



The Immune Response

December 2001

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Vaccines

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

Reckon you know your ACIR stuff? Test yourself and your colleagues...

Merry Christmas to all our immunisers. In this month's *Immune Response*, I thought I'd give you an overview of the ACIR. Test your general knowledge, or better still, test someone else's (All the statements here are true but see who you can trick).

Things to remember about the ACIR report and practice immunisation percentages:

\$ Once a child reaches 7 years old, they are no longer included in the percentages.

\$ A child is labelled by ACIR as overdue if the due date for an immunisation is exceeded by 90 days.

\$ Every practice that a child attends in the last 12 months, will receive notice via the ACIR 020A, if that child becomes overdue.

\$ If a child only attends a practice once, they will be included in the ACIR 020A report but will not be included in the practice's percentages.

\$ A child who attends the practice twice in twelve months, will be included in the practices percentages, whether their schedules are complete or incomplete.

\$ Conscientious objectors will always be counted as incomplete even if a conscientious objector

form has been filled out and sent.

\$ ACIR does not keep record of immunisations administered before 1996.

\$ A child will be considered as complete if they have had all their age appropriate immunisations, but missed the first Hep B given at birth.

\$ If a child hasn't attended a practice for 12 months, it will no longer be included in the percentages for that practice.

\$ The percentages are calculated over the 12 month period. The results given are 6 month retrospective. The results

released in May are for the 12 month period ending in the previous November. Results released in August are for the period ending in February etc.

For any assistance regarding ACIR and the ACIR020A reports contact ACIR help line on 1800 653 809.

For assistance with the ACIR website call their help desk on 1300 650 039.

If I can be of assistance, especially for ACIR 020A processing, call the Northern Rivers Division of General Practice. Or call Cheryl Colley at the Tweed Valley division.

Gae McDonald
NRDGP Immunisation PO

BRIEFS

Stop press - 100% immunisation rate!

The Northern Rivers has attained its first 100% immunisation percentage.

It is 105 Tamar Family Medical Centre (formerly Grant St Medical Practice) in Ballina. They have made immunisation reminders, data cleaning and opportunistic immunisation an art form. Well done Dr Peter Skow, Dr Emily Morgan, Catherine and the girls.

Immunisation percentages and conscientious objectors (update)

Conscientious objectors continue to be included in your WPE (whole patient equivalent) when

percentages are calculated. This means that a practice that has conscientious objectors, as patients, in the last 12 months, will never reach 100%.

As you would be aware, the NRDGP has submitted letters and documents supporting our argument to eliminate conscientious objectors from the equation to the GP11 Advisory Group. After their meeting, we were contacted with the news that they are sympathetic to our dilemma and are now in consultation with the Tweed Valley and Blue Mountains divisions (which also have significant numbers of conscientious objectors) to investigate the extent of the problem in other divisions.

I hope to bring you good

news of their solution to this payment discrimination problem in the new year.

RNs' immunisation update

The registered nurses' immunisation update run by the NRAHS was well attended.

This information day will satisfy the immunisation accreditation standards that specify that all accredited RNs need to update their immunisation knowledge yearly as well as their CPR certificate.

A video of the day is available. Please contact Marianne

Trent at the PHU or me at the NRDGP. The Northern Rivers division has already run two CPR courses to help RNs accommodate the second requirement of yearly accreditation. We will run another course early next year.

Please note that if you did not attend the original accreditation day, viewing the video or attending an update does not accredit you. See Marianne or myself for course details.

Gae McDonald
NRDGP Immunisation PO

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