How prepared are we for next Pandemic? ...a GP perspective

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- Member, Scientific Advisory Committee, Influenza Specialist Group, Immunisation Coalition
- Member, Advisory Committee, AusVaxSafety, NCIRS
- Former member NIC, ACIR Management Committee, GPII Advisory Group, & various GP roles on other national immunisation groups
How prepared are we?

- Tools/references for Planning & Preparing
  - AHMPPPI, Apr 2014
  - VMPPI, Oct 2014
  - EMV, Aug 2015
  - RACGP Guides for General Practice
    - Pandemic Flu Kit Implementation Guide, June 2014
    - Pandemic Influenza Tool Kit for Gen Practice, June 2014
How prepared are we?

‘There's many a slip, 'twixt the cup and the lip’

- Gellius, 2nd Century AD
How prepared are we?

- Peizenberg’s measure of Preparedness:

$$P = \text{Rh} \uparrow \text{Re}$$

- $P$ (Preparedness)
- $\text{Rh}$ (Rhetoric)
- $\text{Re}$ (Reality)
How prepared are we?

- Ideal:

\[ P = \text{Rh} \parallel \text{Re} \]

- P (Preparedness)
- Rh (Rhetoric)
- Re (Reality)
How prepared are we?

- GP experience of 2009 Pandemic response:

\[ P = \text{Rh} \mid * * * * * \mid \text{Re} \]

- Communication – needed better 2-way channels
- Approval process – needed scalability
- Lab testing – needed to be more collaborative
- National stockpile – needed better accessibility & delivery
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- Despite having NGPIC, AGPN, State/T Imm Networks, & DivGPs
  - were highly engaged with GPs, GP Nurses & their practices
  - all those Networks now replaced with PHNs (=?level of engagement with GP)

- 2009 Review process was mired in denial/dismissal of issues experienced by the ‘front line’ GPs & HCWs
  - serious loss of confidence in the system’s future ability to support the needs of General Practice as the ‘front line’ for Pandemic Response
How prepared are we?

- **Feb 2018**

- **Issues for General Practices**
  - Raise awareness of ongoing potential for Pandemic Flu
  - Timely reminder for annual Feb review of GP clinic Workplans
  - GP confidence in the ‘System’
  - Level of support from, & engagement with, your local PHN

- **Issues for alignment with General Practice**
  - National/State/Local Authorities, PHN & Public Hospital
  - Need focused check of operational processes for leaks/gaps
  - Need to seriously re-engage at General Practice level