

Five Minute Facts - Week Commencing Monday 12 December 2011



Christmas Operating Hours

Accoras will be closing for the Christmas holiday period from 12:00pm on Thursday 22 December 2011 until 8:30am on Thursday 5 January 2012.

All emails and voice messages received during this time will be attended to upon the recommencement of business.

The team at Accoras would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year!

Information for General Practitioners

Access to Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS) Update

In line with the Australian Government's program of health reform and the establishment of Medicare Local organisations across the country, the Department of Health and Ageing has advised that the management of ATAPS will transition to your Medicare Local from 1 January 2012. Accoras is currently working closely with the Medicare Local teams to ensure a smooth transition of services, with a focus on minimising disruption to you and your patients, and will keep you informed throughout the process.

Accoras will continue to manage all aspects of the ATAPS program, including incoming referrals, until the commencement of our Christmas closure on Thursday 22 December 2011. Referrals received after this date will be collated and forwarded to your Medicare Local for processing upon our return on Thursday 5 January 2012.

As ATAPS is a non-crisis service, any patients in crisis over the Christmas period can be referred to the PA Mental Health Service on 1300 858 998, or directed to the PA Emergency Department. Patients with suicidality can contact the Lifeline Crisis Support Line on 13 11 14, and those who have recently attempted suicide, and their families/carers, can be followed up by the Suicide Call Back Service on 1300 659 467.

If you require any further information, please contact Accoras on 3274 1886.

Healthy Grey Nomads

General Practice Queensland (GPQ) has developed a new consumer webpage to provide easy access to health and lifestyle information and assist older Australians travelling around the country to assess their current health and illness risks.

The webpage also helps 'grey nomads' to find information, advice and health care services while travelling, and provides tips on how to prepare and stay physically and mentally fit while on the road.

The page is available on the GPQ website at www.gpqld.com.au/healthyqueenslanders/.

Independently Assessed Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Services

Dr Marie understand how important quality is to GPs. That's why all of their centres are independently assessed by a National Medical Advisory Committee to ensure their clinical protocols and procedures meet the highest standards. You can feel confident referring your patients to Dr Marie for pregnancy termination, decision-based counselling, contraceptive insertions, STI checks and vasectomy.

Did you know that Dr Marie is part of the global Marie Stopes International partnership? This means that every referral you make to Dr Marie contributes to their lifesaving family-planning work helping millions of poor and vulnerable people in over 40 developing countries each year.

In Brisbane, their centres are in Bowen Hills and Salisbury.

For more information, or to refer a patient, please free call 1800 003 707, or visit www.drmarie.org.au.

Information for Practice Managers

Accreditation Tips – Quality Improvement

Use these tips to help reach the RACGP Standards for General Practice (4th Edition) and achieve accreditation!

- Have all members of your practice team aware of any improvements made in the practice in the last triennium.
- Improvements that you could implement in your practice include changes to scheduling appointments, normal opening hours, the way complaints are handled or even changes in clinical processes.
- Information gained from patient feedback surveys should be utilised in improvement planning.

Information for Practice Nurses

Vaccine Management / Catch Up Education Sessions

The Public Health Unit is organising hour-long vaccine learning sessions, to be held at the John Tong Centre (39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains). There is no cost for the sessions and free parking is available on site. Tea and coffee will be provided and the sessions attract RCNA credit points on completion. If your practice has five or more staff interested in attending a session, the training can be done in your practice. For more information about dates for 2012, please email Cristina on cristina_meza_reales@health.qld.gov.au (please note the underscores).

Information for All Readers

Continence Foundation of Australia Update

The Continence Foundation of Australia (CFA) is the peak body for continence promotion, management and advocacy. The CFA manages the National Continence Helpline, co-ordinates a wide range of education and awareness raising events, and provides a wide range of community brochures, which can be ordered free online.

Their main aims are to:

- raise community awareness about bladder and bowel health and the prevention of incontinence
- educate people about treatment and management options for incontinence
- encourage people with bladder or bowel control problems to seek professional help, no matter how small their problem may be
- advocate for the development of accessible continence services across Australia
- facilitate and/or fund continence-related research

They have recently employed a Health Promotion Officer in Queensland to promote and facilitate the work of the Continence Foundation of Australia. The Health Promotion Officer can facilitate continence education sessions/seminars for GPs, practice nurses and community groups. They are also available to attend expos and display resources at other community events.

For more information on services available or to organise a session, please contact Tracey Sparks, Health Promotion Officer, by calling 3723 5012 or emailing gld.hpo@continence.org.au.

Diabetes Connect

Diabetes Connect is a series of online learning modules and inter professional learning workshops, designed for all health professionals involved in supporting the management of type 2 diabetes. The program aims to increase the capacity of general practice to meet the complex needs of patients with diabetes, and enhance care and communication pathways between general practitioners and other key health and community service providers.

Accoras will be facilitating two workshops, the first of which is being held on Saturday 25 February 2012. For more information, or to register, please refer to the attached flyer, or contact Accoras on 3274 1886.

Five Minute Facts is published by Accoras on a regular basis.
Please circulate this to all members of the General Practice team!

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