

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page with the **MIMS monthly update** for Jun.

MyNAPSA Online

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) has partnered with UnityHealth to launch a new "online engagement platform" for its members.

Dubbed MyNAPSA Online, the system aims to promote access to online education and resources for pharmacy students nationwide.

"This online platform is going to revolutionise the way we currently engage with members," said NAPSA president Sam Turner.

Phase one of MyNAPSA Online is scheduled for launch to the organisation's roughly 4,000 members at the NAPSA annual general meeting in Jul, with other features planned in the long term including forums and a jobs board.

UnityHealth also operates the iTherapeutics eLearning platform.

Govt to tender for 6CPA

THE Pharmacy Guild is only guaranteed to administer the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement for one year, with the government set to invite interested parties to tender for the work after the first twelve months.

The revelation in yesterday's *Australian* was described as a "crackdown" as part of "tough accountability measures not seen under previous arrangements".

Health Minister Sussan Ley said the changes were a response to the recent Australian National Audit Office report into the administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

She said the 6CPA was a "more transparent and accountable" funding package, which has access to affordable medicines and patient care at its core.

The initial twelve month term is detailed in the 6CPA, which includes a clause in which the Guild acknowledges that the Department "intends to ascertain through a

formal process whether there are any persons interested in, and capable of, providing administration support in respect of the Community Pharmacy Programmes after the end of the first Financial Year of the Term".

The agreement also states that any new or continuing arrangements for administration of the 6CPA will include "clear programme objectives, deliverables, reporting requirements and key performance indicators".

eRx hails script funds

ERX Script Exchange has welcomed the continuation of funding for the electronic transfer of prescriptions (ETP) in the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

\$12.6m is set aside for ETP funding in 2015-16, with \$48.3m allocated for ETP and eHealth in the subsequent years, subject to a cost effectiveness study to take place during 2016.

CLINICALLY SHOWN TO
REDUCE THE FREQUENCY, SEVERITY
AND DURATION OF COLDS



1 capsule daily

FOR ADULTS WHO GET SICK OFTEN

ETHICAL NUTRIENTS
PROFESSIONAL NATURAL MEDICINES
Always read the label. Use only as directed.

600 tonnes of drugs

AN AUDIT of the medicines collected through the National Return and Disposal of Unwanted Medicines (NatRUM) program has revealed that more than 600 tonnes of medicines are discarded in Australia every year.

The annual cost to taxpayers was \$2 million for the most frequently discarded PBS medicines, with the top three being salbutamol, insulin and frusemide.

The analysis was prepared by the Centre for Medicine Use and Safety at Monash University, with spokesman Phillip Bergen saying the results of the audit show how hoarding and non-adherence are contributing to waste.

More than 85% of discarded medicines were scheduled drugs, and about 44% were still within their expiry dates.

Bergen said health professionals should inform patients about the importance of completing prescribed courses of treatment and discourage them from hoarding after they reach the PBS safety net.

YOUR FIRST VISIT TO US WON'T BE YOUR LAST

rb
healthHUB

RB Australia. 44 Wharf Road, West Ryde, NSW 2114. REC9542/PD/HP. March 2015

Discover why 80% of pharmacies log on to Health Hub for all their CPD and QCPP training needs.

Health Hub offers invites to industry events, clinical updates and access to the Health Hub Experts CPD video module series.

There are great competitions to win, fun prizes and you can also browse product information to help keep you up-to-date with RB products.



Register today at
RBHEALTHHUB.COM.AU

DO YOUR CLAIMING IN THE CLOUD



FREE
for eRx Express
pharmacies

- Sort claims automatically
- Respond to audits instantly

eRx EXPRESS eRx.com.au/paperless

PSS tax deductible

THE Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS) says now is a good time to donate to the organisation as the end of the financial year approaches, with gifts over \$2 tax deductible.

Over the last two decades PSS volunteers have given more than 120,000 hours of their time, with the service requiring funding for phone expenses, training, insurance and administration.

A range of organisations support the PSS including PDL, AFS, the Guild, PSA, SHPA, NAPSA and Professional Pharmacists Australia.

The PSS website now has a "Donate Now" button - www.supportforpharmacists.org.au.

Australian Prescriber

THE latest edition of *Australian Prescriber* has been released, with the Jun issue now online at www.australianprescriber.com.

There's also a new free Doctor's Bag app designed to support health professionals during emergencies.

Tobacco success

DAILY smoking rates in Australia are at their lowest level ever, but smoking continues to be the single largest preventable cause of premature death and disease.

According to Assistant Minister for Health, Fiona Nash, smoking is still an issue among certain groups, such as the 42% of Indigenous Australian adults who smoke.

Across the population 12.8% of people 14 years or older smoke daily, down from 17.5% in 2004.

The government has committed to reduce the daily smoking rate to 10% by 2018, as well as halving it for Indigenous smokers.

Radioactive spheres

SHARES in Australian listed biotech firm Sirtex jumped over 14% yesterday after a presentation at the American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting on the use of its radioactive microsphere treatment for metastatic bowel cancer showed a 7.9 month increase in progression free survival.

Epic support for footy



EPIC Pharmacy founders Cathie Reid and Stuart Giles have donated \$1 million over five years to the Indigenous program operated by the Hawthorn Football Club.

Transforming the lives of young Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, the partnership with the Hawks follows a visit by Reid to Lockhard River last year where she was confronted by the disparities in health outcomes between

Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

The Epic Good Foundation will fund an extensive program to link the Indigenous players with Hawthorn, and the young players will be mentored by some of the team's stars and Indigenous Ambassadors Shaun Burgoyne and Cyril Rioli.

