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## CDI NOTICE TO READERS

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### CDI Editorial Advisory Board

An Editorial Advisory Board has been appointed to guide the future development of *Communicable Diseases Intelligence*. It is chaired by Professor Charles Watson, Dean of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences at the University of Wollongong, New South Wales.

Other members are Associate Professor Margaret Burgess, Director, Australian Immunisation Research Centre, Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Westmead, New South Wales; Dr Scott Cameron, Senior Consultant, Communicable Disease Control Unit, South Australian Health Commission; Dr Gavin Frost, Senior Medical Advisor, AIDS and Communicable Diseases Branch, Department of Human Services and Health; Dr Jeffrey Hanna, Medical Director, Tropical Public Health Unit, Queensland Health Department, Cairns, Queensland; Associate Professor John Kaldor, Deputy Director of the National Centre for HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, Sydney, New South Wales; Mrs Margery Kennett, Senior Scientist, Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, Fairfield Hospital, Fairfield, Victoria; Dr Christine Roberts, Director of the Master of Applied Epidemiology Program, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory.

### CDI Instructions for authors

*Communicable Diseases Intelligence (CDI)* is a fortnightly publication of the AIDS/Communicable Diseases Branch, Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Health and the Communicable Diseases Network of Australia and New Zealand. Its aim is to provide timely information about communicable diseases in Australia to inform and assist those with responsibility for their control in a wide variety of settings.

CDI invites contributions dealing with any aspect of communicable disease incidence, risk factors, surveillance or control in Australia. They can be in the form of original articles, short reports, surveillance summaries, reviews or correspondence.

On receipt of an article, CDI sends a brief acknowledgment indicating that it will be considered for publication. Contributions are then reviewed and, if accepted, prepared for publication in consultation with the corresponding authors. Authors may be asked to revise articles as a result of the review process and the final decision about publication is made by the Editor.

CDI is published on alternate Mondays except for the fortnight of Christmas-New Year. It is finalised for the printer on the Friday prior to the publication date. Very topical brief contributions may be published in the fortnight of receipt, by arrangement with the editorial staff.

### Submission procedure

A single copy of the contribution should be submitted to the Editor, *Communicable Diseases Intelligence*, at the address below. A covering letter should identify the corresponding author and be signed by all authors agreeing to possible publication.

The contribution should be provided in hard copy and on diskette (3 1/2 inch disks preferred). WordPerfect text format is ideal, although most IBM-compatible word processing formats can be converted. Short contributions may also be sent by email.

### Authors

Authors of articles should be identified by their first name, last name, institution and address, with phone and fax contacts for the corresponding author. Each author should have participated sufficiently to take public responsibility for the article. Others contributing to the work should be recognised in the acknowledgments.

### Articles and short reports

The text of articles should be structured with abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, acknowledgments and references, as far as is possible. Short contributions may need fewer subsections. There is no strict word limit for articles but manuscripts of 2000 words or less are preferred. Include a word count with the contribution.

### Tables and figures

All tables and figures should be referred to within the results section and should not duplicate information in the text. If graphs are to be included, also provide the numerical data on which these are based to enable production in house style. Black and white illustrations or photographs can be included if required.

### References

References should be identified consecutively in the text by the use of superscript numbers. The Vancouver reference style is used by CDI (see International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *Med J Aust* 1991; 155: 197-201). All unpublished material should be referred to within the text (instead of the reference list) as personal communications or unpublished observations. The only exception is material which has been accepted for publication (in press).

### Contact details

Contributions and requests for further information should be sent to: The Editor (Dr Helen Longbottom), *Communicable Diseases Intelligence*, AIDS/Communicable Diseases Branch, GPO Box 9848, Canberra, ACT 2601. Phone: (06) 289 8606 Fax: (06) 289 7791 Email: helen.longbottom@hhlgcs.ausgovhcs.telememo.au

## CDI Electronic Distribution

*Communicable Diseases Intelligence* is available in electronic format in the following ways:

### CDI-BBS

The *CDI* bulletin board system (BBS) is designed for access via a telephone line. A computer and a modem are required.

