



**Northern Child
Health Network**
NSW HEALTH

a partnership between:
NSW Health
Hunter New England Area Health Service
North Coast Area Health Service; and
John Hunter Children's Hospital

NCHN Planning Day 2009

The 4th Biennial Planning Day of the Northern Child Health Network was held on 15 April 2009 at Novotel Pacific Bay, Coffs Harbour. The Network also provided the facilities for both the NC and HNE Area Health Services to have their own planning days on 16 April.

Both days were extremely successful with the priorities for all being decided on. The NCHN priorities for the period 2009-11 are:

1. Identify and improve services for Aboriginals and other disadvantaged groups.
2. Education, training and workforce development.
3. Effective partnerships with Mental Health.
4. General paediatrics models of care and associated workforce issues
5. Improved Consumer Participation including generalist health professionals working with children and Children, Young People and their Families

HNE policies, procedures & guidelines

Coming soon:

HNE CPG Interfacility Transfer of Paediatric Patients. Look out for guidelines on transferring your paediatric patients by ambulance, health transport or private vehicles.

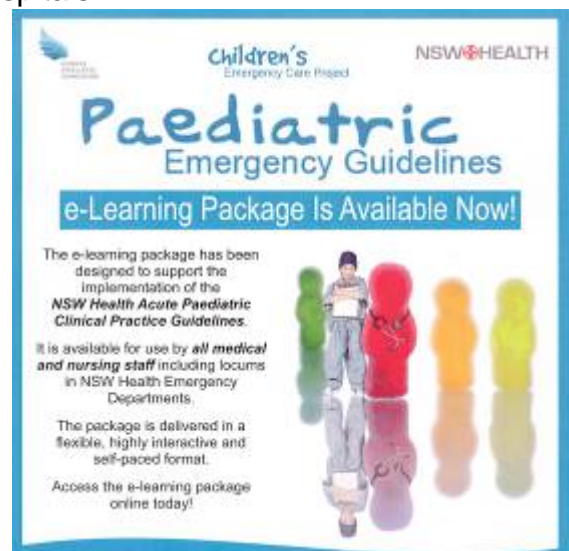
Paediatric Emergency Guideline e-Learning Package

CNC Paediatrics Helen Stevens and Rhonda Winskill recently received money from the Nursing and Midwifery Strategy Fund Program to provide scholarships for nurses to undertake the very successful paediatric CPG e-learning program. The package provides an opportunity to learn about using the 12 Department of Health Acute Paediatric Clinical Practice Guidelines.

The scholarship provides salary supplementation for nurses to undertake the 4 hour package the package during study leave, at their own pace at home or at work.

A total of 120 applicants applied and were accepted into the program and been accepted

into the program, from predominately rural hospitals



Child & Family Health Nursing in HNE – linking the parts

Child and family health nursing services across HNE have been undergoing some changes in the support of clinical practice. Eileen Guest was seconded in early 2008 as the CFHN project officer, a position funded by the NCHN, to develop sustainable systems across the area for standardisation & building of CFHN clinical practice. A key reason for the project was the absence of CFHN Clinical Nurse Consultant positions across the Northern Sector and Lower Mid North Coast as well as a very complex network of management systems in which the nurses work across the area.

So far the work of the project has enabled an audit of clinical resources across the area to be completed. The audit results lead to prioritisation and acquisition of purchases across the area to assist with safe clinical practice. For example, a number of purpose built examination benches were distributed to Centres for nurses to conduct their child health checks safely.

Nurse education programs are also aligning across the area to ensure equity and consistency of access to education programs. Findings from an area wide Education and Clinical Supervision Needs Analysis questionnaire will soon be available. A working

party has also been established to standardise CFHN policy compliance procedures and clinical practice guidelines across the area.

Improved collaborative communication systems such as using the Mylink electronic program on the intranet are also under construction. With the help of Area Nurse Manager Felicity Williams, the aim is to develop a community of practice development among the child and family health nurses and managers in HNE.

Success with this project can only come with close collaboration with the all the child and family health nurses and managers and Eileen has found that the support from everyone across the area has been terrific. Eileen also works very closely with the CFHN clinical nurse consultants Jennifer Reed (Lower & Upper Hunter) and Karen Johnson (Greater Newcastle). Without their support and enthusiasm many of the initiatives would not occur.

