

WellSouth Update

25 July 2023

Welcome to the WellSouth Update

Kia ora koutou katoa

The update is our regular e-newsletter for general practice teams, community pharmacy and other providers in Southland and Otago.

Over coming months, we'll be tidying this up and categorising content for easy access. If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact us at communications@wellsouth.org.nz.

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

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General news

Response from Minister Verral to GPNZ letter

Please see the [attached letter](#) from Minister Verrall. This letter is in response to a letter chain GPNZ started in December 2022 regarding the Nursing Workforce.

WellSouth and Headlight supporting Southern Parents

We're proud to partner with Headlight and the incredible mahi they are doing supporting mental health for their Southern parent community. The GoodYarn programme saw 50 peer supporter volunteers in Wanaka, Alexandra, Invercargill, Dunedin, Te Anau upskilled to support mums, dads, whānau in their community to talk about their mental health and wellbeing through parenting. Read more in the [Headlight article](#).



Headlight facilitator Krista Baker with Te Anau workshop participants

Newly graduated nurses seeking positions

The Te Whatu Ora Nurse Entry to Practice (NETP) and Enrolled Nurse Support in Practice (ENSIPP) teams are calling for expressions of interest from practices who are keen to employ a new graduate Registered Nurse (RN) or Enrolled Nurse (EN), commencing in **January 2024**. Further information about the NETP and ENSIPP can be found [here](#).

If you are interested in employing a new graduate nurse or would like to know more about the program, please contact Kate Norris, WellSouth Professional Nurse Advisor - kate.norris@wellsouth.org.nz phone: 022 5604176.

Health Workforce Directorate funding news

The HWD is a funding agency of the Ministry of Health that provides funding for workforce development. Funding is available for study leading to postgraduate nursing qualifications including (but not limited to) RN prescribing (in primary health and specialty teams) and masters qualifications (leading to the Nurse Practitioner scope of practice).

Applications for 2024 open on **1 September 2023** and close on **1 October 2023**. Further information can be found on the Te Whatu Ora [Postgraduate Nursing](#) education page. Or by contacting the Te Whatu Ora Postgraduate Nursing education office HWDfunding@southerndhb.govt.nz.

Mpox Consultation Availability

Mpox 1st dose vaccinations have been delivered in Dunedin Sexual Health Clinic, Invercargill Sexual Health Clinic and Queenstown Medical Centre.

Patients can call directly on **0800 116 672** to make an appointment in Dunedin, Invercargill or Queenstown.

You may also refer directly to Sexual Health Clinics Dunedin and Invercargill. All clinics are now offering the 2nd dose Mpox vaccination.

Awanui Labs - Industrial Action Notice 28 July 2023

Awanui Labs have been informed that Apex members will carry out another strike on **Friday 28 July 2023**.

This includes a complete withdrawal of labour by all Apex laboratory workers.

Please click [here](#) to view the strike impact on your laboratory services.

Te Whatu Ora international recruitment

One of the ways Te Whatu Ora has responded to the workforce shortage is with the establishment of the International Recruitment Centre (the IRC) (October 2022). Find out more about the IRC and recruitment of international GPs coming through the [Make a Difference Somewhere Different](#) campaign.



- [Communication for General Practices and International GP Candidates](#)
- [IRC HTRHN Communication for International GP Candidates](#)
- [IRC HTRN Communication for General Practices](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions for International GP Candidates](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions for General Practices](#)

Or for information, you can contact Dr Grant Davidson grant.davidson@htrhn.org.nz or Luke Baddington, GM Workforce Recruitment luke.baddington@nzlocums.com.

The WellSouth Prescriber update

Medicine funding and supply

Cilazapril: Patients need to be transitioned to alternative treatment as soon as practical due to delisting at end of 2023

Chlorpromazine 10mg tablets are being discontinued. Stock is expected to run out in September 2023. 25mg, 100mg tablets, and 25mg per ml injections continue to be funded and available.

Eumovate (Clobetasone butyrate) cream is out of stock. The OTC product ETA is mid-August 2023 and the prescription product ETA is mid-November 2023. Patients may need to be changed to an alternative product

Nifedipine (Tensipine MR10) long acting 10mg tablet: new patients will not be funded from 1st July due to supply issues. Existing patients will require alternative by December 23. Other long acting strengths of nifedipine are still available. The 20 mg nifedipine MR must not be halved to get the Tensipine MR10 effect. This causes acute hypotension (equivalent to having 10mg immediate-acting nifedipine)

Oestradiol patches: Alternate brands of the 100 mcg patch, 75 mcg patch and 50 mcg patch will be funded from 1 August 2023

Oxycodone controlled-release 5 mg tablets are out of stock. New S29 product available from end of July

Paracetamol 250mg/5ml (Pamol) is low in stock due to high demand. Paracetamol 120mg/5ml liquid is available.

Phenobarbitone (15 mg and 30 mg tablets) PSM brand stock is expected to run out by Oct 2023. Patients will need to be switched to the Noued brand. Please refer to He Ako Hiringa to support you and your patients make this transition.

Triazolam 125 and 250 mcg tablets are being discontinued. Stock is expected to run out by Sept/Oct 2023. Existing patients should be reviewed for appropriateness of gradual dose reduction aiming to stop or to switch to an alternative.

