

PracSavvy

Clinical Systems Support and Training

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Edition 84 - August 2023

Welcome to the month's newsletter, where a slightly later than usual delivery time can be blamed on Registrars, Interns, a badly timed long weekend in Melbourne and absolute sleep deprivation from an enthralling ashes series.

Notably there's been some changes in medical facilities over the last few weeks, with new practices popping up [here](#), [there](#) and [everywhere](#). Additionally there is a new Chest Pain Evaluation Clinic at Calvary in the south and a re-imagining and rebranding of the [Tasmanian Spine Service](#). See the next page for more details on this.

The Orchid SP1 release of Best Practice only landed in the last 72 hours, so a review of that will have to wait for next month. Note though that this release will need to be installed by the end of September if you want to continue to have free sms scripts. This may be crushing news for the IT types who don't like to install updates unless they are absolutely forced to. There are several practices who haven't installed BP Orchid, which was released in late January. Waiting a little while to see if there are awkward bugs is only prudent, but not installing a major program update 6 months after it has been released, not so much.

I have to walk back something I said last month in my article on things in Best Practice that were broken. I had thought that the National Cancer screening Registry interface with BP was not working full stop, and had been that way for a few months. But now I have witnessed it working on at least 2 systems in the past week. Certainly some practices are having issues still, but it's not the dead loss I thought it was. I'm actually keen to learn which practices it is and isn't working at. By that I mean not working as opposed to not fully set-up correctly.

I'm happy to say that e-referral to THS hospitals continues to go gang busters, judging by figures that I have seen with monthly increases rivalling interest rate rises (too soon?) However I've found a couple of glitches that you may want to know about. Actually these "hidden features" are common to the basic Healthlink referral template, not just the THS specific ones. If your curiosity is piqued, check out page 3 for full details. Ah page 3, those were the days!

I'm wondering how many practices have had a little peek at [Primary Sense](#) yet. PHT were generous enough to let me install a copy, and whilst I'm not at all convinced the extractor is working properly, the reports and prompts are, which certainly assists me in assisting practices. I've already uncovered one reasonably obscure nugget. When calculating the often misused RACGP Active patients cohort (3 or more visits in 2 years) Primary Sense counts number of billing encounters rather than number of progress note entries. Which is clearly more accurate given that notes are often made when a patient hasn't attended.

Lastly, I was pretty staggered by the news of the [Austin Hospital study](#) that concluded that only 10% of their target patients who reported being allergic to Penicillin actually were! That would be a staggering amount of people that are potentially missing out on a really effective treatment (Disclaimer: so I'm told, not a doctor) It occurred to me that it might be a really useful quality Improvement exercise for practices to revisit patients labelled as allergic. See page 3 for something to assist with this.

Templates

Templates updated or created last month at my website [here](#):

Health Dynamics - Sleep Study Referral (Updated)
Health Dynamics - Paediatric Sleep Study Referral
Opioid Treatment Authority Application
Calvary Cardiac Centre (Updated)

e-referral

Please see below for some e-referral updates for your address books. My listing of e-referral enabled specialists and Allied Health providers can be found [here](#):

Dr Nitin Yogesh	Pain Management	<i>tasspine</i>	Centre for Neurosurgery
Kate Thomas	Physiotherapy	<i>tasspine</i>	Centre for Neurosurgery
Michael O'Flynn	Physiotherapy	<i>tasspine</i>	Centre for Neurosurgery
Izzy Viljoen	Physiotherapy	<i>tasspine</i>	Centre for Neurosurgery
Sarah Jane Benson	Physiotherapy	<i>tasspine</i>	Centre for Neurosurgery
Jackie Dynan	Physiotherapy	<i>tasspine</i>	Centre for Neurosurgery

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Last of the newsy bits is that the Tasmanian Health Pathways website migrated to it's new site this last month. The redirection from the old link was un-noticed apart from the fact that if you were relying on your browser to remember the user name and password, it wouldn't recognise the new site and therefore wouldn't auto-populate these details. To refresh the memory its, User name: *connectingcare* PW: *health*.