The sections of *CDI* available on BBS include:

- text from *CDI* articles and communicable diseases surveillance;
- tables from the Virology and Serology Reporting Scheme;
- tables from the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System;
- tables from the Australian Sentinel Practice Research Network;
- text of the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System Annual Report;
- text of the Virology and Serology Reporting Scheme Annual Report.

The *CDI*-BBS is accessible on 06-281 6695.

The text and tables are named such that each issue of *CDI* can be retrieved by date. These can be viewed on screen or downloaded to a personal computer as a text file.

### Internet Site

Parts of *CDI* as detailed above are available on the Department's FTP site which can be accessed via an Internet/AARNET connection using <ftp://ftp.health.gov.au> in directory `/pub/cdi/`.

In addition to the text and table formats, the full version of *CDI* is available at this site in portable document format (.PDF). This version of *CDI* can be read using Adobe Acrobat Reader which is available free of charge. The Reader will allow you to view, search and print.

Access to *CDI* via the Department's world wide web (WWW) site (<http://www.health.gov.au>) will be available soon.

## The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register

The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register administered by the Health Insurance Commission (HIC) commenced operation on 1 January 1996.

The establishment of the Register was required to help redress the continuing epidemics of vaccine preventable diseases which have occurred in Australia since 1993. The Register is a component of the National Childhood Immunisation Program.

It is anticipated that the Register will provide information about immunisation coverage which is not

currently available. The Register will provide a management tool for health authorities to monitor immunisation coverage and improve service delivery. The data collected will also form the basis of an optional recall reminder scheme which will have the ability to inform parents when their child's immunisations are due or overdue.

Immunisation providers will receive a payment for notifying details of immunisation encounters in children from birth to six years of age to the Register.

Providers in most States and Territories will send this information directly to the HIC. However, in Queensland, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, providers are requested to continue forwarding details of immunisation encounters directly to Queensland Health (through the VIVAS system), Territory Health Services and ACT Health respectively. These health authorities will arrange for the information to be sent to the HIC for inclusion in the Register.

Providers in other States can send information to the HIC electronically using electronic data interchange or by completing a voucher similar to the Medicare direct bill form.

A data collection fee will be payable to recognised service providers regardless of the administrative arrangements employed in the States and Territories for forwarding information to the HIC.

The document *Childhood Immunisation - Schedules, Guidelines and the Register* developed by the National Childhood Immunisation Committee and endorsed by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Australian College of Paediatrics and the Australian Medical Association was recently mailed to general practitioners and paediatricians. This document provides advice on recommended immunisation practices and the notification of information about immunisation encounters to the Register.

Immunisation providers will be eligible for a payment for information about vaccinations only when the vaccines are administered in accordance with:

- the NHMRC recommendation on simultaneous administration of vaccines;
- the NHMRC Standard Childhood Vaccination Schedule or State or Territory Schedule; or
- a declaration being made that the clinical indications for variation from the above Schedules have been noted in the patient's record.

The objective of the National Childhood Immunisation Program is to increase immunisation coverage rates to an extent that disease transmission is interrupted. Experience in other countries has demonstrated that this is an achievable goal. However, the participation of immunisation providers in the Register is fundamental to achieving this objective.

### Further information

Further information about the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register can be obtained by contacting

the Health Insurance Commission on 1800 653 809 (free call) or your State or Territory Immunisation co-ordinator.

Additional copies of the document *Childhood Immunisation - Schedules, Guidelines and the Register* can be

obtained by contacting Ms Anne-Marie Fraser, AIDS/Communicable Diseases Branch on (06) 289 8416 (email: [anne-marie.fraser@hhlgcs.ausgovhcs.tele-memo.au](mailto:anne-marie.fraser@hhlgcs.ausgovhcs.tele-memo.au)).