) SA Seminar - Adelaide

Saturday 8 May 2021, 8.15am - 4.00pm

[Register Here](#)

Certificate in Sexual Health Theory & CPD Modules

Monday 10 May to Friday 14 May 2021

[Register Here](#)

Contraceptive Implant (Implanon NXT) Training for RNs and Midwives - Woodville

Tuesday 29 June 2021, 6.30pm - 8.30pm

[Register Here](#)

Webinar

Driving Best Practice CVD Prevention in a Post-COVID World

Wednesday 5 May 2021, 7.30pm - 8.30pm

[Register Here](#)

Viral Hepatitis Nurse-led Models of Care Forum

Saturday 29 May 2021

[Register Here](#)

Time Management for Busy Rural Doctors

Thursday 20 May 2021, 7.00pm - 9.00pm

[Register Here](#)

Diabetes Revolution Summit

Saturday 29 May 2021

9.30am - 5.30pm AEST

[Register Here](#)

National Comorbidity Guidelines Train-the-Trainer Day

Thursday 20 May 2021

8.30am - 4.30pm

[Register Here](#)

Diagnosis and Management of Dental Pain in a Primary Care Setting

Friday 18 June 2021, 6.30pm

[Register Here](#)

Health Coaching Session - Part 5: Smart Goal Setting and Readiness to Change

Tuesday 25 May 2021, 7.00pm

[Register Here](#)

Health Coaching Session - Part 6: Putting it All Together

Tuesday 29 June 2021

7.00pm

[Register Here](#)

E-Learning

Diabetes in Practice for Nurses

Online CPD accredited course for Practice and Enrolled Nurses, looking to increase their diabetes knowledge.

[Register Here](#)

BV s100 Online Prescriber Course

Session 1: Tuesday 4 May 2021; Session 2: Tuesday 11 May 2021; Session 3: Tuesday 18 May 2021, 6.00pm - 8.00pm (ACST)

[Register Here](#)



Telehealth in primary care

Researchers from The University of Queensland, Centre for Online Health are recruiting Australian primary care clinicians (general practitioners, nurse practitioners, and other allied health staff) to participate in a short interview (approximately 30 minutes) for a research study. The purpose of this study is to explore the perspectives and experiences of primary care clinicians on providing telephone and videoconference consultations in primary care settings in Australia.

We hope that this will help generate findings for future recommendations for telehealth services that benefit both clinicians and patients. For more information, please contact Keshia De Guzman by email uqkdeguz@uq.edu.au.

Participation in this study is completely voluntary and has been approved by the UQ Ethics Committee (UQ/2020002824).

PC4 General Practice Circle - opportunity for general practice staff to be involved in cancer research

PC4, the Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group, is currently recruiting for our General Practice (GP) Circle.

The GP Circle is a group of GPs, practice nurses and practice managers interested in providing clinical insight and experience to help shape national research projects. Members review research proposals and provide insight and experience to help shape successful research projects.

Members are reimbursed for their time and can choose their level of participation based on their availability and interest. If you are interested, visit our website: <http://pc4tg.com.au/for-gps/gp-circle/> or contact info@pc4tg.com.au.

Seeking GP Participation

Investigators from Monash University are conducting a RACGP-funded national survey of GPs regarding the management of patients with acute exacerbations of COPD.

Acute exacerbations of COPD are a leading cause of hospitalisation, with a substantial proportion of cases being potentially preventable. We kindly invite GPs to complete a short survey that aims to better understand current practice and unmet needs in order to optimise care for these patients.

All eligible participants who complete the survey will have the chance to win one of two \$250 gift vouchers, and anyone who opts in (and is selected) for a follow-up qualitative interview will receive a \$250 gift voucher. The survey can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

The survey has been approved by the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC ref. 26571). If you have any queries, please contact Dr Bianca Perera at bianca.perera@monash.edu or Dr. Chris Barton at chris.barton@monash.edu or Dr Christian Osadnik (Principal investigator) at christian.osadnik@monash.edu

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