



APSU Update

Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit

A Unit of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Division of Paediatrics and Child Health

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Surveillance Studies

Influenza Surveillance June to September 2010

The Department of Health and Ageing has once again engaged the APSU to conduct seasonal surveillance for severe complications of influenza in children <15 years. An updated protocol and questionnaire is posted on the APSU website www.apsu.org.au. Although there have been few reports of severe complications of influenza this season, please be aware that surveillance will continue to the end of September. *Please report all cases as they are seen and fax completed questionnaires to the APSU on 02 9845 3082.*

Subdural haematoma and effusion in children <2 years

Surveillance for subdural haematoma and effusion (SDH/E) in children aged <2 years commenced in July. The study is led by Dr Yvonne Zurynski and Dr Susan Marks. SDH/E is a rare but significant cause of morbidity and mortality in infancy. It has been described in neonates after traumatic delivery and as a result of trauma *in utero*. Other causes include accidental trauma, congenital malformations, inborn errors of metabolism, or coagulopathy. Sadly the most commonly reported cause of SDH/E in children aged < 2 years is inflicted non-accidental injury. Please report all cases of SDH/E regardless of the underlying cause. Big thanks go to clinicians who have already reported cases and we look forward to another successful surveillance study.

Long standing surveillance studies update

HIV Infection and Perinatal Exposure to HIV has been on the APSU report card since 1993. It is important that we document each notified case fully. To facilitate this, when you notify a case you will be sent a questionnaire immediately and you may return it by mail or by fax. Questionnaires are available on the APSU website www.apsu.org.au and on the National Centre for HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research <http://www.nchechr.unsw.edu.au/NCHECRweb.nsf/page/National+Surveillance+Procedure+s+and+Forms>. If you have questions about HIV surveillance please contact Ms Ann McDonald on 02 9385 0959 or call the APSU.

Congenital rubella has been a longstanding study and there have been few reports. During 2007-2008 there was one confirmed case of congenital rubella. This was a child born to an immigrant woman from India. Continued surveillance is essential as the risk of congenital rubella remains, particularly among immigrant women from countries with poorly developed vaccination programs. Please remember to report any newly diagnosed cases to the APSU.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Credits

If you participate in APSU surveillance, you are eligible for RACP CPD credits. See www.apsu.org.au for more information. Submit your credits through the MyCPD framework on-line <http://www.racp.edu.au/members/ce/mopsform.cfm> or complete a machine readable card. To obtain a card, email mops@racp.edu.au or phone 02 8247 6239.

Reporting Matters

Keep a record of your cases

Please remember to fill out the yellow record sheet at the front of your 'blue folder' when notifying cases. This will be a useful prompt about which child you reported when you are filling out the questionnaire on the case. Misplaced your blue APSU folder? Let us know and we will send you a new one.

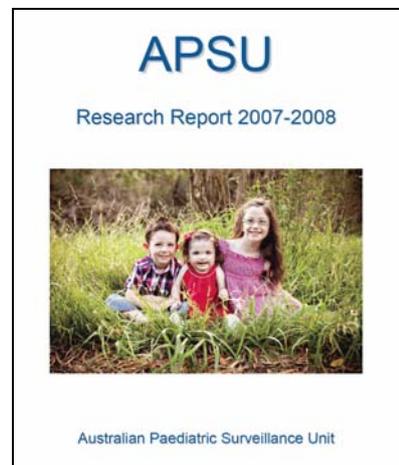
Email or Snail Mail?

Did you know that 81% of our contributors are reporting by email? We like this as it saves our resources and makes it easier for you to report and keep in contact. Want to change from **reply paid mail to e-mail**? Yes? Then please contact us on 02 9845 3005 or email us at apsu@chw.edu.au.

Publications

APSU bi-annual report

The APSU Bi-annual Research Report (2007-2008) is now published and is available on the APSU website www.apsu.org.au. We have a limited number of hard copies which can be requested by e-mailing apsu@chw.edu.au or please call 02 9845 3005.



Recent Publications

- Powers JR, Loxton DJ, Burns LA, Shakeshaft A, Elliott EJ, Dunlop AJ. Assessing pregnant women's compliance with different alcohol guidelines: an 11-year prospective study. *Medical Journal of Australia* 2010; 192(12): 690-693.
- Bower C, Lester-Smith D, Elliott E. Congenital anomalies – why bother? *Medical Journal of Australia* 2010; 192(6): 300-301.
- Zurynski Y, Davey E, Elliott E. Electronic reporting for paediatric surveillance in Australia since 1997. *ADC* published online 25 May 2010. Letter in response to:

Lynn RM, Riding K, McIntosh N. The use of electronic reporting to aid surveillance of ADRs in children: a proof of concept study. *Archives of Diseases in Childhood* 2010;95(4):262-265.