



the programme, OLM PRO who also spoke with Dr Migone advised the same and due to Covid there has not been any further progress with meetings.

Primary Care Practitioner Programme

OLM PRO spoke with Catherine Corrigan DCU, their Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Programme is nearly finalised, she shared with OLM the syllabus which is quite specific to General Practice. Catherine Corrigan is anxious to gauge the interest of GPNs in completing the course and so asked IPNA if they would circulate a questionnaire, however OLM felt that this might conflict with our own GPN survey at this time. Catherine Corrigan advised OLM that initially DCU were hoping to launch the programme this Sept but in view of Covid this is now pushed back to 2021. GR Chairperson requested clarification on the course content and OLM advised that nurse prescribing, and ionising radiation prescriptive authority is built into the course modules. Also included is minor illness assessment, advance physical assessment, chronic and complex conditions. The total cost for the 2-year course is €12,000.

GR Chairperson advised reps with regards to an article in the Irish Times by Assoc Prof Mary Casey UCD promoting a post graduate advanced level programme for GPNs also. KC Sth Dublin branch advised that ICGP were due to meet with UCD to discuss GPN post graduate training, but the meeting had not yet taken place so KC/ICGP had not been contacted by Prof Mary Casey with regards to this course. OLM IPNA PRO advised that she was scheduled to speak with Prof Casey this week and will represent GPNs perspective and OLM will feedback to the IPNA following their meeting.

HPV Update

GR Chairperson advised that the last HPV meeting in April was postponed and their next meeting is 7th May.

GR also advised that she was contacted by Bernadette Queally Cervical Check Trainer who advised that there will be upcoming webinars provided, GR advised Bernadette that it was extremely important to ensure 2 way communication at these webinars for GPNs to raise queries. Bookings will be available through Event Brite. CD* admin advised that she had received provisional dates 12th, 13th & 14th May for the webinars but would confirm same and let members know on Friday. MJ Waterford branch asked how the hard copy documents that were provided at the HPV meetings will be made available to GPNs. All Are available online and GR Chairperson also advised she will request these resources are posted to the GP practices for sample takers. GR also advised reps that one of the upcoming topics on mlearning is to be HPV update so we will also include these resources for GPNs with this topic. KC Sth Dublin branch advised that the Cervical Check CAG (Clinical Advisory Group) also virtually met recently. It was outlined that due to the current Covid crisis, colposcopists have been redeployed, Labs are under pressure so a definitive date for re-establishing the normal CC service has not been agreed. GR Chairperson will update CD* admin with regards to timelines following her meeting mane.

KC Sth Dublin advised the meeting that she and Dr Mary Shortt has submitted an article to NIGP re the HPV update, including the algorithm.





ASSOCIATION FINANCES

2020 summary of accounts were circulated to all reps in advance of the meeting.

CD National Treasurer advised that upcoming expenditure for 2020 needs to be considered, mlearning/website upgrade/ in the absence of the national IPNA conference going ahead due to the current Covid crisis. She is satisfied that the association could absorb this loss and asked if the reps had any queries with regards to the budget. CD* admin advised reps that sponsorship has been secured for 2 of the IPNA awards this year and will discuss this further on the agenda Conf 2020.

MEMEBRSHIP UPDATE Provided by CD* on Behalf of WQ

	NEC meeting May 2020	NEC Meeting Feb 2020
2020 Memberships to Date	692	518
New memberships to date for 2020 (begin Sept 2019)	88	67
New Memberships to date since Jan 1 st , 2020	43	22
Members renewed after lapse	30	14
2019 members who haven't renewed to date	128	

Branch	2020	2019	Branch	2020	2019
Carlow	18	20	Mayo	29	33
Cavan/Monaghan	26	26	Midlands	49	58
Clare	27	33	North Dublin	54	62
Cork	114	127	Roscommon	17	19
Donegal	49	52	South Dublin	48	61
Kildare	17	22	South Tipperary	26	27
Kilkenny	19	20	Waterford	24	29
Limerick/North Tipperary	62	65	Wexford	17	20
Louth/Meath	61	73	Wicklow	35	41

In March/April branches were issued a list of their 2019 members that had not renewed & WQ Membership Secretary is currently working with individual branches to encourage renewal/ascertain if not intending to renew.





M LEARNING APP OVERVIEW AND FEEDBACK

JC Vice Chairperson provided an overview to reps in relation to the m learning which was introduced in April.

Nearly 14,000 text messages have been sent with regular emails and updates from CD* admin and WQ membership secretary.