Empagliflozin, dulaglutide, and liraglutide in T2DM

Our population pharmacists, Sandy So and Brendon McIntosh, have been working on a diabetes project in recent months. Specifically, they are working on getting information and data to help determine which patients are likely to meet criteria for Empagliflozin, a SGLT-2 inhibitor and dulaglutide, a GLP-1 receptor agonist. These medications not only help with glycaemic control, blood pressure and weight loss but also benefit organs such as the heart and kidneys.

Empagliflozin has been funded since 2021 for patients with type 2 diabetes who are at high risk of cardiovascular disease or have renal complications, including **all** Māori and Pacific peoples.



With this data we aim to get these patients started on these medicines and get funded appointments for these patients.

Reach out to [Brendon](#) and [Sandy](#) (pictured here) for any information or support around this. This may be and is also not limited to MDT, clinical review, education sessions etc.

Brendon McIntosh: 022 017 1220,
brendon.mcintosh@wellsouth.org.nz

Sandy So: 021 242 0746,
sandy.so@wellsouth.org.nz.

Reminders

Is your Healthpoint up to date?

Just a wee reminder to please keep your Healthpoint page up to date with the services you offer (including services through Access and Choice/Tokū Oranga), your hours, and how people can book in or if walk-ins are available.

Nationally-led campaigns direct people to Healthpoint to find a service near them, and it is also used by Healthline and our own WellSouth call centre nurses to support consumers to access services.

Practice Development Plans

Practices who have not yet submitted a Practice Development Plan (and accessed the funding available to undertake a quality improvement project) have until **30 September** to do so.

If you intend to complete a Plan please work with your Relationship Manager to ensure it is submitted on time; **we will be unable to provide extensions to this deadline.**

Programme updates

Kai for Life - Healthy Eating group education sessions

The WellSouth Dietitians are delivering **Kai for Life**, Healthy Eating group education sessions to help patients improve their relationship with food and their food habits and behaviors.

The sessions are completely **free** and cover:

- How kai/food can improve overall health/hauora
- Food groups, portion sizes, and eating patterns
- Label reading
- Eating well for less
- Dieting vs. sustainable eating
- Creating a positive relationship with food, your body, and health

Upcoming sessions:

Dunedin - 24 August 2023, 10am - 12pm

Virtual - 20 September 2023, 6pm - 8pm

Face-to-face groups in Invercargill and Central Otago are being planned for later in the year.

Patients can be referred via ERMS or by completing a [referral form](#) and emailing it to dietitians@wellsouth.org.nz.

HPV Primary Screening Update

The HPV Primary Screening Project Team are supporting the transition to HPV testing as the primary screen for cervical cancer prevention in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Attached is an [information pack](#), about the transition to HPV primary screening which now goes live on **12 September**. This is pack one of four that will be sent between now and the end of September, and contains background info, timeline, training and resources and support.

We'll keep you updated as the launch of HPV screening draws near. But if you have any questions in the meantime, please contact HPVScreen@health.govt.nz.

Access and Choice ad campaign

Te Whatu Ora has launched a digital advertising campaign to promote Access and Choice.

The ads (some of which look like this) will feature on Metservice, YouTube, Stuff, NZME, Facebook, Instagram, Messenger, as well as TVNZ on demand and Three on demand and drive people to <https://www.wellbeingsupport.health.nz> to find a provider near them and what free services they can access.

The advertising is targeted in areas where Te Whatu Ora believe there is a critical mass of providers, including Dunedin and Invercargill.

The campaign started slowly in the last couple of weeks and will build momentum with have specific messaging for each workstream: general practice (IPMHA), Kaupapa Māori, Pacific-led and Youth specific.

If you have any questions or concerns and/or you notice increase in demand, get in touch with the Tokū Oranga team at tokuoranga@wellsouth.org.nz, and we can liaise with the national team.

Boost your wellbeing



Free support is available

[wellbeingsupport.health.nz](https://www.wellbeingsupport.health.nz)

Workforce Development and Training

Transfer of Care Framework Webinar Link

Wednesday 26 July 2023, 6pm - 7pm

Register [here](#)

Zoom link: <https://healthcloud.zoom.us/j/83841633140?pwd=TWUyK1A2M0g1QWdNVXNyVUhTYU9mdz09>

Meeting ID: 838 4163 3140

Passcode: 182582

We are hosting a webinar to discuss the new collaborative Transfer of Care framework between primary and secondary (the most current version of the [Transfer of Care framework is attached](#)); detail policy and standards of care when communicating between the two; and talk about GP advice clinics.

The webinar will be recorded and shared for those unable to attend.

Reminder: 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](#)

Join our information webinar to learn more about the fully funded South Island Registered Nurse Prescribing in Community Health 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. 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 Q+A 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.

Aotearoa Immunisation Register

The cutover from the NIR and CIR to the Aotearoa Immunisation Register is getting closer and they will be running a series of webinars designed to provide information on what this means for you and how to prepare.

If you'd like to register for the remaining 4 webinars in the series, please [register here](#).

The next session 'Vaccination Events' will cover introducing the planned events concept, and the recording of publicly funded immunisation events.

By registering for the series, you will receive invites to all remaining webinars and receive email reminders before each webinar.

Upcoming Training and Education courses

[Advance Care Planning
Proposed Transfer of Care Framework Webinar
HealthPathways Webinar Series
CPR Update Sessions](#)

Other [Workforce Development](#) opportunities.



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