

**Issue: GAA – Action Plan Stickers and Related Tools**

*Raised by:* Maternal, Child & Youth Health (MCYH)

*Background:* The Growth Assessment & Action (GAA) Program was introduced in 1996 in Central Australia (CA) & 1998 Top End (TE) & comprises timely monitoring of nutritional status, timely intervention for children who are growth faltering, plus reporting & feedback of nutritional status to communities.

Responsibility for support, development & implementation of the GAA Program lies with the MC&YH Program, whilst Remote Health Staff are responsible for GAA service delivery.

There is a need for a consistent approach to program implementation & standardised documentation. MC&YH & Nutrition trialed 3 different styles of Growth Action Plan documentation in the Darwin Rural District. The 2004 evaluation of this trial found that "Growth Action Plan Stickers" were the preferred documentation tool, and consequently these have been developed further and presented to Remote Health for endorsement and implementation.

*Discussion:* The tools presented to Remote Health have been reviewed and refined, and the following 3 tools form a package to assist health centre staff in GAA program work.

1. The Growth Action Plan Stickers are presented in a set of 3 – "Medical Checklist Sticker", "Growth Action Plan Sticker", & "Progress Growth Action Sticker". The stickers form a readily recognised alert in a child's medical record; used when a child is found to be growth faltering. They contain prompts for following a Growth Action Plan. Documentation is done directly on to the sticker.
2. The Medical Checklist is a laminated colour-coded reminder of medical problems that need to be excluded in a child who is growth faltering. This corresponds with the Medical Checklist Sticker.
3. The Achieving Target Weight Gains leaflet is an adjunct to what is already in the CARPA Manual.

*Consultation:* Dr Keith Edwards (Paed TE), Dr Andrew White (Paed CA), MC&YH Team (CA, Barkly, East Arnhem, TE), Nutrition, Remote Health Centre Staff.

*References:* CARPA Standard Treatment Manual & Reference Book, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2004

*Outcome:* The 3 tools are endorsed and the MC&YH team will coordinate their production and release for implementation over the coming months.

Growth Action Plan Stickers will serve as the documentation tool for recording Growth Action Plans throughout the NT. These will be made available as a stores stock item once produced.

The "Medical Checklist" & the "Achieving Target Weight Gains" guide serve as reference for the Growth Action Process. These tools will be distributed to health centres.

Training will be provided as part of the implementation of the Growth Action Plan Stickers, once they are available.