

# Primary Options Programme Northland

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## Newsletter: November 2011

**POPN (Primary Options Programme Northland) has been running for two years this month!**

As predicted growth was slow at first but now referrals are coming thick and fast. The POPN team would like to say a huge thank you to all practices who are using the programme and have been so supportive in our setting up phase. It has been very heartening to get so much positive feedback from so many practitioners across Northland.

Please remember to read the guidelines for the most common conditions. These have been developed by teams of both primary and secondary clinicians in Northland with assistance from other regions to ensure that the care delivered under Primary Options is optimal.

Guidelines can be found in the POPN manual which is available as below.

### **ACCESSING THE POPN MANUAL**

The Primary Options Manual is available from the Manaia PHO website:  
[http://www.manaiapho.co.nz/primary\\_options](http://www.manaiapho.co.nz/primary_options). There is also a link to the manual on the healthpoint website.

The manual has relevant information, instructions how to use the programme, algorithms for key conditions and forms used for the programme. Frequently asked questions and answers and claiming guidelines regarding the programme are also available on the website.

**If you would like a hard copy of the manual please contact Jenny Barrett on 09 438 1015.**

**It is important to gain patient's informed consent prior to being treated under the Primary Options Programme.**

Patient information brochures regarding cellulitis and DVT are available by emailing [jennyb@manaiaapho.co.nz](mailto:jennyb@manaiaapho.co.nz)

### **DVT Scoring Tool**

- A new scoring tool has been approved by the DVT clinical advisory group for POPN. This replaces the Wells score.
- It can be found on page 36 of the manual (or under guidelines for common conditions on the website).

**PLEASE NOTE:** Manaia PHO (and Kaitaia) practices do not need to go through POPN to organize a scan for a suspected DVT – they can refer directly to NDHB radiology by calling the radiology dept at the hospital ext 7591. Radiology will request a d- dimer result and a completed Primary Care Decision Rule . Other areas will need to call POPN to organize.

- **EXCLUSIONS TO POPN** Please note that the guidelines in the manual contain **EXCLUSIONS** to the POPN programme.
- Please refer to the manual to familiarize yourself with these for the main conditions (e.g. pneumonia cases - CURB-65 tool criteria, in cellulitis cases - drainable collections are excluded). If the case comes under an exclusion to POPN the claim will be declined.
- The intent of POPN is to prevent hospital admissions. If there is no clear documentation of how a hospital admission is prevented then it is likely that the claim will be declined.
- The use of IV antibiotics in undifferentiated illnesses is discouraged. These claims will be declined.
- All declined cases are able to be reviewed by the Clinical Governance group if you do not agree with the decision to decline the claim. Contact with the option to appeal will be made with you for every declined claim.

## Early Discharge Pathway

This is designed to allow patients who have been medically cleared by the hospital to be discharged into a rest home for up to three days if they otherwise would have been staying in hospital (e.g. social reasons)

GPs will be asked to accept clinical responsibility for any of their patients under this pathway. **If the GP decides not to accept responsibility then the patient will remain in hospital.**

Please see the guidelines in the current manual online at [www.manaiaapho.co.nz](http://www.manaiaapho.co.nz).

## Primary care IV training in Northland

If you would like to do a course in IV cannulation please contact Carolyn on 09 438 1015. Please note there will be a cost of \$90.00 +GST per participant.

A GP refresher course will also be available shortly.

## Cellulitis kits

These contain tubing for a “Springfusor” pump which uses dedicated flow control tubing.

Please let us know if your practice does not have a Springfusor pump – we are happy to deliver one and show you how to use it!

## IV Zoledronate

- Please refer to guidelines in the POPN manual at [www.manaiaapho.co.nz/primaryoptions](http://www.manaiaapho.co.nz/primaryoptions)
- To qualify for POPN funding for IV Zoledronate infusions the patient must be intolerant to oral fosamax and this must be documented in the clinical notes. If this is not documented in the clinical notes the claim will be declined.
- Patients may also be able to qualify for funding for IV Zoledronate infusions through “care plus” if they do not fit the POPN criteria. Jayne Hill (Manaia PHO) is the contact person for this.
- Please call POPN to arrange any infusions that are not carried out in the practice.

### **About Primary Options Programme Northland (POPn)**

Primary Options funding offers general practice an alternative to referring their patients acutely to hospital. A range of services are available to support patients to be cared for in the community. These include:

- Access to diagnostics (e.g. scans)
- IV therapy (can be arranged external to your practice)
- Extended GP services
- Home help
- Respite care in a rest home
- Assistance with transport of patients
- Short term equipment supplies
- Zoledronate infusions (also can be external)

Referrals may be made electronically or by fax – for help with this contact:

**Carolyn Jones (Programme Coordinator)  
Administrator)**

**Ph:** 09 438 1015 or 021 847 567

**Email:** [carolynj@manaiapho.co.nz](mailto:carolynj@manaiapho.co.nz)

**Jenny Barrett (Project**

**Ph:** 09 438 1015

**Email:** [jennyb@manaiapho.co.nz](mailto:jennyb@manaiapho.co.nz)

**If you would like to book in a time for Carolyn and/or Jenny to visit for education, training or just advice please contact**

**Carolyn Jones:** [carolynj@manaiapho.co.nz](mailto:carolynj@manaiapho.co.nz) or

**Jenny Barrett:** [jennyb@manaiapho.co.nz](mailto:jennyb@manaiapho.co.nz).

**Access the manual, guidelines and forms online at:**

**[http://www.manaiapho.co.nz/primary\\_options](http://www.manaiapho.co.nz/primary_options)**