



Healthy Profession.
Healthy Australia.

18 April 2013

Ms Carla Sudholz
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
Level 11 / 222 Exhibition Street
Melbourne VIC 3000



Dear Ms Sudholz

Re: Court ref: 2011 000580

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners ("the 'College'") acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 24 January 2013, regarding the death of Margaret Grace McCreddan (Court ref: 2011 000580)

As per recommendation 1 and pursuant to Section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008, the College took action to promote the use of Medicare items in providing falls prevention plans for at risk patients.

To promote the use of relevant Medicare items to GPs, the RACGP published an article in the Victorian Faculty Newsletter on the 18 April 2013. Please note that this Newsletter is published each month and is circulated to over 5000 Victorian Members of the College.

The article identified the specific Medicare item numbers that can be used by GPs to refer eligible patients to relevant allied health services. An example of referring a patient at risk of falls to an occupational therapist was included to specifically raise awareness of the use of these item numbers in providing falls prevention plans. For your reference, a copy of the full article that appeared in the Victorian Newsletter is attached.

As the RACGP has not identified any barriers that may limit GPs' uptake of these Medicare items, no further action has been taken in relation to this recommendation. Should you have any further queries regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Ms Michelle Gonsalvez on 03 8699 0574 or via email at michelle.gonsalvez@racgp.org.au

Yours sincerely

Dr Liz Marles
President

18 April 2013

Events

Using the eHealth record to add value to clinical consultations – registrations open

- *Are you ready for tomorrow's clinical consultation when a patient asks you about their personally controlled electronic health (eHealth) record?*
- *Do you know what information you can find in the eHealth record system?*
- *Do you understand the purpose, benefits and opportunities of the eHealth record system?*

From April to June 2013, the RACGP will run 2 hour peer-to-peer education seminars across Australia. These seminars will highlight a number of key aspects on how to effectively use the eHealth record system to get the most benefits for your patients and practice.

A GP will clearly explain the purpose, benefits and opportunities of the eHealth record system, and what information can be found within it. You will also learn practical ways to include the electronic health record in your clinical workflow, when and what to upload, and how to create and maintain a high quality shared health summary.

Registration is free and places are open to general practitioners, registrars, practice nurses, practice managers and staff. National webinars and teleconference seminar options are available for those in rural and remote areas where face-to-face seminars are not conveniently available.

The seminars have been accredited by the RACGP QI&CPD Program for 4 Category 2 points.

Further information on [seminar dates and registration \(http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/victoria/ehealth/\)](http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/victoria/ehealth/).

Events listing

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| CPR workshop for GPs (http://racgp2.informz.net/racgp2/data/images/faculty_vic_2013/vic_cpr_for_gps_april_may_workshops.pdf) | Tuesday 30 April, Thursday 16 May 2013 |
| Skin cancer: theory and practice (http://racgp2.informz.net/racgp2/data/images/faculty_vic_2013/skin_cancer_workshop_flyer_registration_form.pdf) | Saturday 4 May 2013 |
| 2013 Women in General Practice Annual Conference (http://racgp2.informz.net/racgp2/data/images/faculty_vic_2013/wigp2013_registration_brochure.pdf) | Saturday 1 – Sunday 2 June 2013 |
| CEMP Intermediate workshops (http://www.racgp.org.au/cem) | Friday 14 June, Thursday 14 November 2013 |
| CEMP Advanced workshops (http://www.racgp.org.au/cem) | Saturday 15 – Sunday 16 June, Monday 18 – Tuesday 19 November 2013 |
| Starting out in private practice workshop (http://racgp2.informz.net/racgp2/data/images/faculty_vic_2013/vic_starting_out_in_private_practice.pdf) | Saturday 15 June 2013 |
| Written exam preparation workshop – AKT and KFP (http://racgp2.informz.net/racgp2/data/images/faculty_vic_2013/vic_written_exam_preparation_workshop_june_july_flyer.pdf) | Saturday 23 June, |

