

Westvic After Hours Health Advice Line 1800 641 395

This service has been supporting our members for over a decade now. Practices who divert their phones after hours and promote our number to their patients benefit from knowing that an experienced triage nurse will be available to help callers navigate the health system. GP approved protocols are used to ensure that our nurses contact your on-call GP at the appropriate point of assessment. We receive an average of 184 calls per month, and are able to manage over 40% of these calls with home management advice. We are able to assist with the coordination of after hours assessment as the liaison point between GPs, the caller and the health service. Our priority assessment system ensures that patients needing GP review the next day are allocated appointments by your booking staff. We communicate by fax our encounters with your patients and encourage your feedback by contacting the WAHA Manager, Deidre Rennick at the Ararat office on p: 5352 4804.

Expression of interest sought from GPs and PNs: Spirometry training update

West Vic Division is planning a free spirometry event, in Stawell in the first half of this year. This evening update will cover refresher training in the application, measurement and interpretation of spirometry in general practice for GPs and practice nurses and respiratory educators who have previously undertaken formal spirometry training (e.g. NAC's 6 hour spirometry training course).

Prior to organising this event with the National Asthma Council Australia, a clear expression of interest from a minimum of 10 participants is required. If you are interested in attending please contact Melanie Wade e: m.wade@westvicdiv.asn.au or p: 5381 1756 by Tuesday 28 February.

Ovarian cancer awareness month

February is ovarian cancer awareness month, with Wednesday 29 February being Teal Ribbon Day. The aim of the month is to highlight the symptoms of ovarian cancer and to raise funds for Ovarian Cancer Australia's programs. For more information on ovarian cancer visit www.ovariancancer.net.au

cdmNet announced as the broadband solution to help with diabetes management challenge

The Commonwealth government has announced support for an online service for assisting doctors and patients to better manage diabetes. **cdmNet** was announced as a key IT infrastructure component for the Commonwealth's Diabetes Care Project. The project is an element of the Australian Government's efforts to reform the primary health care system and the treatment of Australians living with chronic illness.

From: Precedence Health Care. MEDIA RELEASE Melbourne 16 January 2012

Hepatitis C prescriber course

Saturday 17 March at Ballarat Community Health – 260 Vickers Rd Sebastapol
Medical practitioners who successfully complete this course and associated activities may apply to be certified to prescribe s 100 antiviral therapy for hepatitis C under shared care arrangements. This educational event and associated material is provided free of charge to Victorian GPs and addiction medicine specialists.

To register go to <http://www.westvicdiv.asn.au/Resources/Files/2012HepCcourseform.pdf> to download faxback registration form and for queries please contact Rebecca p: 9341 5236 or e: r.reeves@gpv.org.au