

FREE TO TAKE HOME!

APRIL-MAY 2017 EDITION



Teething Babies



Influenza Vaccination



Thyroid Tests



Sports Drinks

YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT:

ENJOY THIS FREE NEWSLETTER

Please remember that decisions about medical care should be made in consultation with your health care provider so discuss with your doctor before acting on any of the information.

www.healthnews.net.au

● PRACTICE DOCTORS

Dr Diane Blanckensee (Director)

MBBS, FRACGP
All aspects of General Practice

Dr Austin Sterne (Director)

MbChB, FRACGP, DipFP
Men's Health, Skin Cancer Medicine, Chronic Disease Management & Diabetes

Dr Jenni Soden (Director)

MBBS(Hons), FRACGP
All aspects of General Practice

Dr Bruce Edington - MBBS, FACRRM
Aboriginal Health & Men's Health

Dr Matthew Cardone

RACGP (Diploma of Child Health)
Children's Health, Skin Cancer Medicine & Men's Health

Dr Stella Ward - MBChB FRACGP

Family Planning, Women's Health, Aged Care, Adolescent Health & Skin Cancer Medicine

Dr Erin Evans - MBBS, FRACGP

Women's Health, Skin Cancer Medicine, Children & Adolescent Health

Dr Shannon Butler - MBBS

Women's Health, Paediatric Health, Adolescent Health & Preventative Health

Dr Chris Wetherall

(Skin Cancer Physician)
MBBS, MMed, FSCCA, FRACGP
Skin Cancer Medicine

Dr Corey Butler - MBBS, FRACGP

Diploma of Child Health
Women's Health, Children's Health, Antenatal, all aspects of General Medicine

Dr Bernard Baguley

MBBS, Dip.RANZCOG
Family Medicine, Women's Health, Men's Health and Paediatrics.

Dr Greg Cusick

Speciality in skin cancer.

Dr Victoria Hunt - MBBS, FRACGP

Women's Health, Aged Care, Chronic Disease management.

Dr Renae Myhill - MBBS, FRACGP

Palliative Care and Mental Health.

Dr Brent Williams - MBChB

Sports medicine, skin cancer medicine and mental health.

Dr Joel Hissink

BSc MBBS (Hons), FRACGP (Diploma of Child Health)
Dive Medicine and children's Health

Dr Jean Ashton - MBBS, FRACGP

Men's Health, Chronic Disease Management and adult medicine.

Dr Judd McClelland

Dr Christopher Ng

Dr Katherine Lynch

Dr Zabrina Kingston

Dr Alice Crowley

● PRACTICE STAFF

Practice Manager: Alana

Assistant Practice Manager: Regan

Nurse Manager: Tara

Practice Nurses: Tara, Gerard, Mary, Annabel, Emily, Alex, Heather, Cathy, Amanda, Stevi, Belinda, Emma, Kate, Samantha, Kelly, Jackie & Bridie

Administration Assistant: Karina

Reception Manager: Nakiah

Reception Staff: Louise, Julie, Roz, Maureen, Zak, Karla, Jodie, Lyn, Romany, Alivia, Mano, Jasmine, Shelley, Lillana, Nicole, Julie & Bianca

● SURGERY HOURS

Monday – Friday 7.30am – 7.30pm

Saturday & Sunday 8.00am – 1.00pm

● AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

Chevron After Hours Doctors. Phone: 5532 8666

Monday – Friday 6pm – 8am

On weekends & public holidays 24Hrs

● BILLING ARRANGEMENTS

We believe in providing affordable high quality health care.

Monday to Friday the following groups are Bulk Billed:

Children under 16 Pension cardholders (not including HCC)

Department of Veterans Affairs cardholders.

Discounted Rates apply to Health care cards holders.

We DO NOT Bulk Bill on the Weekends but a concession rate is offered to the above mentioned groups.

Payment can be made by cash, credit card or EFTPOS.

Please visit our website www.thesc.com.au for our full fee schedule.

● APPOINTMENTS

Consultation is by appointment. Urgent cases are seen on the day.

ALL CHILDREN WILL BE SEEN ON THE DAY.

Home Visits. If you require a home visit for special reasons, please request this first thing in the morning.

Booking a long appointment is important for more complex problems – insurance medical, health review, counselling, a second opinion, etc. This may involve a longer wait. Please bring all relevant information.

Please notify us if you are **unable to attend an appointment**, well in advance.

If **more than one person** from your family wishes to see the doctor at the same time, please ensure a separate appointment is made for each family member.

● OTHER SERVICES

Practice doctors are experienced in the broad range of health problems affecting all age groups.

