

summer

christchurch pho news



With Christmas rapidly approaching, and the weather warming up it is timely to give you an early summer update of what is happening around the Christchurch PHO practices.

Thank you

Thank you to all practice staff who have continued to respond to the increase in workload that has been associated with the aftermath of the earthquake.

The mental health team have been particularly busy and are working hard to process referrals as quickly as they can. Currently there is a wait of between 4 to 6 weeks for people to be seen however the mental health team are contacting patients prior to their first appointment to establish a point of contact and ensure they have interim support and access to emergency contacts.

Programme Update

Pharmacy Programme Rollout

Activities of the three pharmacists involved include compliance assessments to check patients' understanding of their medication, continuing to reconcile patients' hospital discharge notes with what the GP thinks they are taking, and working through various MedTech (prescribing software) issues.

We are also researching information from international studies to investigate ways that pharmacists can help prescribers and nurses. Shortly we will be preparing to evaluate the service to get important feedback on its value.

Please contact me if you require any further information regarding the Pharmacy services.

Angela Blackwood
Christchurch PHO Pharmacist
Email: angela.blackwood@chchpho.org.nz

Phone: 0212651036

Physiotherapy Programme

Practices will have received their allocations for this service and copies of associated documentation. Some practices are choosing to specifically target patients who may be eligible using a query builder and others are referring on an ad hoc basis

This programme will be continued for this financial year (last referrals due by the end of April 2011) across all practices and is provided by Russley Physiotherapy, PhysioSouth at Riccarton Clinic and PhysioSouth at Moorhouse Medical Centre. Patients who have osteoarthritis of the knee and fit the eligible criteria are entitled to a 10 week physiotherapy and home based exercise programme aimed at improving functioning and decreasing pain levels. Evaluation of the pilot project indicated significant improvement in patients perceived pain, quality of life and level of functioning.

Podiatry Programme

It is great to see practices utilising this service particularly for patients with diabetes in conjunction with their annual check. It is also available for elderly patients and those with poor foot health.

Feet in Motion clinics are fully operational at the Russley and Central City locations and the service is also being offered by the Riccarton Clinic Podiatrists. Patients are entitled to up to three free podiatry treatments in total.

Mobile Practice Nurse Service

Marie-Lyne has spent a significant proportion of her time over the last few months following up overdue smears. This has been time consuming and labour intensive at times. However she has been able to identify several patients with abnormalities who would not have had smears if this service was not in operation.

The work that the mobile practice nurse does has also contributed to the achievement of PPP high needs targets .

The Christchurch PHO would like to encourage practices to utilise the mobile nurse for other services besides smears. If you have patients who have barriers to access, are high needs, Maori, Pacific or quintile 5 that would benefit from being followed up in the home setting please get in contact with Marie-Lyne. She has recently completed several diabetes checks in patients own homes. These visits have provided an opportunity to assess the patients' general health status and other socioeconomic factors, provide health education/advice and refer on to services such as podiatry, and exercise programmes.

In some cases the mobile practice nurse has found that when contacting the patient to arrange a home visit all that is required is advice and encouragement for the patient to reconnect with the GP practice, thus negating the need for a home visit.

Mobile nurse referrals can be made via medtech outbox, email marie_lyne@chchpho.org.nz or phone 0276624536

Nurse Led Asthma Clinic

These asthma clinics are now underway at the University Health Centre, Moorhouse Medical Centre and Riccarton Clinic using the "GASP" advanced tool. Patients will be entitled to two free 30 minute appointments with a nurse. If more input is required after these two clinic visits the patient will either be charged for subsequent visits or alternative funding sourced e.g. Careplus , Chronic packages of care, Discretionary funding.

It is encouraging to note that the Asthma Foundation is also trialling the GASP tool; consequently Asthma Canterbury is using GASP as part of their asthma assessments. Christchurch PHO is the first PHO in the South Island to be using this tool for nurse asthma clinics in GP practices.

A GASP nurses group is being formed by the Christchurch PHO, as a forum for discussion and support, and is planning an inaugural meeting on December 7th 2010 at 1200 at the University of Canterbury Health Centre.

PPP Final 2009-2010 Year Ending Results

The six month PPP report for January 2010 to June 2010 has been released with extremely pleasing results (93% achievement of targets). All targets except CVD Risk assessment high needs (which was just below the target) were met which is great news for practices. Congratulations to all practices who have worked collaboratively with the Christchurch PHO to make this happen.

The focus on maintaining targets needs to continue and is particularly important as there has been a slowing up of smear uptake and mammography screening over recent months which could potentially affect the next six month PPP results from June 2010-December 2010.

The latest monthly report that was sent to practices indicates that whilst there has been some improvement in achieving targets work is still needed with high needs patients, cervical smear uptake and mammograms.

Before School Checks (B4SC)

Great to see the October targets being met which means Christchurch PHO practices are back in the "green". There are 27 checks due for November and with the holiday season approaching, practices will need to continue with the great work as traditionally numbers attending these checks drop off over December, January and February. The Christchurch PHO mobile practice nurse can assist with children who are not attending so please refer to this service.

B4SC coordinators are also happy to visit practices and advise/assist as necessary. Contact Sandi if you require further assistance.

New Patient Health Checks

This programme has been well utilised by some GP practices and is due to be evaluated. Feedback from practices regarding perceived benefits, challenges and suggestions for change would be appreciated and can be emailed directly to: sandi_malcolm@chchpho.org.nz

Well men/Well women

Thank you to the practices who responded to the request for feedback on the perceived value of this service. An initial audit on patient notes to ascertain patient outcomes as a result of attending the wellness checks was completed in September 2010. Results indicate that a significant number of patients received ongoing advice and treatment following the checks including smears, consenting for mammograms, medication review, monitoring of weight, BP and lifestyle advice and support.

A follow up audit of patients who have received a well check in the past year will be undertaken to evaluate if there have been benefits from lifestyle advice and interventions since the wellness check.

Other Programme Updates:

Youth Sexual Health

The Christchurch PHO Board has approved for additional funding and practices will have received a hard copy of their new allocations for 2010-2011.

CarePlus

Please continue to fully use your Careplus allocations as in order to maintain funding, practices need to be aiming for 100% utilisation. Patients should be re-enrolled (if still eligible) once they have used their Careplus entitlements.

Smoking Cessation

An advanced form is now available and Southlink are currently working on an automatic recall system for smoking cessation on Medtech.

Current practice allocations are worked out as follows:

Each allocation is based on the patient completing the full smoking cessation package which includes:

Brief Intervention:	\$ 20.70
Cessation Consult:	\$ 46.00
Follow-up: 7 follow-ups)	\$ <u>20.70</u> (a max of

A maximum per patient of: \$ 211.16 GST inclusive
(If all consults are used)

If GP practices have a significant number of patients who do not complete the full programme the Christchurch PHO can discuss options regarding allocations.

Update from Helen

As many of you are aware there are changes happening to the health system in Canterbury driven by the Canterbury Clinical Network (CCN). If you want more information on the work that is currently being done by the CCN go to the following website www.ccnweb.org.nz.

Representatives from our PHOs, GP practices and Clinicians have been attending many meetings to participate in this process. If you wish to be included in such meetings please let Sandi or myself know.

May you all have an enjoyable Summer

From the Christchurch PHO team.