

WellSouth Update

11 January 2023

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Nurse Prescribing Programme - Information Session

Nurse Prescribing Programme - Information Session

Monday 23 January 2023

4pm to 4.30pm

Attention nurses ... does your New Year's resolution include increasing your skills and scope of practice?

Our South Island Registered Nurse Prescribing in Community Health programme is accepting new applications for the February 2023 cohort.

Join our information webinar to learn more about this fully-funded programme. Delivered online over six months the training supports registered nurses working in primary and community care to prescribe common medications for minor ailments under supervision.

More than 40 RNs were enrolled in the first three cohorts, with the first cohort already prescribing, helping patients, whānau and practice teams.

The nurse prescribing programme is Nursing Council approved. Applications for the next cohort close on **Monday 30 January 2023**, with the programme commencing on **7 February 2023**.

Registered Nurse Prescribing in Community Health Programme Information Session:

Monday 23 January 2023, 4pm – 4.30pm

Teams Link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

The session will be recorded for those who cannot attend.

Information about the programme, including eligibility criteria, programme dates, and application forms are available on the [WellSouth website](#).

Any questions please contact Ellen Clearwater at ellen.clearwater@wellsouth.org.nz.

CPR Training at WellSouth

Please note that we have had some staffing changes and are still working on our dates for the year.

In 2023 we are changing how we offer CPR/Immediate Life Support training and certification at WellSouth.

Prior to attending an in person physical skills assessment we will be requiring people complete the appropriate online training and assessment on Health Learn. If you do not have Health Learn access or are having trouble, please email HealthLearn@wellsouth.org.nz and we will be able to help get you set up, or help you access your existing account.

Once you have completed your online assessment, you will need to bring proof of completion with you to an in person drop in session/skills assessment. It is in the in person session where you will demonstrate on the CPR mannequin and receive your final assessment. Dates and locations for these are still being scheduled but will be available on our [Workforce Development Calendar](#). Registration will be required.

Its important to note that you will need to complete both the online and in person component for a valid CPR certification.

Please enquire via workforce@wellsouth.org.nz if you are wanting a team assessment at your practice as we may be able to offer this. This course continues to be for Primary Care general practice employees, WellSouth employees, and others with prior approval.

Further [Workforce Development](#) opportunities are available on the WellSouth website.

Smoking Cessation

Over the past few years more than half of the practices in the Southern region have made the most of the offer to utilise the WellSouth call centre to contact their enrolled smokers to offer cessation support.

This service is now on hold while we undertake a review of the outcomes achieved; we will let you know the results of the review and our future plans to support Smokefree Aotearoa 2025.

Updated Enrolment Form

We have updated the patient enrolment form on our website, please ensure you are using the latest version of this form.

You can access/download the *Editable Enrolment Form* on the [WellSouth website](#) under 'Resources'.

Māori-English Bilingual Signage

Several practices have asked about Māori-English bilingual signage for their rooms. Te Puni Kōkiri has produced a very helpful [guide for best practice](#), including principles and design tips.

We have also struck a deal with [Safety Sign](#) who have pre-made Māori-English signage that meets the Te Puni Kōkiri guidelines; use the code **WELLSOUTH15** at the checkout to get 15% off their website prices.

[Safety Sign](#) will also do custom Māori-English signage if you are after something bespoke.

The [Equity Resources](#) page on the WellSouth website has been updated to include this information.

Monkey Pox Update

On behalf of Population Health, Te Whatu Ora-Southern:

National and local planning for the mpox vaccination programme has been under way for some weeks. A contract has been signed between Pharmac and Bavarian Nordic to acquire the mpox vaccine JYNNEOS. The vaccine is made using weakened live vaccinia virus and cannot cause smallpox or monkeypox.

5000 vials of the vaccine arrived in New Zealand in December 2022. A further supply (15,000 vials) is anticipated in Q1 2023. A course of two doses given at least 28 days apart is required.

The vaccine will not receive Medsafe approval in the immediate term, which means that it is being delivered under s29 of the Medicines Act, which complicates our roll-out plans. For example:

- The vaccine must be prescribed by a medical practitioner
- Vaccination clinics cannot be advertised

At this stage the vaccine rollout will happen in Sexual Health clinics. Some of the reasons for this are:

- Relatively small numbers of patients in the priority group
- Uncertainty around how many vials will be allocated to Southern
- To increase the number of doses MoH is proposing that the vaccine is delivered intradermally, as it will mean 4-5 doses per vial

In the first phase, clinics will be established in Invercargill, Queenstown and Dunedin, as around 80% of the most vulnerable patients live within an hour's drive of those centres. We are looking at options to reduce barriers for patients for whom travel is a problem.

NEXT STEPS

Vaccines will arrive in Southern in mid-January, and clinics will commence in the week of 23 January.

When it comes time to vaccinate the wider group of at-risk people in our District we will need a different approach. We are looking at options that may involve primary care (where providers have the capacity and interest in doing so).

The various agencies of the Ministry have developed operating guidelines and training materials for clinicians and admin:

- Training for prescribers
- ID training for vaccinators
- Training in the new Aotearoa Immunisation Register (AIR) that is replacing the NIR
- Advice for clinicians should a patient present post-vaccination (for example at general practice, after-hours clinics or ED)

REQUEST

As the vaccine is being delivered under S29 of the Medicines Act it needs to be prescribed by a medical practitioner. If you are a general practitioner interested in being part of the mpox delivery programme we would be very keen to hear from you. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Paul Rowe, Service Manager, Population Health on 0274064221 or email paul.rowe2@southerndhb.govt.nz.

Mpox Update - GPNZ

GPNZ have also provided a mpox update with clinical guidance for GPs and pharmacists, the update is linked below.

[Mpox clinical guidance to GPs and pharmacists](#)

CT Head Pathway Reminder

On behalf of Radiology, Te Whatu Ora-Southern:

A reminder that this pathway is for CT head in the context of headache with concerning features in adults; patients whom you would have previously referred to neurology for investigation.

There have been a number of requests coming through for cognitive decline, which is not approved for primary care CT head access at this stage.

Any questions please email nicola.garthwaite@southerndhb.govt.nz GP Liaison for Radiology.

About this newsletter

WellSouth Update is a regular e-newsletter for general practice teams, community pharmacy and other providers in Southland and Otago.

To subscribe or to provide feedback or submissions, please email communications@wellsouth.org.nz Thank you.



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