Overview of Week 1; 436 IPNA members did respond to the m-learning texts; 205 did not respond; 0 opted out, JC Vice Chairperson also provided an overview of responses by branch with South Tipperary topping the poll with 92% branch response rate.

Unfortunately, despite membership numbers increasing it was noted that responses over the following 2-3 weeks was reducing. The current weeks topic is Immunisation and numbers responding to this topic is increasing again. JC Vice Chairperson shared slides with regards to number of responses from each branch with all NEC reps. 10 members in total have opted out of participating in the m learning. A survey will be circulated at a later stage to ascertain why people would choose to opt out and it will be important to get all members feedback on the initiative. JC Vice Chairperson clarified that for the first 3 weeks all answers to the quiz were via text, week 4 this was changed to survey monkey format which will also give the respondents feedback with regards to their answers. MJ Waterford branch expressed difficulties with accessing the recent videos and links and JC Vice Chairperson will follow this up with MJ. CD National Treasurer gave some feedback from the Donegal branch, who are finding the m learning a great resource. GR Chairperson advised reps that this initiative was introduced by the IPNA to keep connected with branches in the absence of branch meetings until the end of May and then circulate a survey to members to get their feedback. She asked that all NEC reps share this information with their colleagues via their what's app groups and get their opinions. The next topic will be HPV update. GR Chairperson acknowledged the great work being done by JC Vice Chairperson and thanked her for all her work on the project. JC asked permission from the NEC reps for the virtual meeting to be photographed for IPNA twitter account.

GPN SURVEY

GR Chairperson advised the IPNA is planning on launching the survey on 25th May. Target audience are our IPNA members in the first instance and we are asking for ICGP/PDC/INMO/Social Media support to extend it to GPNs outside of the association. GR Chairperson asked all NEC reps to please share the survey with their colleagues. GR asked MG Carlow branch if it was feasible to share it with her GPN colleagues that work for Centric. MG Carlow branch advised that she would ask Marian Mulcahy who is a nurse co Ordinator with Centric if this was possible. GR Chairperson asked KC Sth Dublin branch if she would also share the survey via the "I am a Practice Nurse" FB page also. PMQ PDC & Kilkenny branch also agreed that she and the other PDCs would share the survey to the GPNs in their area. CD* admin advised that a link to the survey will be available on the website to all non-members. PMQ asked how it might be determined if respondents are "practicing nurses". CD* admin hoped that this should become evident when the respondent is completing the first section, the demographics of the GPN. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to guarantee against some false responses. MJ Waterford branch advised reps that at the last Waterford branch meeting she highlighted the survey to all members and feels Q 10 in particular will generate a large response in relation to terms and conditions of employment. This generated a discussion amongst reps highlighting the difficulties for GPNs recently having had reduced hours enforced/redundancies. OLM PRO advised reps that she has written an article for NIGP re GPNs working during Covid and has referred to challenges being experienced by GPNs at present. GR Chairperson asked if NIGP editor





Niamh Cahill may consider submitting the article for publication in Med Indo, OLM PRO suggested this may be considered at a later date.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PMQ Education Committee Chairperson advised that a meeting has not taken place due to personnel being redeployed to establish community assessment hubs. GR Chairperson asked if she could make contact again with the group to work on SOPs and this was agreed by PMQ

BRANCH ITEMS

GG Clare branch asked if branch meetings are ongoing. GR Chairperson advised that a few branches are communicating via What's app groups. BL Cork branch identified that they are having an educational meeting via Zoom next week, with a speaker organised which was arranged by pharmaceutical rep.

MJ Waterford branch advised that Chronic Disease Management is a hot topic for their local what's app group but does not seem to be a priority for GP s at the moment. MJ also advised that some local reps have been in contact with her with details of upcoming webinars. CD* admin asked if NEC reps would also share this information with her, she would disseminate it to other branches. KC Sth Dublin asked for any tips to enhance communication via a branch what's app group as it can be difficult. It was acknowledged that engagement may be difficult at the moment for some people, JC Vice chairperson suggested web text may be more personable to use. MJ Waterford branch also suggested promoting discussions informally, having short and concise Q/A's to try and generate feedback between members.

PDC ITEMS

PMQ PDC rep advised that PDCs had been redeployed during these times particularly with getting the clinical assessment hubs established. It has been suggested that GPNs were ideally placed to work in the hubs, but this was not taken up by HSE. PDCs are now getting back to their own national business.