- Travel Vaccinations
- Podiatrist
- Speech Pathologist
- Physiotherapist
- Midwife
- Exercise Physiologist
- Psychologists
- Dietician
- Pathology
- Audiometry
- Dentist
- Occupational Therapy
- Visiting Specialists (Vascular, Geriatrician, Endocrinologist)
- Optical

▷ **Please see the Rear Cover for more practice information.**





Teething Babies

During teething an infant's first teeth (the deciduous teeth, often called "baby teeth" or "milk teeth") sequentially emerge or 'erupt' through the gums. They typically arrive in pairs, the lower two incisors come first at 6-8 months of age, before all 20 teeth take a few years to erupt. This is sometimes called "cutting teeth", but emerging teeth don't in fact cut through the gums but hormones released cause some cells in the gums to die and separate, allowing the teeth to come through.

The level of pain varies remarkably. Some babies are not even bothered by teething. Some appear to suffer more than others - soreness and swelling of gums before a tooth comes through, starting 3 to 5 days before the tooth shows, and disappearing as soon as the tooth breaks through.

Common symptoms include drooling or dribbling (perhaps causing a rash around the mouth), increased chewing, mood changes, and irritability. Babies might also refuse to eat or drink due to the pain. Crying, restless sleep, and mild fever may come with teething, especially when the first larger molars erupt around age 14 months.

Symptoms generally fade on their own.

Teething may cause a slightly elevated temperature but does not cause high fever (temperature over 38.3 °C) or diarrhoea. Think about other illness, particularly infection by human herpes viruses.

Find out what is going on. Rub a finger gently along the gums in search for swollen ridges or the feel of a tooth below the gums.

If unsure, see your doctor or child nurse for guidance.

A teething ring or a wet washcloth in the freezer for a few minutes can help as can drawing water into a pacifier and freezing it. The cold pressure on the gums gives relief without making the child's fingers cold. Some children respond well to chilled foods like applesauce, yoghurt, and pureed fruits. Perhaps something firm like a sugar-free rusk

In cases where the infant is in obvious pain your doctor or pharmacist can help by prescribing a numbing or teething gel or suchlike.

About half of all 6-year olds have decay in their baby teeth. Use a soft cloth or infant tooth brush at least twice a day (but no toothpaste until after 18 months). Healthy eating and drinking also reduces tooth decay. Keep sugary food and drinks like fruit juice and biscuits out of the diet. And don't put your baby to bed with a bottle and never give a dummy dipped in honey or sugar. ■

Helping with Learning Difficulties

There are many possible reasons why your child may fall behind in their schoolwork—anything from not getting on with the class teacher to ADHD or a hearing problem. Learning problems need to be detected and remedied early.

Here is a useful checklist for any child experiencing learning problems:

- Have a meeting with the class teacher or year coordinator to get their ideas on your child's problem.
- Get your child formally tested (e.g. by the school psychologist) to find out their strengths and weaknesses for learning (in literacy and numeracy skills).
- Get your child checked over by your GP, especially if they have physical complaints. Arrange an eyesight and hearing test.
- If your child is unusually impulsive, easily distracted, has poor attention or communication (at school and home), consider a formal assessment for ADHD or autism.
- If your child shows signs of distress, anxiety, insecurity or uneasiness about going to school, take time to talk to them about the things that are happening in the classroom, playground and around home. ■



Body Facts...

- Skin cells only last about a week before they die. Red blood cells live for about 4 months. Bone cells last 10-30 years.
- Hair is very strong. A rope made from just 1000 hairs could lift the average adult.

- Scattered throughout the skin are millions of nerve endings which can detect pain, touch, heat, cold and pressure. The most sensitive part of the body as far as touch is concerned is the lips; the least sensitive is the small of the back. The most sensitive

for pressure is the fingers, and the least sensitive is the bottom. This is rather important; otherwise it would be agony to sit down!

- The average brain is 80% water. The average adult has about 75 km of nerves throughout the body.

Influenza Vaccination: Key Points

Annual vaccination prevents influenza and its complications and is recommended for any person ≥ 6 months of age who wishes to reduce the likelihood of becoming ill with influenza.

Quadrivalent influenza vaccines (QIV) only are available in 2017. They protect against one completely new virus strain.

Vaccines are free on the National Immunisation Program in 2017 for:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children aged 6 months to <5 years and persons aged ≥ 15 years
- Everyone aged ≥ 65 years
- All persons aged ≥ 6 months at risk of influenza complications; e.g. severe asthma, lung or heart disease, low immunity or diabetes.
- Pregnant women (any stage of pregnancy).

Influenza vaccination is also strongly recommended, but not funded, for other groups who are at increased risk of influenza and its complications.

