

Vital Signs

*Please read NZMA advisory on change to
NZMJ/NZMA website*



Our Voice

NZMA ADVISORY on NZMJ/NZMA website

NZMA is taking the opportunity to refresh the NZMJ website as our web provider has changed.

We are in transition to the new website and you will see changes starting to happen from today (Friday).

What this means for you.

- Members will need to click on **Reset Password** on either the NZMA Login field or the NZMJ login field.
- You will then be able to reset your own password to one of your choosing and gain access.
- If you have any queries please email [communications](#).

Please note

The transition to the new NZMJ website can take up to 72 hours to promulgate, so we ask you to bear with us during this transition.



PAY PARITY FOR NURSES WORKING IN GENERAL PRACTICE

The NZMA and NZNO continue to jointly advocate for the funding boost to close the pay gap between nurses working in general practice and those employed by District Health Boards.

A sustainable nursing workforce is critical to general practice. The skill and contribution of nurses is vital to the general practice team and the delivery of health services patients.

The Government's funding of general practice is however insufficient to allow primary care nurses to be paid the same as their hospital based colleagues. We are telling the government that we value our nurses but to do this in real terms the Government needs to invest in the general practice team to close the pay gap. If the Government does not address this, issues with recruitment and retention will escalate, increasing pressure on general practice services.

MECA negotiations are ongoing with NZMA representing employers who are party to the collective agreement with the NZNO.



RARE DISEASE DAY 2020 - 29 FEBRUARY

There are 300,000 Kiwis with a rare condition - around 6% of the population.

Rare Disease Day NZ is on Saturday 29 February 2020 and aims to raise awareness and funding to support those with a rare illness in NZ and their whānau and improve healthcare in those with these rare conditions.

[Hear the stories](#) of the children and adults with rare diseases. More than half of the 300,000 affected are children and many will not make it into adulthood. Rare disorders impact everyone in a family, from parents giving up work to become caregivers to siblings who struggle to understand what's happening.

It can be lonely, and scary, living with a rare disorder - yet rare disorders receive less research money than more common illnesses, treatments are expensive and not always available, and where treatments are available they are seldom funded by the government.

Rare Disorders NZ exists to connect people to support groups and each other, provide information on available disorders, and guidance for medical professionals.

Rare Disorders NZ has a plan for positive change and a **Fair for Rare** campaign with strategic priorities for a National Framework that will be presented to the Government at a special Rare Disease Day event.

[Rare Disorders NZ need](#) your help to continue its important work as funding is being steadily reduced, even though demand for services has only increased. [Hear Jame's story](#) - "Without Rare Disorders New Zealand we would have had nowhere to turn for support. Now it's time to help them." - Nicola."



NATIONAL HEALTH ADVISORY: NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

Update from Ministry of Health as at Thursday 30 January

On 28 January 2020, the *National Health Coordination Centre* (NHCC) was activated to respond to the novel coronavirus outbreak. While there have been no confirmed cases in New Zealand, there have been a small number of suspected cases notified. The Ministry of Health is updating its website with general advice for the public every day at 1200hrs.

Notification of novel coronavirus

On 30 January novel coronavirus capable of causing severe respiratory illness became a notifiable infectious disease under the Health Act 1956.

For clarity, any suspected cases that are identified in primary care or any healthcare

setting should be immediately notified by telephone to the local Medical Officer of Health. They will then inform the *NHCC*.

The normal procedure for notifying notifiable diseases into EpiSurv should be followed using the generic case report form, until further advised. This should be done within two hours of notifying the Medical Officer of Health, as the *NHCC* will be using EpiSurv as the "single source of truth" for reporting.

Use of personal protective equipment

The Ministry of Health has been receiving queries regarding the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in community settings, and for frontline workers who interact with the public.

[Here is](#) a summary of advice from the Ministry of Health, and [here is](#) advice on the use of masks from the World Health Organization.

Updated Information

Information for health professionals when updated will be available on the [Ministry of Health](#) website, including specific information for primary care providers.

Please note the Ministry has a new generic e-mail address for matters relating to the Novel Coronavirus event. EMAIL: ncovresponse@health.govt.nz

NOTE

WHO declares the new coronavirus outbreak a [Public Health Emergency of International Concern](#).



RESEARCH FOR LIFE - RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS NOW OPEN FOR WELLINGTON BASED RESEARCHERS

Wellington-based medical researchers are invited to to apply for research and travel grants.

The closing date for Research for Life's next round of grant applications is Friday, 27 March 2020.

For further information or to arrange an interview with Associate Professor Rebecca Grainger, please contact Rob McGregor on 0292 372 676 or [email](#).

For more information go to www.researchforlife.org.nz.

