

WHAT'S NEW ON THE CIAP WEB SITE

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The Clinical Information Access Project (CIAP) Web site continues to provide a comprehensive range of peer-reviewed information 24 hours a day, seven days a week, via the Internet and Intranet. Utilisation of the Web site has steadily increased, with an average of 1.5 million 'hits' per month, and a total of over 15 million 'hits' since its inception in July 1997. Feedback from users continues to be positive and there is a high demand for education on how to effectively search the many databases linked through the Web site.

In 1998, the CIAP Web site was nominated by *PC Authority* as one of the top 10 medical Web sites in Australia, and received both the *Data Management Association Australia Achievement Award* for excellence in information management and the *Australian Library and Information Association, NSW Branch Merit Award* for services to rural and remote users and the community.

The purpose of the CIAP Web site is to:

- provide support for decision making within the public health system;
- promote evidence-based practice;

- improve communications at the point of care (that is, wherever a patient is located).

Content of the Web site has grown over the past three years in response to requests by clinicians, and the following on-line information has recently been added:

- Medweaver: for differential diagnosis and disease lookup;
- Micromedex: AltMedREAX—interactions related to herbal medicines and other dietary supplements;
- Antibiotic Guidelines (updated version 11);
- St Vincent's Hospital Nursing Monographs, 1990–2000;
- NSW Clinical Nurse Consultants Web site;
- NSW Therapeutic Assessment Group (TAG) Web site.

Other relevant Web sites can be added to this list by advising CIAP via the Feedback link available from the CIAP Web site.

The knowledge databases on the Web site are protected by password, and are accessible to any health professional employed in the NSW public health system. To obtain a password, or further information about CIAP, contact Michelle Wensley, Clinical Systems, NSW Department of Health; by telephone (02) 9391 9742; or by email mwens@doh.health.nsw.gov.au; or by visiting the CIAP Web site at www.clininfo.health.nsw.gov.au or internal.health.nsw.gov.au:2001. ☒

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, NSW: FEBRUARY 2001

TRENDS

As 2000 drew to a close, there were declines in the notifications of several important infections (Figure 4). Numbers of new cases of **gonorrhoea** are beginning to decline; as are cases of **meningococcal disease** after reaching a seasonal peak (33) in September. **Pertussis**

notifications also seemed to have peaked in September (504), but the epidemic may be shifting from rural areas to metropolitan Sydney. Laboratory notifications of **rubella** increased in late 2000, and peaked in October (55). Most cases notified were young men, with a large proportion residing in the Hunter Area (Table 6). ☒