

# ACC News

»» A newsletter for health care professionals

»» MARCH 2008 – ISSUE 109

## Parenting support pilot

ACC is one year into a two-year pilot that provides parenting support sessions for parents and carers of children with a mental injury due to sexual abuse.

The service enables parents/carers to discuss issues and attitudes related to their children, and provides coping strategies to help them better understand and manage their children's behaviour – and therefore also improve their children's recovery. It's not intended to be an extension of a child's counselling.

This pilot will not be available to parents or carers who have been implicated in the abuse causing the mental injury.

The pilot comprises an initial 'needs assessment' then five sessions over three months. An 'achievement summary' is completed during the final session. Other family members can also attend at the counsellor's discretion.

Consistent with current research findings, parents/carers are encouraged to develop strategies to support their children's coping in different situations and over time eg at home, at school and in wider family gatherings. Each session focuses on specific goals in areas such as coping skills, child management and education about abuse.

Once the research-based pilot concludes in December 2008, it will be rigorously evaluated to establish whether it should be added to ACC's current services. Reports from participants and counsellors have so far been very positive.

## Knowing About... information for GPs and patients

ACC has a range of free brochures designed to help GPs to provide their patients with easy-to-read information on common injuries.

The 'Knowing About' brochures are not intended to replace professional medical advice – they simply provide additional information about injuries and what can be done to help with your patient's recovery. You can talk them through with your patients, and they can take them home and refer to them when needed.

The brochures currently cover:

- » low back pain
- » ankle sprain
- » rotator cuff
- » carpal tunnel syndrome
- » tennis elbow
- » neck sprain
- » fractured metacarpal bone in the hand
- » mild traumatic brain injury
- » occupational hearing loss

The brochures can be ordered online at [www.acc.co.nz](http://www.acc.co.nz) (under For Providers > Resources > Claimant Resources) or by phone on 0800 802 444.



## In this issue:

- » Parenting support pilot
- » Knowing About... information for GPs and patients
- » Short notes
- » Secure email project
- » Tax changes to some ACC service payments
- » New online resources
- » When completing an ACC45...
- » Questionnaire for work-related diseases now online
- » Dental update
- » When completing an ACC18...
- » Upcoming conferences and events

## Short notes

### New Zealand Pain Society Annual Scientific Meeting 12 - 15th March

The recent Pain Society Annual Meeting was well supported by ACC's relationship managers, pain champions and clinical advisors, some of whom provided presentations to the meeting.

ACC was delighted to be able to sponsor the attendance of Steven Linton, Professor of Psychology at Orebro University in Sweden. Professor Linton was among a number of invited overseas speakers who have recognised backgrounds in research on Persistent Pain Management issues, and appropriate rehabilitation, whether these conditions arise from illness or injury.

The timing of the meeting coincided with the release of the amended contracts for ACC Pain Management Services and a number of new ACC resource publications to support people working in this field. These resources include the Persistent Pain Assessment Instruments: A Compendium, the Pain Services Quick Reference Guide and Operational Guidelines. The relevant providers will be mailed copies of these publications in the near future.

The approach advocated by both international and national speakers at the meeting supports early intervention and a focus on the prevention of functional disability. This is consistent with the new Pain Management Services that ACC has launched.

### Modified Tai Chi and the Otago Exercise Programme

ACC has completed a nationwide tender process for the Otago Exercise Programme and modified tai chi provider contracts. To find the successful provider for your region, visit [www.acc.co.nz](http://www.acc.co.nz) > Injury Prevention > Home safety.

## Secure email project

A new project led by ACC and being developed with the Health Information Strategy Action Committee aims to enable organisations and providers in the health and disability sector to exchange individual health information via a secure email system.

A notice about the tender for the system will be published on the Government Electronic Tenders Services (GETS) website in May. If you have any queries or feedback in the meantime, please contact Genny Wilson at [genny.wilson@acc.co.nz](mailto:genny.wilson@acc.co.nz).

## Tax changes to some ACC service payments

From 1 July 2008, a tax change will affect ACC payments to private caregivers who provide services to ACC clients. The change doesn't affect companies that provide these services.

The change requires us to deduct (and pass on to Inland Revenue) 15% withholding tax from payments made to private caregivers who provide:

- attendant care
- home help
- child care
- attendant care services related to training for independence or transport for independence.

Where an ACC client receives such payments to pass on to their caregiver(s), ACC will be required to deduct 15% withholding tax before payment is made.

Inland Revenue has introduced the change to help ACC clients and caregivers pay their tax. In the past, some people didn't fully understand how to pay tax on these payments.

We've written to longer-term recipients of these services and caregivers to explain how the change may affect them. This is being supported with personal visits, and we'll be contacting short-term recipients in May.

For more information on the change, please visit [www.acc.co.nz/taxchange](http://www.acc.co.nz/taxchange). If you have any questions, simply phone 0800 222 070.

## New online resources

### Rehabilitation research

With 10,000 medical journals published every month, it's a challenge to keep up with the latest developments. Help is now at hand, with the launch of the first edition of Rehabilitation Research Review – a two-monthly 'must read' on the latest studies, delivered straight to your email inbox. What's more, ACC's financial support means it's free!

Just subscribe at [www.researchreview.co.nz](http://www.researchreview.co.nz) and you'll have access to the studies as well as commentary and advice from New Zealand rehabilitation expert Professor Kath McPherson from AUT. Do it now, and the first edition will be at your fingertips in seconds.