GR Chairperson asked if there was plans to recruit to the vacant PDC position in North Dublin (Rhonda Forsythe PDC has retired)

PMQ advised that a job description was devised and is due to be advertised this summer. KC Sth Dublin asked if recruitment to this position was considered would the other vacant PDC posts be reviewed? However, PMQ advised that as those posts were vacant for a longer period the positions have now been subsumed into the system and are no longer "vacant". PMQ advised that the deficits in CHO areas is constantly being highlighted by the PDC group. KC Sth Dublin asked for clarification in relation to the recently issued Measles update that had been notified by HSE, however the changes cannot be identified in the HSE Immunisations chapter. PMQ has contacted the HSE for clarification.

CONFERENCE 2020

GG Clare Branch advised the NEC reps that having had a meeting with the Clare Conference committee, cancelling the IPNA Conference 2020 was raised and discussed. The organising committee discussed this provisionally with the hotel and have reserved a date in early Oct 2021 subject to further discussion with NEC. They propose still hosting 2021 conference with their existing agenda/speakers. This generated a discussion amongst NEC reps, and it was agreed to





cancel the event. GR Chairperson suggested the IPNA host a spring workshop/webinar in early 2021 and asked all reps for their feedback. It was felt in general that the conference is just deferred to Oct next year and was also muted if this could be changed to Sept depending on vaccine season. A lengthy discussion ensued, and majority of reps agreed that all awards and IPNA conference be deferred to 2021 which was voted on and agreed by NEC reps. CD* admin will discuss same with Yakult and Asthma Society of Ireland as they have sponsored the clinical award and Contribution to Practice Nurse Award and ascertain their agreement to transfer sponsorship to 2021. GG Chairperson advised the reps that they have provisionally booked 8th/9th Oct 2021 for IPNA Conference. GR Chairperson asked MJ Waterford branch if her branch would consider hosting 2022 IPNA conference as they had initially been hosts for 2021 and she will discuss this with her branch colleagues. GR Chairperson advised that the AGM is still required to be facilitated, and dates for a virtual AGM to be agreed and circulated by NEC. JC Vice Chairperson asked that all reps consider nominations for NEC officers' positions in advance of the AGM.

During these discussions MOD Sth Tipperary branch also referenced the challenge that GPNs are experiencing with ensuring adequate PPE in their work environments. PMQ PDC advised that HSPC guidelines are referred to, however MOD Sth Tipperary branch identified that the issue is the supply and provision of adequate PPE to General Practice. PMQ strongly advised all reps that having adequate PPE for their employees is the responsibility of GPs and GPNs should discuss this with their GP. It was acknowledged by OLM PRO that this can be difficult for individual GPNs to identify and discuss with their GPs and would ask for PDC representation on the issue on behalf of GPNs. GR Chairperson suggested IPNA issue a statement to the HSE in relation to this risk. JC Vice Chairperson suggested a joint statement with the PDCs would be more influential. PMQ PDC advised that this has been highlighted previously and she will ask her PDC colleagues in relation to issuing another statement in relation to this. GR Chairperson asked for direction regarding who to issue the statement to. PMQ PDC advised that local Primary Care Units should be contacted in the first instance and then David Walsh National Director, COO (Acting) HSE.

MJ Waterford branch asked CD* admin if any GPNs had submitted an article to NIGP for the next edition in relation to Covid, CD* admin advised that the deadline for same is 7th May and she had not received any correspondence but that articles may have been submitted to NIGP Niamh Cahill directly.

WEBSITE

GR Chairperson advised reps that CD* admin and WQ membership secretary has discussed the upgrade of the website with David Mc Lean CPD sessions. GR Chairperson asked reps if the costs for same are not excessive can the NEC progress with this. KC Sth Dublin branch advised the reps she was concerned with the service that the IPNA had received from David Mc Lean previously and would ask for a guarantee of services to be provided. CD* admin advised that this was compounded by the fact that the IPNA did not have any formal contract with David Mc Lean for any IT support and so was dependent on David's availability and good will up to now. CD* admin will pursue requesting a formal service level agreement with appropriate costings for the redesign of the existing site with a maintenance contract and revert to the NEC with same for further discussions and approval.





AOB

GR Chairperson thanked OLM PRO and KC Sth Dublin branch for submitting articles in the next NIGP edition.

GR Chairperson also advised that IPNA have designed and will be circulating a car sticker for all GPNs identifying them as an essential HEALTH CARE WORKER during the Covid crisis and to minimise the distribution costs for same they will be included in the next NIGP edition.

GR Chairperson asked all reps to keep in mind the top priorities from this NEC meeting.

Upcoming HPV webinars, the IPNA GPN survey being launched 25th May, and m Learning.