Tasmanian Spine Service is now Centre for Neurosurgery

Tasmanian Spine Service, having provided exceptional patient care for over 10 years, has evolved to become 'Centre for Neurosurgery', representing the expansion of services to include brain pathologies by our team.

We are a multidisciplinary group consisting of neurosurgeons, interventional neuro-radiologists, interventional pain physicians, physiotherapists and specialised assisting doctors who work collaboratively to care for patients with all brain and spinal conditions. Patients are comprehensively assessed and their care tailored for both interventional and conservative treatments.

We will be holding GP educational seminars in both Launceston (15 September) and Burnie (16 September). These events will provide in-depth information regarding our services and members of our team will be on hand to answer any questions you may have. Invitations advising times, venues and details regarding our speakers and topics will be forwarded soon.

Referrals can be made to individual specialists or to the practice:

Ph: 6228 3777 Fax: 6278 2494 Healthlink: tasspine eMail: info@cnstas.com.au WWW: www.cnstas.com.au

Calvary Cardiac Centre

Announces the Chest Pain Evaluation Clinic

The Chest Pain Evaluation Clinic will be located at Calvary Hospital, 49 Augusta Rd Lenah Valley, within the Cardiac Centre (Lower Ground Floor, main building)

The Clinic will be operated as a clinical outpatient service which provides direct and timely access to diagnostic investigations and assessment for patients with new onset of chest pain suggestive of angina or patients with previously stable ischaemic heart disease with recent deterioration of symptoms.

The purpose of the service is to provide a safe framework for General Practitioners and Emergency Department Physicians to refer patients following low risk presentations.

Please Note: Patients with suspected Acute Coronary Syndrome should be still referred to an Emergency Department

Key Points

The clinic runs from Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4pm, (excluding public holidays.)

All Referrals are reviewed within 24 hours and patients are reviewed within 48-72 hours of referral by our chest pain team led by a consultant cardiologist.

Patients referred to the Chest Pain Evaluation Clinic will be bulk billed for outpatient assessment, consultations and outpatient functional testing performed at Calvary Cardiac Centre.

Comprehensive clinical correspondence including investigation reports will be forwarded to the referring physicians and GPs.

Ph: 62285391 or 6228 0300 Fax: 6278 9221 email: TAS-LVH-CardiacCentre@calvarycare.org.au

Healthlink EDI: chctlvcs

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BP

On the front page I mentioned the issue that the number of people who are actually allergic to Penicillin may be dramatically overstated. As a quality exercise, practices may want to generate a list of people flagged as allergic, in order to verify the fact with them. If you are a BP user, the following query pasted into your search dialogue may be useful.

```
SELECT *
FROM BPS_Patients
WHERE StatusText = 'Active'
AND InternalID IN (SELECT InternalID FROM BPS_Reactions WHERE ItemName = 'Penicillin')
ORDER BY surname, firstname
```

From the resultant list you could:

- Send a bulk sms telling patients to mention it next time they attend.
- Create a bulk reminder, not necessarily to send out but as a way of creating a flag in each patient's notification area
- Open each patient and create an Action prompt in the notifications area

Apologies to MD users, I am nothing if not inclusive, but I'm currently unable to create or source a query for MD's far more restrictive search tool.

ereferral

As I mentioned on the front page smartform referrals to the THS clinics are going really well. I have however discovered a few issues, or at least items of interest.

1 BP - Deleted Allergies It seems that in BP if a patient has had an allergy deleted at some point it is still in the database with a flag stopping it from displaying in BP. Problem is that the smartform template does not see that flag and displays it anyway as below. So ensure you untick it before submitting.

