

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 2 April 2015.

In this issue • Conference 2015 sessions, photos and stories • Director-General of Health Appointed • Medical Council election results announced, voter turnout low and much more...

## Conference 2015 sessions, photos and stories

If you were unable to attend the recent national rural health conference in Rotorua, presentations from sessions are available on the official conference website. Just follow the link below:

[Click here](#)



Interviews on YouTube (courtesy Mobile Health)

[Click here](#)

Photos from the conference are also available by clicking [HERE](#).

Also see [Peter Snow Memorial Award](#).

And [nurse leads Network](#).

A reminder that the national rural health conference 2016 will be held in Dunedin. Dates and venue are yet to be announced, so watch this space.

## Director-General of Health appointed

State Services Commissioner Iain Rennie has announced the appointment of Chai Chuah as Chief Executive and Director-General of Health, Ministry of Health.

Mr Chuah has been the Ministry of Health's acting Chief Executive and Director-General of Health since November 2013. Prior to joining the Ministry of Health in February 2010 as the National Director of the National Health Board, Mr Chuah was Chief Executive of Hutt Valley District Health Board. Mr Chuah is a qualified chartered accountant with more than 25 years health sector experience.

Network chief executive Dalton Kelly welcomed Mr Chuah's appointment saying he looks forward to building on the already strong relationship the organisation has with both Mr Chuah and the Ministry of Health.

[Read more.](#)

## Medical Council election results announced, voter turnout low

The Medical Council election results are out, but doctors risk jeopardising their future right to elect their own council representatives with a very low voter turnout. (NZ Doctor)

The four highest polling nominees out of the 15 candidates are:

- Dr Curtis Walker
- Dr Pamela Hale
- Dr Jonathan Fox, returning council member
- Dr Kathryn Baddock.

[Read more.](#)

## GPs back under-13s scheme but reckon numbers don't add up.

GPs in the latest New Zealand Doctor/IMS fax poll have given an enthusiastic thumbs-up to free medical care for under-13s. (NZ Doctor)

Respondents also came out overwhelmingly against getting rid of co-payments, and against introducing universal free healthcare.

[Read more.](#)

## Workforce woes ease but rural hospitals still a 'threatened species'

The crisis in the rural hospital doctor workforce is abating against a backdrop of an "inexorable" decline in the number of small town hospitals, says Ross Lawrenson. (NZ Doctor)

The head of the University of Auckland's Waikato Clinical School presented research at the recent rural health conference in Rotorua showing an improving picture of rural hospital workforces.

[Read more.](#)

## RNZ's Kathryn Ryan interviews Barbara Docherty

There are calls for rural nurses to be given more recognition and support with a nursing lecturer saying they are second class citizens. Barbara Docherty has worked as a nurse on the Chatham Islands and general practice nurse. She has a Masters in Nursing and lectures at Auckland University where she trains primary health care professionals in rural and urban nursing. She says rural nursing is not taken seriously by the sector and that needs to change.

To listen to the interview click [here](#)  
To have your say please click [here](#)

## Rheumatic rate falls more than expected

The national rate of people being hospitalised for rheumatic fever has dropped further than officials thought it would. (RNZ)

The rate went down to 3.4 cases per 100,000 people last year, better than the Ministry of Health's earlier provisional rate of 3.9 cases.

[Read more.](#)

## April Falls campaign

Reducing harm from falls is the fifth focus for the Open for better care national patient safety campaign. Open for better care is led nationally by the Health Quality & Safety Commission (the Commission), and delivered in partnership with First, Do No Harm in the Northern region.

The theme is 'Stand up to Falls' and it will focus on an integrated approach to falls in older people across the health sector. This theme applies in all care settings – it is as pertinent at a central agency level, as it is across hospital, aged residential care and primary/community care settings. Having older people at the heart of everything done is essential.

The 'Stand up to Falls' campaign commences in April with a month-long profile through **April Falls** activities including the release of the **Atlas of Healthcare Variation falls domain**, and the third national **April Falls Quiz** (general information about the quiz [here](#)).

## MCNZ discussion document

The Medical Council has released a discussion paper on the value of performance and outcome data, and how such data promotes the competence of doctors.

