

Developments



A newsletter for referring General Practitioners | Edition 4

GP education a priority in 2016

Around 115 GPs attended Children's Health Queensland's inaugural Paediatric Masterclass for General Practice at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital on October 24.

Updates were delivered by a range of Lady Cilento Children's Hospital (LCCH) specialists on topics including obesity, food allergy, refugee health and protracted bacterial bronchitis, among many others. All sessions were very well received, with the practical workshops on paediatric eye examination and wet-wrapping techniques proving especially popular. Feedback from delegates and presenters was so positive that the Masterclass has been confirmed as an annual event.

Topics suggested by delegates for next year include paediatric orthopaedics, enuresis, rashes and other dermatological conditions, as well as paediatric emergency presentations. Also requested were updates on childhood anxiety, depression and developmental delay, particularly speech and language delay.

To incorporate all these topics and more, I am excited to announce that LCCH will host two full-day education events next year. In addition to the Masterclass, we will hold a second seminar with a child development and mental health focus, *Child Development Matters*, in conjunction with our PHN partners.

It is through the provision of high quality education events such as these, and close GP-hospital collaboration, that we will continue to build capacity in the primary health care sector to confidently manage a wide range of paediatric conditions.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our events next year as Children's Health Queensland strengthens its reputation as a leading provider of paediatric education.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you, your staff and patients a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy 2016.

Dr Dana Newcomb
GP Liaison

Children's Health Queensland Education Events 2016

Saturday, 4 June 2016:
Child Development Matters

Saturday, 22 October 2016:
Paediatric Masterclass for General Practice

Human Parechovirus (HPEV) alert

In recent months there has been an increase in the number of infants presenting to LCCH and the Gold Coast University Hospital with Human Parechovirus (HPEV) sepsis. Some of the infants have required admission to intensive care.

Human parechoviruses were previously known as echoviruses 22 and 23. Infection with HPEV may cause no symptoms at all, or a mild diarrhoeal illness or respiratory infection. Rarely sepsis, meningitis or encephalitis can result. Babies less than three months of age are most at risk. There have also been a number of complications such as volvulus, intussusception and bowel ischaemia.

Suspect HPEV in young infants with sepsis-like illness, fever >38 deg C and other symptoms including:

- Irritability/ distress
- Maculopapular or erythematous rash
- Distended abdomen, diarrhoea
- Encephalitis or myoclonic jerks
- Hepatitis

Refer such patients IMMEDIATELY to the nearest Emergency Department which sees children.

There is no vaccine for parechovirus, and transmission is via contact with respiratory droplets, saliva or faeces from an infected person. Good hygiene is the best precaution, and treatment is largely supportive.



Masterclass attendees

Hummingbird House

Children's hospice opening in 2016

Construction is well underway on Hummingbird House, Queensland's first children's hospice, which is being built on the campus of Wesley Mission Brisbane's Wheller Garden's campus in Chermerside.

A joint initiative of Hummingbird House Foundation and Wesley Mission Brisbane, Hummingbird House will operate as a medically supported 'home away from home' for children affected by a life limiting condition, and their families.

The stand-alone, purpose built facility will offer eight beds, plus five family accommodation suites and a unique 'end of life' suite.

Children at Hummingbird House will have 24-hour access to physician and nursing support, pain and symptom management, both scheduled and emergency respite care, and end-of-life care. Psychosocial support programs for the whole family will also be offered.

Hummingbird House has already forged strong local connections with the Paediatric Palliative Care Service at LCCH. In addition, ties with existing Victorian and NSW children's hospices and with East Anglia Children's Hospice in the United Kingdom, means Hummingbird House has established strong national and international connections.

The hospice is expected to open in late April 2016. Enquiries regarding recruitment, referrals or general information can be made by contacting the Hummingbird House team on **07 3350 1563**, or emailing info@hummingbirdhouse.org.au

Website: www.hummingbirdhouse.org.au or www.facebook.com/HummingbirdHouseBrisbane



Above: Hummingbird House under construction

Paediatric palliative care

GPs interested in a brief clinical attachment with the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital Paediatric Palliative Care Service (PPCS) are invited to apply through PEPA (Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach).

During four days with the PPCS, GPs will have an opportunity to observe the variety of work undertaken by the team. Through home visits, inpatient consultations, outpatient clinics and case conferences, GP confidence in dealing with children with a life-limiting illness and their families will be developed.

PEPA will provide GP participants with a range of palliative care resources for use during the placement and back in their usual workplace.

For more information, phone Aurora Hodges on **07 3646 6216** or email pepaqld@health.qld.gov.au

Attention: Inala and Forest Lake GPs

Are you a GP in the Inala/Forest Lake area with an interest in adolescent health and a willingness to bulk bill? If so, we would love to hear from you!

The Child Protection and Forensic Medical Service at Children's Health Queensland is launching a new program, **Platform 18**, to assist adolescents in the child protection system access primary health care.

Children and young people enter the child protection system for reasons including physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect. By the time they transition out of the system, these young people are more likely than their peers to be under or non-immunised, experience mental health issues, substance abuse or homelessness. They also face higher rates of learning difficulties and developmental delay and are more likely to become parents at a young age.

Many of these young people in care have extremely poor health literacy, and may struggle with basics such as how to access GP services for themselves.

Platform 18 aims to bridge this gap in health outcomes by offering a nurse-led, outreach program providing immunisation catch-ups, sexual health screening, and comprehensive health assessments. They will also link the young people with local GPs for ongoing care.

If you are interested in providing bulk-billed care for these at-risk adolescents, please contact the Platform 18 Service at childprotectionLCCH@health.qld.gov.au