



# The Immune Response

April 2002

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Vaccines

Please copy and distribute to all immunisation providers in your practice or health centre. Thank you.

## GPII refunded for another year

The general practice immunisation incentive program is to be funded to 30 June 2003. This is the second extension of the program.

### What does this mean for you?

Instead of only receiving one more payment, eligible practices can expect at least five. Immunisation incentive payments are paid to accredited practices that have an immunisation rate, according to ACIR, equal to or over 85%. This figure was raised from 80% on the

1 January 2002. Each WPE is worth \$3.

For those practices with an immunisation figure of more than 90%, the payment increases to \$3.50 per WPE. To receive \$3.50 after June 30 this year, your practice rate will have to be more than 95%. This seems an impossible task in some areas of our region but we and the division of population health (formerly Public Health Unit) are working hard at plans to increase rates in our most disadvantaged areas. Strategies will be released soon.

## BRIEFS

### Congratulations

The NRDGP's rate has increased to 79.9%.

The top immunising practice for last quarter is Park Mall in Ballina at 99%. Park Mall has just employed a practice nurse, Sue Musgrave, who will be continuing the outstanding immunisation work done by Drs Greenway, McMillan and Smith.

Congratulation also goes to the top immunising area. The figures are calculated using the postcodes of where people live, not necessarily the surgeries they attend. The area with the highest immunisation rate is Urbenville. The community health centre at the hospital runs a proactive immunisation clinic. Next highest are Evans Head and Alstonville.

### Access imm info on NRDGP's CD No. 1

The division has compiled a CD

that contains all the information that was discussed at the recent PIP seminar, and lots more.

Also included is the under 2s reminder letter. Open the folder on the CD labelled *Immunisation - GPII and ACIR*. Then open *Reminder Letter of the under 2s*. This letter can be used as a tool to increase your immunisation rate for your youngest patients. The parents of these children are at risk of losing the payment that is given when the child turns 2. The 2 year old must be fully immunised or parents have filled in a conscientious objector form to be eligible. These children are easily identified by using Medical Director's search in the immunisation section of the files or manually selected from your ACIR020A report.

For more details or a helping hand, please call Gae McDonald, NRDGP or Cheryl

### Reminder registrants! Don't forget Saturday's (27 April) Immunisation Think Tank Byron Bay Beach Resort.

Morning tea from 9:30am. Start time 10am. Finish 3 pm.

Delicious free lunch...

The NRDGP and the Division of Population Health (PHU) are working together to increase the immunisation rate in the Byron Shire. The think tank gives local immunisation providers a chance to share ideas and concerns about the area's immunisation problems.

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### You are invited to the Australian Divisions of General Practice's workshop: Immunisation - Straight to the Point

When: Wed 15 May 8.30am - 5.30pm

Where: Melbourne

Cost: \$50

Colley, TVDGP. This reminder letter can also be downloaded from the immunisation section in our our division's website: [www.nrdgp.org.au](http://www.nrdgp.org.au).

### Reminder re flu and pneumococcal vaccines

Don't forget the flu and pneumococcal vaccines for eligible patients. If you need an order form, call Marianne Trent at the Public Health Unit on (02) 6620 7514.

### Polio vax

Please check the expiry date of

Topics covered include:

- \$ Privacy Act - what's new and how does it affect immunisation
- \$ Working with hard to reach groups
- \$ Sharpening the Point
- \$ Funding future for divisions
- \$ Innovative, pictorial user friendly guide to accessing the ACIR
- \$ Marketing immunisation
- \$ Marketing reminder systems

This workshop immediately precedes the 8th National Public Health Association of Australia Immunisation Conference: "A Boost for Immunisation". Both conferences are held at the same venue so why not come to both.

For further enquiries about either conference, please call Gae McDonald on (02) 6622 4453 or email [gmcDonald@nrdgp.org.au](mailto:gmcDonald@nrdgp.org.au)

### RAGGP CPD POINTS APPLIED FOR

The registration form is attached.

your polio vaccines as a number of practices have reported to the PHU that their vaccines have expired. If your vaccines have expired, dispose of them through your sharps containers, which are incinerated

### RSV and whooping cough

The PHU would like to remind people that it is RSV season. While whooping cough is still going around, suspect both diseases. There have been some babies admitted to hospital with both conditions.

**For further information about anything appearing in The Immune Response call Gae McDonald, Northern Rivers, 6622 4453 Cheryl Colley, Tweed Valley, 6672 5158.**