### Evidence-based healthcare reports

For the latest in evidence based reviews and purchasing recommendations on a wide range of treatments, visit [www.acc.co.nz](http://www.acc.co.nz) > About ACC > Research at ACC > Evidence Based Healthcare (EBH) Group reports.

Recent reports added include:

- an evidence-based review and purchasing guidance on hip arthroscopy
- a brief report on eye movement desensitisation and reprocessing (EMDR).

## When completing an ACC45...

When you're completing an ACC45 injury claim form, please remember to include information on your patient's ethnic background. While it's not mandatory, it helps us to ensure our services are culturally appropriate and work well for the patient. It also provides us with valuable data for us to make sure our injury prevention strategies are effective and relevant.

## Questionnaire for work-related diseases now online

If you've read the special leaflet we enclosed with the February issue of ACC News, you'll know that Schedule 2 of the Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Compensation Act 2001 now includes 24 new work-related diseases. A link to the full list of diseases can be found on our homepage at [www.acc.co.nz](http://www.acc.co.nz).

If you're a GP or medical specialist, you may also know that when a patient lodges a claim for a work related gradual process disease injury or infection we usually send you a questionnaire asking for more details of the patient's condition, which you complete and return to us.

To make the process easier and speed up the claim consideration process, the questionnaire is now available at [www.acc.co.nz](http://www.acc.co.nz) (under For Providers > Resources). You simply need to complete the ACC45 as usual and, during the consultation, download and complete the questionnaire (ACC271). It should then be posted to the Christchurch Contact Centre, PO Box 13-447, Christchurch 8141, Attention Sue Hanton.

We encourage everyone who lodges these claims to use the online questionnaire – it's a great way to help ensure your patients get the treatment and support they need as quickly as possible.

## Dental update

Dental professionals sending X-rays and photographs to ACC are requested to ensure they are of good, clear quality (readable) and show the injured site/tooth in its entirety. Please also include on the X-ray or photo the date it was taken.

Small details like this help us to make accurate and timely decisions – and of course save time in requesting new X-rays and photos.

## When completing an ACC18...

The ACC18 Medical Certificate is an important document that updates your patient, their employer and ACC on progress in the patient's recovery from their injury. It can also be used to recommend a second opinion or an assessment, or request home help or personal care.

Only medical practitioners (eg GPs or emergency department doctors) can complete an ACC18. If that's you, please make sure that:

- you certify that you've examined the patient face to face (we can't accept conclusions reached via phone or through third parties)
- your certification reflects your clinical assessment after an examination
- your diagnoses, comments and recommendations reflect care that is necessary, appropriate and of the required quality.

Please also ask your patient to send us the ACC18 promptly – the sooner we receive it, the sooner we can respond.

(Note that ACC is working on a system enhancement to enable medical certificates to be received in electronic form. We expect to have a working system later in 2008.)

## Upcoming conferences and events

- **Goodfellow symposium 2008**  
11-13 April, Hyatt Regency, Auckland. [www.goodfellowclub.org/2008/symposium](http://www.goodfellowclub.org/2008/symposium).
- **IPAC (Independent Practitioners Association Council of New Zealand) Conference**  
17-19 April, Wellington Convention Centre. [www.ipac.org.nz/conferences/ipac\\_conference\\_2008](http://www.ipac.org.nz/conferences/ipac_conference_2008).
- **New Zealand Society of Physiotherapists Conference**  
18-20 April, University of Otago, Dunedin. [www.physiotherapy.org.nz](http://www.physiotherapy.org.nz).
- **Starship Kids Trauma Conference**  
9 May, Clinical Education Centre, Auckland City Hospital. Email: [jillf@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:jillf@adhb.govt.nz)
- **College of Practice Nurses Conference**  
16-18 May, Sebel Trinity Wharf, Tauranga. [www.practicenurseconference.co.nz](http://www.practicenurseconference.co.nz).
- **Acupuncture AGM and Conference**  
20th-22nd June 2008. Theme: 'Working Together'.
- **Emergency Nurses Conference**  
28th-30th August. Theme: 'Diverse Challenges, Driving Change'.

## Presentations on the new Traumatic Brain Injury model

ACC will be presenting the new early intensive rehabilitation service to providers and health professionals nationwide during March and April. The dates for the two-hour presentations in April are:

LOCATION	DATE	TIMES	VENUE
Christchurch	Thursday 3rd April	9am for 9.30am – 11.30am.	Equestrian Hotel, 6 Tower Street, Hornby, Christchurch
Dunedin	Friday 4th April	9am for 9.30am – 11.30am.	Pacific Park, 22–24 Wallace Street, Dunedin
Nelson	Monday 7th April	1.30pm for 2pm – 4pm.	Trailways Hotel, 66 Trafalgar Street, Nelson
New Plymouth	Wednesday 16th April	1.30pm for 2pm – 4pm.	Devon Hotel, 390 Devon Street East, New Plymouth
Auckland	Thursday 17th April	1.30pm for 2pm – 4pm.	Mountain Richmond Lodge, 676 Mount Wellington Highway, Mount Wellington
Waikato	Friday 18th April	1.30pm for 2pm – 4pm.	Novotel Tainui, 7 Alma Street, Hamilton
Whangarei	Monday 21st April	1.30pm for 2pm – 4pm.	Cheviot Park Motor Lodge, Cnr Western Hills Drive and Cheviot Street, Whangarei

If you would like to attend please advise Rachel Pattison at [rachel.pattison@acc.co.nz](mailto:rachel.pattison@acc.co.nz) for catering purposes.