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| | Saturday 13 July 2013 |
| <u>Psychodynamic principles for general practitioners workshop (part 1)</u> (http://racgp2.informz.net/racgp2/data/images/faculty_vic_2013/psychodynamic_principles_part1_workshop_flyer_augdec2013.pdf) | Saturday 3 August, Saturday 12 October 2013 |
| <u>Psychodynamic principles workshop (part 2)</u> (http://racgp2.informz.net/racgp2/data/images/faculty_vic_2013/psychodynamic_principles_part_2_workshop_flyer_augdec2013_news.pdf) | Saturday 31 August, Saturday 7 December 2013 |
| <u>Clinical examination preparation workshops</u> (http://racgp2.informz.net/racgp2/data/images/faculty_vic_2013/vic_clinical_exam_preparation_workshop_sept_oct_flyer_2013.pdf) | Saturday 7 September, Saturday 21 September, Sunday 22 September, Saturday 5 October 2013 |

Further information on Victoria faculty events in 2013 (<http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/victoria/events/>).

News

New Fellows Committee call for members

The RACGP Victoria Faculty New Fellows Committee is currently calling for new members from metropolitan, regional and rural Victoria.

The committee meets four times a year via teleconference or face-to-face.

The aims of the committee are:

- by reporting to the RACGP Victoria Faculty Board provide advocacy for members with less than 5 years Fellowship
- to provide support for members with less than 5 years Fellowship
- to provide a platform for New Fellows to contribute to the promotion of the profession.

If you would like more information or to register your interest in becoming a member, please contact the Victoria Faculty Executive Support Officer, Amy Cooper on 03 8699 0591 or email amy.cooper@racgp.org.au (<mailto:amy.cooper@racgp.org.au>).

MentorLink program

In 2012 the RACGP Victoria Faculty launched a program called MentorLink. Its purpose is to provide a regular, safe environment to facilitate the passing on of practical wisdom and advice from more experienced GPs to New Fellows and registrars in training.

The faculty would like to invite prospective mentors and mentees alike to register their interest in the MentorLink program for 2013.

To register your interest please call 03 8699 0591 or email vic.faculty@racgp.org.au (<mailto:vic.faculty@racgp.org.au>).

2013 RACGP Awards

Nominations for the 2013 RACGP Awards are now open and close 14 June 2013. Nominations may be made for the following 2013 RACGP awards: Rose-Hunt Award, Life Fellowship, Honorary Fellowship, Honorary Membership, General Practitioner of the Year, General Practice Registrar of the Year, General Practice Supervisor of the Year, General Practice of the Year, National Rural Faculty Brian Williams Award and the National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Standing Strong Together Award.

For more information, including nomination forms please visit www.racgp.org.au/awards (<http://www.racgp.org.au/awards>). For any questions regarding the RACGP Awards, email awards@racgp.org.au (<mailto:awards@racgp.org.au>) or contact the Awards Secretariat, Rina Hatzispyrou on 03 8699 0550.

The Indigenous Fellowship Excellence Program

The RACGP National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health is pleased to announce that the recently established Indigenous Fellowship Excellence Program is now running workshops nationwide throughout 2013–2014. The next workshop is *Exam preparation workshop 2013.2*, to be held in Melbourne on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 July 2013.

We invite Fellows of the National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health to mentor registrars completing this program. Mentors will be paid for their time and expertise, with all travel, accommodation and meals included, in order to attend the workshop. [Further information on this program \(http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/fellowship-of-the-racgp/ifep/\)](http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/fellowship-of-the-racgp/ifep/).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander registrars – we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to help you prepare effectively and perform to your potential in the upcoming exam. Involvement in this program is free to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander registrars, thanks to the generous donations from Drs' Nathan and Susan Pinskiar, The Mary MacKillop Foundation and the RACGP National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. Travel, accommodation and meals are included for the registrar to attend the workshop.

To express your interest or to find out more, please contact Leah at aboriginalhealth@racgp.org.au (mailto:aboriginalhealth@racgp.org.au) or call 1800 000 251.

External news and opportunities*

Volunteers wanted for survey

Bouncing out of bed or running on empty?

The Department of General Practice, Deakin University, in conjunction with General Practice Education and Training Ltd, is seeking volunteers for a 10 minute survey examining fatigue in GPs and associated work and lifestyle factors.

Learn your fatigue score and join in the chance to win one of two gift certificates valued at \$150. To participate you must be a vocationally active GP or general practice registrar working in Australia.

