



Border Division of General Practice Ltd Trading as  
**ALBURY WODONGA REGIONAL GP NETWORK**  
**FRIDAY FACTS**

Week Ending  
**4 Dec 09**



#### EMAILED DOCUMENTS

The following documents have been emailed to your address (clinic)@bordergp.org.au or alternatively your main clinic email address:

- Antenatal Care at Wodonga Hospital

Information for General Practitioners\_KC (2).doc (emailed 27/11/09)

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO DR LAKSHMANAN AND DR KRUYTBOSCH

The GP Network wishes to congratulate Drs Lakshmanan and Kruytbosch for receiving recognition of 35 years service to Rural Medicine at the recent Rural Doctors Conference.

#### NORTH EAST VICTORIA PATIENT TRANSFER SERVICE

The Red Cross Patient Transfer Service provides transport for eligible persons to "essential" Hospital and/or Doctors appointments for up to 6 weeks.



"Essential" can be defined as a medical condition of a serious medical nature and related test procedures. Examples include: cardiac rehabilitation, chemotherapy, oncology and radiotherapy.

Eligible patients include those who are:

- Unable to access suitable public transport and / or live in an area that is remote from public transport,
- Unable to drive or be driven by family/friends and
- Able to get in / out of a vehicle with minimal assistance
- Have been referred by a registered Medical Practitioner, Health Professional or Transport Coordinator from the referring agency or hospital.

Bookings must be made at least 48 hours in advance.

For more information contact:

Wodonga Service 02 6024 6870

Mon-Fri: 9.00am – 5.00pm

Wangaratta Service 03 5721 8451

Mon-Fri: 10.00am – 1.00pm

Tallangatta Service 0408 519 527

Mon-Fri: 9.00am-5.00pm

Website : [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)

#### PRACTICE NURSE WORKFORCE SURVEY 2009

The deadline for the online or paper based version of the survey for all PNs and PMs is Dec 8th.

The online link is at <https://www.securehost-au.com/aussiethink-com-au/AGPN/Gate.asp>.

The Network Member organisation number is 329. Contact Jacki at the Network for a paper copy if needed.

#### EPC DENTAL SCHEME

Despite all the hype last year that the EPC dental scheme would be cancelled in favour of alternate dental programs, it continues to exist.

#### Eligible patients

Patients must be managed under a GPMP & TCA, and "the patient's oral health must also be impacting on, or likely to impact on, their general health" (MBS).

#### Entitlement

Eligible patients can receive up to \$4,250 in Medicare benefits (including Extended Medicare Safety Net benefits where applicable) for dental services over two consecutive calendar years. Patients will generally only be able to claim for one set of dentures every eight years under these Medicare items. However, patients may receive a second set within this period in exceptional circumstances. Medicare pays for dental care via item numbers. As such it is important to notify patients that a gap payment might be required.

#### Eligible dental practitioners and referral

Must use the appropriate dental referral form. - <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Dental+Care+Services>

Prosthetist: GPs may refer eligible patients to a dentist (as above) who would then refer to a dental prosthetist. Where a patient has no natural teeth and requires dental prosthetic services only, a referral may be made to a dentist or dental prosthetist.

Dental Specialists: **GPs are not permitted to refer directly to dental specialists.** Where referral to another dental practitioner, dental specialist or dental prosthetist is necessary the dentist "may use a referral note or letter (signed and dated)" which must attach to a copy of the GP referral form "as the receiving dental practitioner will need the GP's details and initial date of referral from the GP for Medicare billing" (*Referral Form for Dental Services under Medicare*).

MBS considers these to be dental specialists: Endodontist, Orthodontist, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, Periodontist, Paedodontist, Prosthodontist, Specialist in Oral Medicine and/or Oral Pathology, Dento-maxillofacial Radiologist, Oral Surgeon, Special Needs Dentist

#### Feedback requirements

Dental practitioners **must provide a copy or summary of the patient's treatment plan to the referring GP before beginning the course of treatment.**

#### CPR REFRESHER TRAINING

A reminder to all practices who are participating in CPR Refresher training. We have been advised that participants need to produce a current CPR certificate at the time of the training to ensure you are being charged for CPR Refresher training and not full CPR Training. We will issue reminders to participants for future CPR Refresher Training conducted through the GP Network, but if you are organising your own training then you may need to be aware of this.

**"HELPING YOUR GP TO HELP YOU"**

**Albury Wodonga Regional GP Network \* Tel: (02) 6049 1900 \* Fax: (02) 6049 1999 \***  
**Website: [www.bordergp.org.au](http://www.bordergp.org.au)**

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