Item	Reaction	Severity
Alpha adrenergic blocker	Diarrhoea	Severe
ACE Inhibitors	Bronchospasm	Moderate
Penicillamine	Rash	Moderate

Date	Details	Dose	Units	Instructions
30/09/2022	Clopidogrel 75mg Tablet			1 Tablet In the morning with meals
30/09/2022	Acarbose 50mg Tablet			p.r.n
28/01/2021	Fluticasone 100mcg Powder for inhalation			1½ Dose Before bed
11/10/2019	Cabazitaxel 60 mg/1.5 mL Concentrate for infusion			2 Doses
	Tapentadol 50mg Immediate release tablets			4 tablets in the morning, 3 tablets at night
	Augmentin Duo 500mg;125mg Tablet			1 Tablet In the morning
15/06/2023	Banworm 100mg Tablet			2 Tablets In the morning p.r.n

Date	Description	Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/>	06/07/2023	On Opioid Management Plan Please Check	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	22/11/2022	Penicillamine	Rash
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20/01/2020	Alpha adrenergic blocker	Diarrhoea
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	19/04/2017	ACE Inhibitors	Bronchospasm
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	07/11/2007	Sulfonylureas (Endocrine)	

2 MD - Can't Insert Today's Notes - Don't think this was always the case but once you have entered a Reason for Visit during the consultation, MD will insert that and that only should you try and insert today's notes into the referral. The workaround is not to put a reason for visit in MD until after you have done the referral, or if you have, the old copy and paste still works. (Hint: Use the Window menu option)

Presenting Complaint / Clinical Summary (Symptoms, their duration, and details of any associated medical conditions which may affect the presenting condition, or its treatment)* [Browse for Consultation Notes](#)

Date: 04/08/2023 00:00:00 AAA Repair

ereferral

Issues continued...

3. Both BP and MD - Alert/On Screen Comment is selected in the Allergies and Warnings area

It's unfair to call this an issue because it isn't really. Let's just say that it's something to be aware of.

The area in the template is accurately described as Allergies and Alerts, so fair enough, but we know that practices store all sorts of miscellaneous information here, and you may not always intend to share it. It's not the end of the world (which is when its 1.5 degrees warmer apparently), but it is something you may want to stay alert to.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Date	Description	Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	01/08/2023	Identifies as a Goldfish	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	22/11/2022	Penicillamine	Rash
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20/01/2020	Alpha adrenergic blocker	Diarrhoea
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	19/04/2017	ACE Inhibitors	Bronchospasm
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	07/11/2007	Sulfonylureas (Endocrine)	

Note that these three things are common to all the smartform referral templates, not just the THS ones.

4. Diabetes Tasmania in the other health providers directory.

In Tasmania, the smartforms menu has an area where you can send a document to other practices as well as other health services including allied health. The directory itself is low quality in accuracy and currency, a fact acknowledged by PHT who have strong plans to improve it. Nevertheless you should check it out as it currently shows 240 organisations and 500 individuals. You may well find providers that you do communicate with.

Specialists, Allied Health Providers and GPs

SR Specialists & Referrals Refer to Private Specialist **Refer / Contact other health providers**

Referred Services

Chris O'Brien Lifehouse Services
My Aged Care Referral

Hearing Australia Medical Certificate
Tasmanian Health Service

Diabetes Australia (Tasmania) would very much like you to use this facility to communicate with them. The thing is, if you search for them by their organisation name you will not be able to find them. You will only be able to find their entry if you search by their EDI *diabeaus*, as depicted below.

Search for GPs, Specialists and Allied Health Professionals

Please search for a provider or practice to view their details, create a referral or send a letter / report.

Search by Provider name Practice name EDI account

EDI name

Show entries

Name	Practice Name
diabeaus	Diabetes Australia

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Previous Next

The issue arises because of the way their organisation is categorised in the Healthlink directory. The Sexual Health Service *swshstas* and the New Town Skin Centre *ntskincr* have the same issue. Credit to the inquisitive and determined Glebe Hill based GP who nussed out how to get around the issue.