The survey can be completed online at www.doctorfatigue.net.au (http://www.doctorfatigue.net.au/) or contact Dr Rebecca Jarvis on 03 5227 2290 to receive a hardcopy version. Project Ref. 2012-324.

Department of Health, Victoria updates

[The Immunisation newsletter, Issue 62, April 2013 is now available](http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/ACF3563707DA5CFBCA257B4200772F1F/$FILE/1303012_ImmNews62_web.pdf)

([http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/ACF3563707DA5CFBCA257B4200772F1F/\\$FILE/1303012_ImmNews62_web.pdf](http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/ACF3563707DA5CFBCA257B4200772F1F/$FILE/1303012_ImmNews62_web.pdf)).

In this issue:

- Earlier pertussis diagnosis with smartphone
- Vaccine delivered - act promptly to refrigerate
- Trivalent influenza vaccine 2013
- Adverse event reporting - HPV vaccine secondary school program
- Tetanus - think about older gardeners
- Vaccine storage management
- HPV vaccine eligibility
- further reading.

Australian Immunisation Handbook - 10th edition

The Minister for Health, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP has launched the [10th edition of the Australian Immunisation Handbook](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook10-home) (http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook10-home).

From mid to late April 2013, hard copies of the handbook will be sent to Australian immunisation providers including GPs, specialist doctors (including cardiologists, gerontologists, gynaecologists, obstetricians, oncologists and paediatricians), nurses, midwives, Aboriginal health workers and travel clinics.

The handbook will also be sent to hospitals, medical colleges, state and territory health units, Medicare Locals, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, immunisation committees, non-government organisations, pharmaceutical companies, migrant health services, health insurance companies, universities and libraries. The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) has provided a summarised [slide set on 'what's new'](http://www.ncirs.edu.au/immunisation/education/tools/whats-new-immunisation-handbook-2013.pdf) (http://www.ncirs.edu.au/immunisation/education/tools/whats-new-immunisation-handbook-2013.pdf).

Falls prevention and the Medicare Benefits Schedule

Victorian GPs are reminded that patients who have both a General Practitioner Management Plan (item 721) and Team Care Arrangements (item 723) have access to individual allied health services on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS). Eligible patients can access a maximum of five allied health services per calendar year (via MBS item numbers 10950-10970). For example, GPs are able to refer eligible patients who are at risk of falling to see an occupational therapist who can provide a falls prevention plan and relevant education.

To access these services, patients need to be referred by their GP for services recommended in their care plan, using the [Department of Health and Ageing's referral form](#) (<http://www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems>). Further information regarding GPMPs and TCAs (<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/mbsprimarycare-factsheet-chronicdisease.htm>).

The 7th Cabrini Cardiology Conference

The [Cabrini Cardiology Conference](#) (<http://www.cabrini.com.au>) will take place at the Sofitel in Melbourne on 10 May 2013. The Cabrini Cardiology Conference helps GPs keep up-to-date with the latest developments in cardiology, whilst consolidating knowledge of established therapies. Participants who attend the conference receive 40 Category 1 RACGP QI&CPD points. This year, discussion topics include:

- STEMI in the modern world: what's new?
- the role of new anticoagulants
- stem cells: hype or hope?
- screening before competitive sport
- latest devices
- palliative care in cardiology. This 1 day conference is just \$185, including full catering. Visit the [website](http://www.cabrini.com.au/news-and-events/new-blogcategory/cabrini-cardiology-conference-2013/) (<http://www.cabrini.com.au/news-and-events/new-blogcategory/cabrini-cardiology-conference-2013/>), [view the program](#) (http://racgp2.informz.net/racgp2/data/images/faculty_vic_2013/cardiology_conference_program_2013_final.pdf), or call 03 9508 1386 for details.

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RACGP Victoria Faculty

[Victoria faculty classifieds](http://www.racgp.org.au/support/classifieds/vic/) (<http://www.racgp.org.au/support/classifieds/vic/>).

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<http://www.racgp.org.au/awards>

NOMINATE NOW

2013 RACGP Awards

Do you know someone who deserves recognition?

Nominations open 12 April–14 June 2013
www.racgp.org.au/awards



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