

WellSouth Update

11 July 2023

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[Letter to Minister Verrall on nurse pay parity](#)

The General Practice Leaders Forum (GPLF) sent a letter to Minister Verrall on nurse pay parity in the context of last week's Te Whatu Ora nurse's pay equity offer. The letter is linked below:

[GPLF Joint Response to Nurses Pay Parity](#)

A separate letter has also been sent from a number of organisations with an interest in the primary and community nursing workforce. The letter is linked below:

[Joint Letter Minister Verrall Assoc Min Edmonds](#)

[Funding boost and launch date for HPV Primary Screening](#)

Te Whatu Ora has announced \$7.3 million in funding to provide cervical screening services for key groups as part of the move to the new HPV test.

Eligibility.

Those who will be eligible for free cervical screening include women and people with a cervix who are unscreened (have never had a screening test), under screened (haven't had a test in the past 5 years), at higher risk requiring surveillance/follow up, Māori, Pacific, and anyone who is a community service card holder. This includes those populations that are at a higher risk of cervical cancer.

Providing free HPV cervical screening tests will play a critical role in helping more people to access the programme and detect cancer earlier.

New HPV cervical screening test

The new HPV cervical screening test will be much easier to use, and will identify more pre-cancers. This will prevent more cases of cervical cancer, supported by the speculum and colposcopy tests.

The new HPV test means that people will have three options for having a cervical screening test:

- you can choose to collect your own sample, via a simple self-test vaginal swab.
- you can ask your healthcare provider to collect your vaginal swab sample, or
- you can choose to have your healthcare provider take a sample from your cervix; what used to be called a smear test. (If HPV is found, this option also allows for your sample to then be checked for any cell changes).

Launch Date

The new eligibility for free screening and new HPV cervical screening test will roll out from **12 September**, replacing the previously announced date of 26 July.

The revised launch date will enable time for Te Whatu Ora and partners to prepare to offer the free screening, as well as further test the new information technology system that will support the screening programme.

The delay in the launch date will not affect the overall delivery timeframe for the new HPV screening programme, which will be completed by the **end of March 2024**.

If you have any queries please contact HPVScreen@health.govt.nz.

Nurse Prescribing Programme Information Session

Applications now open for September cohort!

Nurse Prescribing Programme - Information Session

Tuesday 1 August 2023

4.30pm to 5pm

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

Attention nurses ... our South Island Registered Nurse Prescribing in Community Health programme is now accepting new applications for the September 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 28 August 2023**, with the programme commencing on **5 September 2023**.

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.

Workforce Development and Training

Transfer of Care Framework Webinar

Wednesday 26 July 2023, 6pm - 7pm

Register [here](#)

Provisional Agenda:

Dr Andy Shute - Primary Care feedback of the Transfer of Care framework

Dr David Gow – Current system update

Dr Jo Mitchell – GP Advice clinics

Dr Carol Atmore – WellSouth Update

Southern Nurses Conference - Registration Update

Registrations for the Southern Nurses Conference were expected to open this month, but this has been delayed.

We will share an Expression of Interest form before the end of the month, and share the registration link when this becomes available.

More details will be provided about the conference agenda and speakers in the coming months, but for now please save the date.

Southern Nurses Conference

Date: 13 - 14 October 2023

Location: Ōtepoti Dunedin

ACC GP MRI referral training

WellSouth and Habit Health are pleased to announce new dates for the ACC GP MRI Referral Training sessions around the Southern Region:

Tuesday 25 July – Dunedin

Thursday 7 September – Dunedin

Wednesday 18 October – Invercargill

Thursday 2 November – Cromwell

For more information and to register, please [click here](#).

Upcoming Training and Education courses

[Advance Care Planning](#)

[Proposed Transfer of Care Framework Webinar](#)

[HealthPathways Webinar Series](#)

[CPR Update Sessions](#)

Other [Workforce Development](#) opportunities.

GPNZ Primary Care Clinical Digest - 7 July



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2. Funding Boost and Launch Date for HPV Primary Screening
3. ACC Primary Care Provider Update July 2023
4. Direct to Consumer Advertising of Prescription Medicines (DTCA)
5. Platelet Antibody Investigations in Patient with Thrombocytopaenia
6. Palliative Care National Steering Group – Members Needed
7. School of Nursing Lecture
8. Updates for Pharmacists in General Practice week ending June 23 2023
9. Top Weekend Viewing

Read the full update [here](#).

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.

Reminder: Practice Manager Forums

The Practice Manager Forums are coming up in **August**.

If you have not yet registered, you can register via the link below.

Register here: <https://training.wellsouth.nz/events/675-practice-manager-forum/>

Oamaru - 14 August 2023

Dunedin - 15 August 2023

Cromwell - 21 August 2023

Invercargill - 22 August 2023

The meetings run for two hours and the agenda is still to be confirmed. If you have any questions please contact practicenetwork@wellsouth.org.nz

About this newsletter

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

Previous issues of this newsletter are available on the [WellSouth website](#).

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



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