



Wairarapa DHB
Wairarapa District Health Board
Te Pouri Hauora a-rohe o Wairarapa

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GP Liaison Newsletter

Keeping you informed

July 2004

What is the role?

The position of GP Liaison has been established by the DHB as part of a national focus on improving communication between primary and secondary care.

In my orientation to the position I spoke to the Wellington GP Liaison and visited those GPs holding the role in Wanganui and Palmerston North. I discovered that there is no one-way to carry out this job.

I expect in the Wairarapa it will develop in line with local needs and priorities. For it to work I need your advice and support. I will be visiting all of you over the next two months and look forward to hearing your views. You can also phone, email or write to me. My contact details are at the top of the newsletter.

My background

I returned to New Zealand two years ago after working as a GP in Australia.

Initially, I was based in Martinborough working for the Rural GP Network as a rural locum. I was able to experience how different practices work; this included Akaroa, Reefton, Greytown and Martinborough practices.

I decided to settle in the Wairarapa and start my family and am currently "working" at home looking after my young son - Connor.

I completed a BSC in biochemistry before going to Otago University to study medicine.

On graduation I worked in Wellington, Lower Hutt, Kenepuru and Masterton hospitals for four years before entering General Practice.

Elective Services Steering Group

DHB Elective Services Steering Group. This Group is another new initiative designed to improve service delivery across the primary secondary interface.

I am a member of the Group along with two representatives from the PHO – Stu Phillips and Joe Howells – as well as hospital clinicians and management.

This Group meets quarterly and is another avenue for your issues to be raised with the DHB.

Hospital services update

In future newsletters I will provide an update on what is happening in the hospital to both inform you and provide an opportunity for feedback.

This first newsletter happened to coincide with a comprehensive update from the Chief Executive, David Meates, so rather than double up, please contact me if David's update raises any issues or questions for you

Immunisation

National Immunisation Register

The National Immunisation Register will go live March 2005. This is an essential tool for the successful delivery of the immunisation programme.

Introductory clinical sessions will be held later this month and liaison staff will visit your practice to answer any questions and deal with practical problems.

The new data capture immunisation software will be installed at no charge for all practices operating MedTech 32. Practice staff will be provided with full training commencing October 2004.

Meningococcal Vaccine

We can expect the meningococcal vaccine to be rolled out in the Wairarapa from April 2005.

This will involve mass immunisation of all those aged 0 to 20 with three injections six weeks apart.

Further information on the practicalities of the roll out and clinical features of the vaccine will be provided in the introductory clinical sessions.

Your practice nurses are actively involved in the implementation of both the register and the vaccine roll out. They will be able to provide you with information as it becomes available.

I look forward to working with all of you.

Lynette

