

Please circulate me to wards/areas where nurses and midwives work in your organisation!

Message from Chief Nurse

I have just been listening to an interview on ABC Radio National recorded today with the Vice President of the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners about 1 November 2010 when Nurse Practitioners and authorised midwives will be able to access a range of MBS and PBS items for their clients. (via www.acnp.org.au). It is worth listening to and it is refreshing to hear nurses being interviewed about health matters, in this case making a clear link between health reforms and changing roles/capacity.

The basic Medicare requirements (such as obtaining a provider and prescriber numbers, auditing etc) are as for other professionals who can access these schemes. However there are also some specific requirements for NPs and midwives.

There is some confusion in the sector about when a NP can use the schemes. It is a new and complicated area of authorisation and it is important that employers and staff understand and comply with the requirements of Medicare and are not in breach of the National Healthcare Agreement.

In short, as is the case for other salaried staff in public hospitals, services provided by NPs to public patients should be free of charge.

Since Victoria has signed up to the PBS reforms, NPs in public health services will generally be able to write scripts for PBS items (that are also on their NP drug lists approved by the Minister for Health) for outpatients or for patients being discharged. However you and your NP need to be informed and there are resources (including e-learning modules) and contact details at: www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/other-healthcare/nurse-midwives.jsp

Closing the Gap Training Grants

DH is offering training grants to Aboriginal people and other health workers in the public health sector servicing Aboriginal communities to undertake EN, Allied Health Assistance or Management training. The closing date is **22 November 2010**.

We will email you with more information about the Call for Expressions of Interest.

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/aboriginalhealth/grants.htm>
DH Contact: Sue.davey@health.vic.gov.au

Nurse Practitioner Scholarships

Close Friday 10th December 2010

NP contact: Nonie.rickard@health.vic.gov.au
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing/furthering/practitioner/nurse-practitioner-scholarships>

NMBA consultation on NP registration Standards

The NMBA is seeking input before **26th Nov** from key stakeholders regarding registration standards and guidelines for nurse practitioners

<http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/>

NP Policy Secondment opportunity 2011

For some years now, we have offered a secondment opportunity for a nurse seeking to expand their knowledge of health policy. That position will again be available commencing in early 2011. The role focuses on supporting the Nurse Practitioner activities and would suit someone interested in advanced practice and workforce development.

Expressions of interest or enquiries about the role can be made by **29 November 2010**.

NP contact: Nonie.rickard@health.vic.gov.au or (03) 90968227

Registration process for new graduates

The NMBA advised that it has implemented a process for final year students to **pre-apply** for registration with AHPRA in the four to six weeks before the end of their course.

Applicants still need to include all necessary documentation, make the required declarations and pay the application and registration fees. Education providers need to confirm successful course completion with AHPRA.

www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/News/FAQ-Graduating-students-apply-for-registration-now.aspx

RN students registering as ENs

AHPRA has now clarified that Victorian students that complete currently accredited qualifications for RN registration to the predetermined exit point (as previously approved by NBV) are eligible to apply for EN registration. This continues a process previously in place under the NBV and is subject to students meeting specific conditions.

Universities have been advised and will be notifying their students.

www.ahpra.gov.au/about-ahpra/contact-us/make-an-enquiry.aspx or: 1300 419 495

Nurse Policy: Building capacity and capability in the Victorian nursing and midwifery workforce