People with egg allergy can be safely vaccinated, with precautions taken in some cases. ■



Thyroid Tests Serve a Function

The thyroid gland in the front of the neck controls the metabolism of the whole body. Sometimes the gland becomes overactive or underactive. This happens most often in women over 50 who have a family history of thyroid problems or pernicious anaemia (vitamin B12 deficiency).

Failure of the thyroid to produce enough thyroid hormone usually comes on slowly. Symptoms are excessive tiredness, coarse or dry skin, hair loss, weight gain, poor memory and intolerance of cold weather.

An overactive thyroid speeds up the body—anxiety, rapid heartbeat, weight loss, trouble sleeping, and menstrual changes.

All these symptoms can be mimicked by other health disorders, so it can be hard for a doctor to spot thyroid problems. If you feel it may be a problem for you, discuss it with your doctor.

The problem shows up on blood test. Any lack of thyroid hormone can be easily replaced with a daily tablet. After that, the correct dose is monitored with regular blood tests.

Unfortunately, thyroid problems cannot be remedied with a change in diet or lifestyle. The problem comes about because the body, by some quirk of Nature, produces antibodies against the thyroid gland, slowly destroying its function. Taking kelp or iodine supplements can make the problem worse. ■

Profile: Sports Drinks

Highly fashionable sports drinks offer improved sports performance and recovery but is this at the expense of your teeth!?

Athletes who regularly sip on sports drinks are bathing their teeth in sugar and mild acid, just the recipe for dissolving tooth enamel and promoting tooth decay. The risk is greater if a mouth guard is used after consuming a sports drink.

To prevent this problem, rinse the mouth with water immediately after your sports drink.

And you can make your own sports drink, as well as the commercial ones.

During strenuous exercise, especially in hot

weather, the body needs more than just water replacement. After an hour of heavy exercise, taking some carbohydrate helps the body conserve glycogen stores in muscle, maintain blood sugar levels and delay fatigue. A little sodium and potassium is also beneficial.

Try this recipe. Dissolve 1 tablespoon of sugar and a pinch of salt in a little hot water. Add 1 tablespoon of 100% orange or lemon juice. Add 250 ml of iced water. Bingo!—your own effective sports drink. ■



ANZAC BISCUITS

Ingredients

1 cup plain flour
1 cup rolled oats
1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup coconut
125 g butter
2 tbs golden syrup
1 tbs water
1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda

Method

- Sift the flour into a bowl. Add the sugar, rolled oats and coconut.
- Melt the butter in a saucepan and add the golden syrup and water.
- Stir the bicarbonate of soda into the liquid mixture.

- Add the liquid to the dry ingredients and mix thoroughly.
- Place walnut-sized balls of mixture on a greased tray and bake at 175C for 15-20 minutes.
- All biscuits to cool a little to harden before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.



SUDOKU PUZZLE

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HAPPY EASTER!



OUR MISSION

Our aim is to give our patients the highest possible quality of care, by ensuring excellence in all aspects of our practice. We endeavour to provide patients with the best and most current treatments, methods, materials and equipment within our resource capabilities to ensure that the patients receive the high quality of service they have come to expect.

We believe that patients come first. Teamwork is highly valued and encouraged within the practice to promote a harmonious and productive environment. We hold great importance in ethical and responsible behaviour as essential to maintain the trust and loyalty of our patients and staff.

SPECIAL PRACTICE NOTES

Referrals. Doctors in this practice are competent at handling common health problems. When necessary, they can use opinions from Specialists. You can discuss this openly with your doctor, including potential out of pocket expenses.

Translating & Interpreter services details – 131 450

Speech & Hearing impairment voice call – 133 677 and speak & listen 1300 555 727

Test Results. Results are reviewed by the doctors and acted on in a timely manner, with your health in mind. We will contact you if necessary.

Communication Policy. Incoming telephone calls to the doctors are restricted to matters of medical urgency. GPs in the practice may be contacted during normal hours, however if the GP is with a patient, a message will be taken and your call will be returned as soon as is practicable.

Reminder system. Because our practice is committed to preventive care, we may send you an occasional reminder regarding health services appropriate to your care. If you wish to opt out of this, please let us know.

Patient Privacy. This practice protects your personal health information to ensure it is only available to authorised staff members for the intended purposes and to comply with the Privacy Act. To obtain a copy of our Privacy Statement or your medical records, please ask.

Patient Feedback. We welcome your comments or suggestions. Please feel free to talk to your GP or the Practice Manager regarding any issues. If you prefer, you can contact the Office of the Health Ombudsman on 133 646 or go to: www.oho.qld.gov.au