Quote of the week

*It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.
Mahatma Gandhi*

CLASSIFIED ADS and situations vacant

*NZMA offers members free classifieds and vacancy
advertisements.
Check out the NZMJ website's Vacancies page and you may just
find your dream opportunity.*

**Latest vacancies and classifieds include the following - just click on the
vacancy/classified ad to be taken to the full ad:**

Vacancies

- [Specialist Otolaryngologist | Nelson \(Closes 22 February\)](#)
- [Palliative Care Physician | Auckland \(Closes 29 February 2020\)](#)
- [Respiratory Physician | Southland \(Closes 23 February\)](#)
- [Locum GP wanted | New Lynn, Auckland \(Closes 17 February\)](#)
- [Doctor for Pitcairn Island | South Pacific \(Closes 31 January\)](#)
- [Specialist Physician for Older People | Northland DHB \(Closes 16 February\)](#)
- [Senior Medical Officer – Addiction Services | Masterton \(Closes 9 February\)](#)
- [General Practitioner - Part-time, Long term | Lower Hutt \(Closes 1 February\)](#)
- [Part-time GP wanted in Mapua, Nelson \(Closes 1 February 2020\)](#)
- [GP Required | Te Puke \(Closes 6 March 2020\)](#)
- [Public Health Physician Dunedin | Otago](#)
- [Associate Editors for the NZMJ](#)

Classifieds

- [Auckland General Practice for sale: Central suburbs](#)
- [Solo Rural GP Practice for Sale - Whangarei](#)
- [Practice for sale - Urban Auckland](#)
- [GP partnership for sale – Nelson City](#)
- [Practice for Sale in Auckland Medical Centre](#)

Members advertise for free - classifieds and/or vacancies via Hotline.



UPCOMING EVENTS

View our upcoming health sector events - go to the [NZMA events page on our website](#) for the full list.



WONCA 2020

23rd Apr 2020 - 26th Apr 2020

WONCA is taking place from 23 – 26 April 2020 at the Aotea Centre in Auckland. It will be hosted by the College, in conjunction with the Rural General Practice Network and Te Ohu Rata o Aotearoa - Māori Medical Practitioners Association.

This major primary health care conference is expected to attract more than 1000 delegates, from New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region.

WONCA takes the place of the College's annual Conference for General Practice, and will also include the National Rural Health conference and the Te ORA Hui-ā-



AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND GENERAL MEDICINE UPDATE

**AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
GENERAL MEDICINE UPDATE 2020**

20-22 March 2020

How do you keep your knowledge and skills up to date?

The world of medicine is evolving more rapidly than ever before.

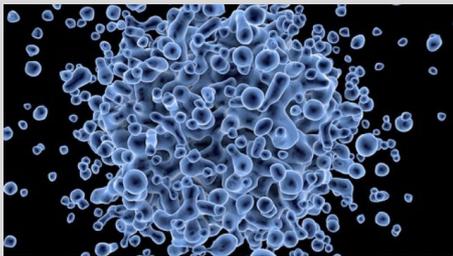
[Click here to learn more and register](#)

Tau and Scientific conference. For information, visit the conference [website](#).



MEMBER

BENEFITS



**NZMA MEMBERS
NO COST ADVERTISING**

NZMA offers members the opportunity to place vacancies for personnel in the NZMJ and Vital Signs free of charge.

Reach the medical professionals you want as many do week on week.



RECEIVE CORPORATE RATES ON CAR RENTAL

Next time you need to rent a car, choose **AVIS** - NZMA members receive corporate rates when booking with the NZMA dedicated discount code. **AVIS** offers a range of vehicles to suit every need and price point, from eco-friendly hybrids to premium four-wheel drives.

[Get rewarded for every rental!](#)

Member Advisory Service

Are you employing new staff?

The Employment Relations Act sets out a process that an employer must follow when employing new staff. This process differs depending on whether the employer uses a collective employment agreement in their business or not, and whether the employee is a union member. The NZMA has a member resource on these processes. Also, all employees must have a written employment agreement. If you employ staff that are not covered under the Primary Health Care Multi Employer Collective Agreement (PHC MECA) we have a generic individual employment agreement with explanatory notes and a casual individual employment agreement. These advisory service flyers are available for NZMA members to download from our website. You must be logged in to view and/or download the following advisory service resources.

- [New Employee Checklist](#)
- [Sample employment agreements](#)

Or you can email [Robyn Fell](#) for copies.

- *Employment Agreements for New Employees*
- *Individual Employment Agreement and Explanatory notes*
- *Casual Employment Agreement*

Vital Signs is your weekly bulletin about the NZMA and 'what's hot'.

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