

Facsimile Cover Sheet /Wharangi Nama Waea

Date/Te Ra: **1 February 2013**

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| To/Kia: GP's, Practice nurses at Primary Care Centres, After-hours Centres in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa regions. | From/Na: Dr Jill McKenzie Medical Officer of Health Regional Public Health |
| Name of Agency/Wahi Mahi: | Fax Number/Nama Waea: |

Public Health Alert

The ability for GP's to electronically notify hazardous substance injuries– commences TODAY, 1 February 2013

I would be grateful if you could distribute the following information to relevant staff in your organisation.

If you would also like to receive this by email for ease of distribution, storage and retrieval please advise RPH of your email on rph@huttvalleydhb.org.nz.

Kind regards

Dr Jill McKenzie
Medical Officer of Health

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He ture no nga korero katoa kei roto o tenei karere, no reira, kia tupato. Mehemea kaore matau kaua e mau. Me whakamohiotia atu ki to Tari, me te mea nana i tono mai. E Tika Hoki.



Date: 1 February 2013

To: GP's and Practice nurses at Primary Care Centres, After-hours Centres in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa regions.

From: Dr Jill McKenzie, Medical Officer of Health, Regional Public Health

Electronic notification of hazardous substance injuries– commences TODAY, 1 February 2013

GPs in the Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa region will be the first in the country to electronically notify cases of hazardous substance disease and injury seen in primary care. A short electronic form linked to MedTech32 and delivered by *Bestpractice* Decision Support (BPAC Inc) will be available from 1 February to make notification as simple as possible.

What is a hazardous substance injury or disease?

This is a vast group of diagnoses and includes children swallowing cleaning products or cosmetics, overdoses with agrichemicals or reports of exposure to spraydrift, carbon monoxide poisoning, illness caused by exposure to solvents or chlorine, contact dermatitis due to chemicals, a fireworks burn or eye injury, and huffing of butane.

A hazardous substance is anything that can explode, catch fire, oxidise, corrode, or be toxic to humans, as defined in the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. The same act requires medical practitioners to notify cases to the Medical Officer of Health.

How do I notify?

Look for the 'Hazardous Substances and Lead notifications' module on the BPAC dashboard. Submitting the completed form will send it to the Medical Officer of Health via BPAC's secure system. If the practice does not have a MedTech32 or BPAC, please phone Regional Public Health to notify a case.

Lead poisoning notifications

Cases with a blood lead level ≥ 0.48 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ from non-occupational lead exposure, are required to be notified under the Health Act 1956. The electronic form can also be used for these notifications.

Where do I find more information about this system?

A hard copy of further information will be mailed to all practices, including a user manual. Electronic versions of the user manual will also be available on the BPAC website and the RPH website www.rph.org.nz, under Health Professionals, Notifiable Diseases (www.rph.org.nz/content/b22b0af9-caf0-40fc-a642-1a6d2077baf6.html). Please phone the Public Health Unit (04) 570 9267 with any questions about the notification, or for questions regarding the software, contact BPAC on 0800 633236.