If you would like to contact Eileen she is based in Newcastle and can be reached on 02 4925 7831 or 0428 231 337.
Email: Eileen.Guest@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au

Emergency Care Rural Education

Two successful evening sessions of the program 'Paediatric Emergency Care for Rural Clinicians' were held at Nambucca Heads and Port Macquarie during April. Dr Anne McGeechan (Paediatrician), Sandra Babekuhl (Paediatric CNC), Rhonda Winskill (Paediatric CNC) and Helen Stevens (Paediatric CNC) hosted the evenings which were attended by

Rural Medical Officers, Nurses and student Doctors. The evenings used an interactive hands-on approach to paediatric airway management, fluid and EZ-IO management, basic and advanced life support as well as Recognition of the Sick Child. This program is funded by NCHN as part of GP outreach education.

**Contact Louise Austin to join the NCHN Mailing list
or to get a login to the NCHN website professionals section**

From NSW Health

Policy Directives Paracetamol Use

PD 2009_009 Paracetamol Use - Feb 2009 is now available at: http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2009/PD2009_009.html . **Note:** On page 5 under 'Use of Paracetamol with Non- Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDS), it states that



'The use of paracetamol and NSAIDS, such as ibuprofen, in combination or as an alternating regimen is not recommended in children with fever.'

Death – Management of Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy

PD 2008_070 is available at: http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2008/PD2008_070.html . This document describes the management of sudden unexpected death of an infant. There are 2 aspects: the diagnosis of cause of death and the care and support to the surviving family. It replaces PD2005_493. Karen Barrett, Grief Counsellor, Greater Newcastle Sector (who was on the Statewide Working Party in the development of this document and Simon Pont, Forensic Grief Counsellor JHH have been working with Dr Keith Howard and Rhonda Winskill in the formation of a HNE Health PCP which outlines the processes. Education around this new Policy Directive is being developed.

Safety Notice

SN: 01307 Extravasation of IV Fluids.

Care of the cannula site in neonates and children. (2007) Incidences, across the state, have highlighted the need for care of venous cannula sites particularly in children and neonates.

Simple steps to follow:

- Use limbs in preference to the scalp, upper limbs in before lower.
- Ensure a nurse is available to assist with the cannulation.
- Ensure the cannula is taped securely, allowing maximum observation of the site.
- Use transparent IV dressings, steristrips and non-stretchable tape (leukoplast).
- Maintain regular, direct observation the cannula site for secure placement and for changes around the cannula site and fluid tracking direction.
- Check hourly for redness, swelling, blanching, and pain. Record a description of all observations.

- Ensure site is not covered by blankets or clothing, to allow direct observation.
- Regularly check the infusion pump for the correct infusion rate and pumping action.
- Where possible, set appropriate pressure limits on pumps and check regularly
- Ensure the pump is appropriate for neonates and children. Do not use adult pumps.

SN: 006/09 Wrong Route Errors with Oral Medication

This notice promotes the safe use of oral medication and covers areas such as factors contributing to the wrong route of medication errors and action which can be taken to prevent wrong route errors. If you are not aware of the protocol for administration of oral medication, information to guide treatment decision, is available via the CIAP website <http://www.ciap.health.nsw.gov.au> or <http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au:2001/>

Please share any information you receive with your colleagues by forwarding it to Louise Austin for distribution to the NCHN mailing list.

Moree GP education



An education night on paediatric trauma was held on Thursday 2nd April at the Town and Country Club in Moree. The education night, organised in conjunction with the Barwon Division of GP's, was part of the John Hunter Children's Hospital's Paediatric Surgical Outreach Program. There were 41 participants on the night including local GP's from Moree and surrounding towns, RN's, paramedics and a radiologist. A presentation on paediatric trauma and a discussion on the new head

injury guidelines was delivered by Professor Trish Davidson who then facilitated a panel discussion on two case studies with Dr Keith Power (Armidale Paediatrician) and CNC's Helen Stevens and Cheryl Dennis. All participants were given a folder containing handouts on the presentation, a CD of the paediatric trauma manual, paediatric resuscitation card and information on the NCHN and Kaleidoscope networks.



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**Thank you for your continuing commitment
to the health and wellbeing of our children**