The discussion paper follows a recent ruling by Ombudsman and former Health and Disability Commissioner, Professor Ron Paterson, that a District Health Board (DHB) should release surgeon-specific case data. This was in response to a journalist seeking information under the Official Information Act.

Any feedback you may have on this issue please email: [chair@mcnz.org.nz](mailto:chair@mcnz.org.nz)

[Read more.](#)

## Are you passionate about improving the safety of medicines?

Applications are currently being sought for three new positions on the Medicines Adverse Reactions Committee (MARC).

The MARC is an independent expert advisory committee to the Minister of Health. The advice provided by the MARC on medicines safety issues is an important part of the regulatory framework for safeguarding public health in New Zealand.

[Read more.](#)

## e-Lodgement for Work Capacity medical certificates

Work and Income is introducing e-Lodgement of Work Capacity medical certificates from May 2015. This will mean practitioners can submit these medical certificates electronically rather than printing and signing them. Certificates will no longer get lost or need reprinting, and will be received and processed sooner. Most importantly it means patients won't have to make a special trip to Work and Income to drop off their medical certificate.

e-Lodgement will significantly improve the transfer of relevant information between practitioners and Work and Income. Work and Income believes practices will also benefit from the improved automation and simplified work flow e-Lodgement allows.

For Work and Income, introducing e-Lodgement has allowed it to centralise the processing of routine medical certificates. This will help improve consistency and follow-up on information and recommendations from practitioners.

Work and Income is using HealthLink's HISO online forms for e-Lodgement. This meets the Health Information Standards Organisation (HISO) requirements and Government data security standards.

Many practices are already using or able to use HISO online forms, for example with DHB referrals. Others will need a small upgrade to their system which HealthLink will provide at no cost. HealthLink will contact practices soon regarding this.

## Gout campaign launched

Arthritis New Zealand has launched its 'Don't get trapped by gout!' campaign – to raise awareness about gout, and to encourage Kiwis who think they may have the illness to see their GP so it can be managed and treated.

Further information or resources are available at <http://www.goutnz.org.nz/> or 0800 663 463 or see [Health Quality & Safety Commission's Atlas of Healthcare Variation gout domain](#). Regional figures are also available from this link.

## Drug company treats to doctor should be public – experts

Doctors receiving payment, overseas holidays and generous hospitality from medical suppliers should be under public scrutiny, say some health and science experts. (NZ Herald)

Medical suppliers' treats and payments to doctors should be opened to public scrutiny under American-style "sunshine" legislation, say a group of health and science experts.

[Read more.](#)

## That's interesting

### GPs returning to UK face huge bureaucracy, say GP leaders

GPs who have been practising overseas have met 'insurmountable hurdles' trying to return to work in the UK, GP leaders have said. (GP Online)

Irreversible damage has been done to the NHS's ability to recruit from abroad, say LMC chairmen, even with the **GP Induction and Refresher (I&R) scheme** beginning soon, which aims to make it easier for overseas GPs to work in the UK.

[Read more.](#)

## First shipment of flu vaccines being rolled out

The first shipment of this year's funded influenza vaccine has arrived and is being distributed to general practices this week, says Dr Don Mackie, Chief Medical Officer at the Ministry of Health.

"We aim to immunise more than 1.2 million New Zealanders against influenza over the course of the influenza season. More than half a million vaccines are now in the country - with the first batch of 208,000 doses now being distributed to GP practices. A second batch of 340,000 vaccines will begin to be distributed after Easter."

[Read more.](#)



The Network's health promotion partner



**Need a GP?**

NZLocums is the recruitment division of the NZRGP.

Rural practices can take advantage of our free recruitment service!

So let us find the right solution for you.

**Contact us today.**

## Not a member? Join the Network!

The Network is the only nationwide membership-based organisation in New Zealand representing the interests of rural general practice.

Visit our [website](#) for additional information and an online application form or contact Rob Olsen on 021 472 556.

## Network on Social Media

You can follow the Network and associated rural health sector news, views and events now on Facebook and Twitter or sign up and give us your news and views - just click on one of the icons below or visit our website [www.rgpn.org.nz](http://www.rgpn.org.nz)

 Find us on Facebook

 FOLLOW US

## Kiwi nurse tells of Ebola scare

A day after working in an Ebola redzone nurse Bronni McBain was on her way back home to Gore. (Southland Times)

She spent eight weeks in the middle of an Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone and said it was confronting to see so much devastation.

