

### **cdmNet benefits the Practice and the patient:**

Trials of cdm Net in the Geelong region and Eastern Goldfields in WA have shown a marked increase in production of GPMPs

- 88--205% in GP Management Plans
- 80--201% in Team Care Arrangements
- 310--595% in GPMP Reviews
- 220--358% in TCA Reviews

(*Precedence Health Care, 2011. cdmNet trials*).

The system allows for easy tracking of patients with a GPMP/TCA on a one page view and also indicates when reviews are due. Evaluation identified improved quality of care, better sharing of data and referrals to Home Medication Reviews and other allied health services increased. Patients receive automatic SMS reminders for appointments resulting in improved adherence to best practice guidelines for managing their disease. For more information on cdmNet contact Barbara Somerville on 5352 4804 or [b.somerville@westvicdiv.asn.au](mailto:b.somerville@westvicdiv.asn.au)

### **Grampians Medicare Local inaugural Board of Directors**

The Board Appointments Committee has completed the task of appointing the inaugural Board. See the attached announcement. The new Board will start to establish the governance structures from February 2012 to ensure the Grampians Medicare Local can commence operations from 1 July 2012. West Vic Division's Board will continue to meet during 2012 to ensure appropriate transition of staff, corporate knowledge and assets into the Medicare Local.

### **TGA to cancel all dextropropoxyphene pain-killers**

Effective from 1 March 2012, all pain-killers (analgesics) containing dextropropoxyphene will be cancelled from the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods. Subsequent to a review of on-hand evidence, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announced the safety concerns of taking dextropropoxyphene-containing pain-killers outweighed any positive effects. Following the cancellation date, supply of prescription medicines such as Capadex, Di-Gesic, Doloxene or Paradex in Australia will cease. For more information see the TGA announcement <http://www.tga.gov.au/newsroom/media-2011-dextropropoxyphene-111122.htm>

### **Newer antidepressants have similar efficacy**

Newer antidepressants have roughly the same therapeutic efficacy in adults with major depressive disorder, according to an Annals of Internal Medicine meta-analysis. Citalopram, desvenlafaxine, duloxetine, escitalopram, fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, mirtazapine, paroxetine, sertraline, and venlafaxine were all found to be about equally effective. Studies that compared drugs head-to-head were used to assess relative efficacies, and when head-to-head studies were not available, indirect assessments were possible when two drugs were separately compared with placebos. Differences mainly lie in their rapidity of action, side effects, and price. <http://www.annals.org/content/155/11/772.abstract>

### **The RCH Equipment Distribution Centre (EDC) – medical equipment for children**

The Royal Children's Hospital EDC provides the hire of medical equipment for children such as wheelchairs, crutches, toileting, bathing and walking aids. Items for sale from the EDC include dressings, tapes, bandages, and extensive range of dry skin and eczema products, asthma spacers, medical aids, incontinence products, allergy bed protectors syringes, needles, gloves and swabs. A full catalogue of products is available online: [www.rch.org.au/edc](http://www.rch.org.au/edc)  
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**Announcement**  
**Inaugural Board appointed for the**  
**Grampians Medicare Local**

Ballarat and District and West Vic Divisions of General Practice and the Transition Advisory Group are pleased to announce the appointment of six Directors to the inaugural Grampians Medicare Local (GML) Board.

**Independent Directors**

- Ms Louise Staley – Willaura. Masters of Public Policy; Postgraduate Diploma in Finance; B. Arts.; Chartered Financial Analyst; Associate of the Securities Institute of Australia. Director of Australian Film Commission 1998 - 2002; Director East Grampians Health Service 2009 – current Treasurer; Federation Square Pty Ltd Director current and Chair of Audit Committee plus various other Director appointments.
- Alison von Bibra – Buninyong. B. Sci; MBA; Corporate Directors Diploma; currently studying Grad Dip in Applied Corporate Governance. Fellow Australian Human Resources Institute and Member Corporate Directors Association. Professional expertise in general management and human resources and past directorships with Victorian Board of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Board; Nurses Board of Victoria; Westernport Region Water Authority; and various community committees and Boards.
- Mr Andrew Howard – Alfredton. Registered Nurse; Grad. Dip. Administration (Management). Current Director UFS Dispensaries. Professional expertise in management and health delivery in the Grampians region.
- Mr Jim Elvey – Meredith. B. Arts; Dip Bus Stud (local government) Meredith, former local government CEO; Board member Ballarat Health Services 2006 -2011, Deputy chair 2009 to 2011.

**GP Division Directors (Members)**

- Dr Danie de Villiers - Maryborough (West Vic Division). MBCHB; M Med; FRACGP, General Practitioner & GP Obstetrician and Chair of West Vic Division 2006 – current.
- Ms Jo Curkpatrick – Wattle Flat (Ballarat Division), current Division Board member and senior communication professional. Dip. Ag and B. Arts (Journalism). Member of International Association of Business Communicators & Accredited Business Communicator. Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

These Directors, substantially met the selection criteria, collectively bring a broad range of director skills, attributes and relevant experience to the GML Board and are considered to have both capability and capacity to establish and advance the GML. In addition the group provides balance with regards to age, gender and regional representation.

The Board will meet informally in January 2012 and it is expected they will meet formally from February onwards as they prepare to govern the GML from 1 July 2012.

Ballarat and District and West Vic Division of General Practice and the Transition Advisory Group thank the Board appointments committee for their work, particularly the independent chair Ms Joanne Booth.