

INFLUENZA IMMUNISATION UPDATE

There are more influenza vaccines expected for release on or around 11th May. We advise you to check the HCL website for vaccine availability so you can submit orders early. The DHBs are managing orders which results in at least a 48-hour delay in receiving vaccines.

HCL do not deliver on Fridays. We recommend you hold off on planning the dates for influenza vaccination clinics until you have stock.

You are reminded that that your current stock should be used for the eligible population. Influenza rates remain seasonally low for this time of year due to the lockdown period.

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION UPDATE

Congratulations – Auckland PHO's immunisation coverage is looking great! For the one-month period to 6th May, 95% of Auckland PHO's 8-month babies have been immunised. Even better, 100% of our Maori babies are immunised and 85% Pacific.

This is a great effort and we thank you all for maintaining childhood immunisations over the lockdown period.

BENZBROMARONE OUT OF STOCK – 50mg AND 100mg TABLETS

Based on the current stock issues and the ongoing uncertainty in supply, PHARMAC advise it is likely that benzbromarone will be delisted from the pharmaceutical schedule (there is no date currently set for this). Please see the letter attached from PHARMAC.

Your patient/s taking benzbromarone will need to change to another urate-lowering treatment.

- Please contact any of your patient/s taking benzbromarone so that you can transition them to an alternative urate-lowering treatment as soon as possible
- Please ensure you do not start any new patients on benzbromarone.

Thank you for your cooperation.

[PHARMAC letter to prescribers - Benzbromarone.pdf](#) [105.6 KB]

CLARIFICATION FROM ADHB/WDHB REGARDING MEDINZ COMMUNICATIONS SENT LAST WEEK ON LARC TRAINING

Clarification has been sought from Dr Orna McGinn (Clinical Director Primary Care Woman's services ADHB) regarding the Medinz Communications that went out on 28th April, advising there was LARC training for health providers. Unfortunately, at this time this is only for Counties Manukau practices and there is no training for ADHB and WDHB for the foreseeable future.

Please see the attached a flyer for the free ADHB LARC clinics. Women can self-refer or be referred by their GP. Glen Innes is currently not operating due to Covid-19, but Lunn-Ave and Three-Kings Centres have reopened.

FOUNDATION STANDARDS

As we move back into lower levels of COVID-19, you will be keen to commence Foundation Standards.

We are aware that there is no obvious access to the RNZCGP's SmartSheet tool. Jean Lyle, Auckland PHO Foundation Support has contacted the College and been advised that this is because they do not want to add to any pressure to GP teams during the Covid Pandemic.

Therefore, if you wish to commence the Foundation Standards process, **email the RNZCGP quality@rnzcgp.org.nz** and ask them to release the new SmartSheet tool and also the most recent QA2QI.

This will only be done once a payment has been received by the College.

If you wish to visit the College website, see a quick refresher attached that **includes the cost of modules and the annual fee for Foundation**.

If you are continuing with Cornerstone there are additional costs (as attached above).

Auckland PHO Assistance

As previously notified to practices, Jean is available assist you the Foundation Standards or Cornerstone process.

In addition, we have the ability undertake a Foundation audit when ready at no cost. If preferred, you can also choose alternative auditors, however you will be required to pay for this.

Funding Support

We intend to subsidise the RNZCP Foundation fee by 50%, i.e. \$250. Once you have paid the \$500 fee to the college, invoice Auckland PHO – "Foundation Standard Subsidy"

If you would like any further information, contact Carol.

GUIDELINES FOR SECURELY EMAILING HIGH USE HEALTH CARD APPLICATION FORMS TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Ministry of Health has received a high number of requests from general practice regarding emailing the High Use Health Card application forms for processing under COVID-19.

Attached is a reminder of the guidelines for all practitioners to follow when sending forms via email to the Ministry of Health for processing.

In addition, practices need to ensure that they send a separate email for each individual form, and that the form is signed by the practitioner, as this is still a legal requirement.

[Guidelines for Health Practitioners to securely send High Use Health Card Application forms to the Ministry of Health](#)

BREAST SCREENING NOTICE

Breast screening programmes were paused at COVID-19 Alert Level 4 and the move to Level 3 allows Breast Screening Aotearoa to gradually resume the National Breast Screening programme.

Breast screening appointments have resumed during Alert Level 3, but not for participants or anyone in their bubbles who are considered vulnerable or have indicated comorbidities.

Prioritised assessments. Women who have their mammogram under Alert Level 3 and have a high likelihood of invasive cancer will be offered assessment and will be referred for treatment. Those with a low likelihood of invasive cancer will be offered assessment as capacity allows.

Option to defer appointment. Women are assured of their safety while attending their appointments and are being triaged at the time of booking, and additionally upon arrival. They are being given the option to defer their mammogram if they wish.

The amended Mobile Screening schedule is in the attached document. If you have any questions, please call Miriam Gabriel on 027 595 5197.



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AUCKLAND REGIONAL HEALTHPATHWAYS PHO QUARTERLY REPORT – JANUARY TO MARCH 2020

The Auckland Regional HealthPathways PHO Quarterly Report for January to March 2020 is attached.

There is valuable information provided in the report which includes:

- Information about our COVID-19 pathway suite, including details and direct links to each pathway
- Updates on all of the latest developments within HealthPathways
- Information on the most frequently viewed pathways this quarter
- Updates on our recently localised and updated pathways

PRACTICE NURSE VACANCY

Health Connections is seeking a permanent part time Registered Nurse. If you would like a copy of the position description, please email pat@healthconnections.co.nz. Please send your CV to pat@healthconnections.co.nz or call for an informal chat on 0210607636

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