[Read more.](#)

## GP trainees daunted by debt overshadowing careers

Student debt is one of the top concerns of GP trainees in the wake of changes to the Government's student loan scheme. (NZ Doctor)

The changes mean some medical students will have to borrow from non-government lenders to become a GP, says Alastair Dunne, the sole GP representative on the NZMA Doctors-in-Training Council.

[Read more.](#)

## Nurse may quit if euthanasia legal

A Timaru nurse says she would reconsider her career if euthanasia was legalised. (Timaru Herald)

Luba Gajduskova said a talk by an anti-euthanasia campaigner had strengthened her opposition to assisted suicide procedures.

[Read more.](#)

## Watchdog faults surgeon over elderly man's care

A former Blenheim surgeon has been told to apologise over the care given to an elderly patient in 2012. (RNZ)

Details of the case have been released in a report by the Health and Disability Commissioner Anthony Hill recently.

[Read more.](#)

## Immersion course excites interest in rural jobs

Rurally trained medical graduates are heading back to work in rural or smaller centres with the majority believing the clinical experience is superior to that of their urban-based colleagues. (NZ Doctor)

[Read more.](#)

## Nursing tales go live with launch of new website

Tales of the days of nursing hostel curfews, starved caps and when 'doctors were god' can be heard online with the launch of New Zealand's first nursing oral history archive. (Nursing Review)

[Read more.](#)

## Thames Hospital emergency department leads the way

Thames Hospital is leading the way with its Emergency Department (ED) Quality Framework initiatives if a presentation given by staff to a health forum in Wellington is anything to go by. (Waikato DHB)

ED medical officer Gillian Twinem and registered nurse Michelle DellaBarca presented on "Quality in a Rural Setting" at the Ministry of Health-hosted forum.

Discussion focussed on how much progress the department made towards implementing some 19 mandatory measures.

[Read more.](#)

## Publications and resources:

Latest Network News, click [here](#).

RHAANZ newsletter, click [here](#).

Division of Rural Hospital Medicine e-newsletter, click [here](#).

Rural Women New Zealand, Bulletin Aotearoa, click [here](#).

Health Workforce New Zealand stakeholder bulletin, click [here](#).

IT Health Board newsletter, click [here](#).

ALAC newsletter Ease Up, click [here](#).

Mobile Health news, click [here](#).

Medline (USA rural health) click [here](#).

To access the PRIME St John website, click [here](#).

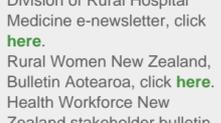
PRIME Committee contacts, click [here](#).

PRIME responders, click [here](#).

Medical Council News click [here](#).

GP Research Review Issue 95 click [here](#).

## Open your New Zealand bank account



The Network's official banking partner.

## Tell us your story

We are looking for health sector-related stories from around rural New Zealand. People, places, achievements and challenges. If you have a good yarn to tell contact Network communications manager Rob Olsen, email [rob@rgpn.org.nz](mailto:rob@rgpn.org.nz) or 021 472 556.

## Orientation for Overseas Trained GPs & Practice Nurses

Do you have an overseas trained GP or nurse joining your team soon? Give them the best start and send them on our CME endorsed course in Wellington.

Our orientation ensures that all GPs and Practice Nurses are provided with a comprehensive foundation. This allows them to hit the ground running when they start working for you.

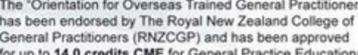
Some of the topics included are:

- Presentation from a local practitioner
- ACC
- Pharmac
- Work & Income
- St John resuscitation workshop
- Medtech32 practical training

We continually receive positive feedback from attendees and practices. Attendees comment that they couldn't comprehend starting work without it!

Click for:

[Brochure & Cost](#) [Course Dates](#)



The 'Orientation for Overseas Trained General Practitioners' has been endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) and has been approved for up to 14.0 credits CME for General Practice Educational Programme Stage 2 (GPEP2) and Maintenance of Professional Standards (MOPS) purposes.

Limited spaces available - book now!

For more information or to reserve a place please contact Louise Pert, Course Co-ordinator:

[louise@nzlocums.com](mailto:louise@nzlocums.com) | +64 4 495 5877



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