CD will inform all IPNA members via mailshot this Friday with regards to the IPNA Conference being cancelled and will also include further details regarding HPV webinars. CD also asked all reps to remind their colleagues via their what's app groups that if they have not permitted to receive emails from the IPNA they are not in receipt of the regular updates being sent on m learning/educational info etc. If they wish to reconsider this to let CD* admin or WQ membership secretary know. KC Sth Dublin branch asked in relation to members entitlements if they have not renewed their membership. CD* admin advised that WQ membership secretary had emailed members with regards to same and understands that their access to the website is now expired and they are not receiving any emails from our database.

GR Chairperson thanked all reps for attending the first virtual NEC meeting and wished every well Meeting concluded 5pm

2020 meetings: TO BE CONFIRMED

Wednesday 2nd September 11am – 3pm Ashling Hotel

Oct dates: Friday and Sat AGM to be confirmed

Main points of NEC meeting drafted by Caroline Daughton, IPNA Administrator.

Approved by Gillian Redmond, National Chairperson.

Acronyms commonly used in IPNA documents

AGM	Annual General Meeting	PRO	Public Relations Officer
CEU	Continuing Education Units	Rep	Representative
CPD	Continuing Professional Development		
IPNA	Irish Practice Nurses Association		
NEC	National Executive Committee		
NiGP	“Nursing in General Practice”		
Journal			
NMBI	Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland (formerly An Bord Altranais)		
PDC	Professional Development Coordinator [for Practice Nursing]		
PN	Practice Nurse		





CHY 17932

www.irishpracticenurses.ie

Gurteen,
Ballyhaunis,
Co Mayo
10/04/20

Good Afternoon Julieanne ,

Thank you for your enquiry.

To put our reply in context, IPNA was established in 1993 to assist Irish General Practice Nurses (GPNs) in accessing further education, provide dissemination of clinical information and to promote the highest standards of care for our patients. We are a professional body so to speak and a registered charity, not a Union. I hope you will understand that we are constrained by our charitable status on making Industrial Relations representations. Nonetheless we do have great concern for our members about these developments. We are aware of strong anecdotal evidence through private social media platforms that your assertions are indeed correct.

- Some GPNs have been laid off
- Some laid off temporarily until normality is reinstated
- Some GPNs have had their hours reduced
- Some GPNs have had being told they must take annual leave during this Covid crisis.

IPNA are cognisant that in keeping with other small businesses many General Practices have experienced a significant reduction in income, particularly those with a higher dependence on non GMS patient cohorts. Many of those who would have attended with non Covid related health concerns appear to be afraid to attend or contact local surgeries. We are trying to get the message out there that we available to patients, just phone first, it's for everyone's protection.

It is correct to say also that many General Practice consultations are now taking place in a 'virtual sense' over the phone or video contact. However, there is evidence that GPNs are just as involved in this process as GPs. Many nurses triage or take histories as baseline assessment for GP, some of our more experienced nurses, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Nurse Prescribers and Advanced Nurse Practitioners working collaboratively with GPs can complete episodes of care for our patients. The great strength of clinicians working in general practice is familiarity with our patients and understanding of the context and complexities of the people we care for.





CHY 17932

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It is without question that GPNs are central to the efficient functioning of general practice services. Nurses provide many and varied services to communities in General Practice notably,

- GPNs are the primary providers of infant Immunisation & adult seasonal immunisation,
- They constitute the majority of sample takers for the Cervical Screening programme
- GPNs are central to the implementation of the chronic disease programme recently agreed between GPs and the Government.

(This agreement is the first step in a recovery for General Practice which already been diminished by FEMPI cuts and lack of investment since the financial crisis of 2007.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/gmscontracts/2019agreement/> unfortunately much of this work has been stalled albeit temporarily by the crisis.)

While GPNs empathise with GP employers' situations, we are concerned that nurse's confidence in, and commitment to General Practice will be impacted by how fragile their employment status is when compared with our colleagues working in secondary care services. We are deeply worried that Irish General Practice Nurses have no voice and some valuable, experienced nurses may not return to their vital roles in General Practice!

We really appreciate your highlighting this issue, if you are using quotes it is important to us that you maintain the integrity of our message and not take lines out of context. We are very supportive of General Practice and in no way wish to cause discord. If you wish to discuss this or any other issues in relation to General Practice Nursing, I am happy to chat by phone @ (087) 2398483 at any time.

Kind regards,

Orla Loftus Moran.

Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner (General Practice) PRO

IPNA.