For more information go to www.epicgood.com.au.

THANK YOU

To all the pharmacy owners, their staff, patients and stakeholders for supporting the Pharmacy Guild as we negotiated the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA).

George Tambassis
National President
The Pharmacy Guild of Australia



Community Pharmacy Agreement

When the legislation passes patients will benefit from:

FIVE YEARS OF REAL INCREASES IN REMUNERATION FOR DISPENSING
CONTINUATION OF THE LOCATION RULES
PROGRAM FUNDING NEARLY DOUBLING

The 6CPA — strengthening the most successful Public Private Partnership in the health system.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

MORE INFORMATION >

- Cost Effective
- Targeted
- Easy

Guild Update

OTC codeine medicines

THE Guild recently provided a submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration's Advisory Committee on Medicine Scheduling (ACMS) in response to a proposal to move OTC codeine medicines to prescription only.

The Guild opposed the proposal and instead recommends a real-time monitoring system in combination with a variety of complementary measures that include: changes to packaging and labelling, improved education for health professionals, and consumer awareness campaigns.

"A real-time monitoring system in community pharmacy would be a more effective and economical way to assist in identifying consumers at risk of codeine abuse and dependency without compromising access for the majority of consumers who are using these products safely and effectively," said Guild National President George Tambassis.

"Moving these products to Prescription Only is unlikely to address the issues of dependency and abuse, and would result in significant extra costs to both consumers and the health system. A real-time monitoring system would help pharmacists identify consumers who are may be misusing or abusing codeine-based products be referred to appropriate treatment and support programs," he said.

CHF pharmacy survey

THE Consumers Health Forum (CHF) has developed a survey which is seeking views from the public on whether pharmacists should play a bigger role in providing primary care services.

The poll comes after the Federal Budget allocation of up to \$600 million to "trial and potentially expand the role of pharmacists".

It's also a response to the AMA proposal for non-dispensing pharmacists to work within general practices (PD Fri) which is backed by the Pharmaceutical Society.

Pharmacy Daily readers are also being invited to review the survey and give their opinions.

The anonymous survey asks respondents whether they believe that pharmacists should have an expanded role in providing services such as vaccinations, diabetes

screening and "lifestyle risk management".

It also canvasses whether those taking the survey have actually used any professional services at their local pharmacy, and if they would support having a pharmacist in their GP practice to provide medication management.

To access the survey **CLICK HERE**.

MEANWHILE the CHF has also said it is concerned about some elements of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement, and in particular the redirection of product supply and delivery funding from Diabetes Australia's National Diabetes Services Scheme to pharmacies and wholesalers.

The Forum also questioned the implication of the 6CPA that pharmacy professional programs should only be rolled out through retail pharmacies.

"If the Minister is serious about encouraging a greater role for pharmacies in primary care - which we support - we need to see support for a flexible, collaborative approach which would include, for instance, professional pharmacists working as part of the general practice team," the CHF said.

Pharmacy E-Bulletin

THIS week's Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy E-Bulletin looks at thalidomide-induced peripheral neuropathy (PN) in patients with multiple myeloma (MM).

While over 50% of patients with MM have some PN at diagnosis, thalidomide is known to also potentially induce the condition and may lead to significant impairment in function and quality of life, the bulletin states.

CLICK HERE to access the bulletin.

DISPENSARY CORNER

VEGETABLE-INDUCED rage?

Police in northeastern Germany were scrambled to intercept an angry mob after being alerted about "10 to 15 people armed with knives and sticks" walking along the side of a local road.

The officers in the rural town of Ludwigslust said a motorist had spotted the group and then called the emergency number describing the crowd who must have looked like they were about to start a violent riot.

Police said they immediately dispatched six police cars to the scene - presumably with lights and sirens blaring - over fears there was a pack of thugs terrorising the countryside.

However they were somewhat bemused to find that the crowd was in fact a group of asparagus harvesters strolling along with their tools as they were walking to a lunch break.

Fresh locally grown white asparagus is a popular delicacy in Germany, with some regions even hosting an annual festival honouring the vegetable.

Win a Dermal therapy pack

This week, *Pharmacy Daily* and *Nice Pak Products* are giving away a Dermal Therapy prize pack including Dermal Therapy Heel Balm, Platinum, Dermal Therapy Hand Balm, Dermal Therapy Lip Balm and Dermal Therapy Very Dry Skin Cream.

Dermal Therapy is a clinically proven medicated skin and foot care range designed for people who are prone to very dry skin, Eczema, Psoriasis and Dermatitis. According to Nice Pak, all Dermal Therapy products have been clinically tested with proven visible results and are formulated with Urea. Dermal Therapy products are a combination of innovation and creative thinking that provides effective solutions to common skin and foot problems. Each product is of the highest quality and efficacy and has been developed with Advanced Active Technology with concentrated moisturising base to provide optimum hydration.

To win, be the first from QLD to send the correct answer to the following question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

True or false: Dermal Therapy Fungistop™ is an innovative treatment for fungal infections & Onychomycosis that uses the antifungal properties of Tea tree and Eucalyptus essential oils and undecenoic acid.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Kathleen Moorby from Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Dry cough? Smoker?



Try Isla.
www.islacough.com.au

Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication. Sign up free at www.pharmacydaily.com.au.
Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia
Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

Pharmacy Daily is a publication of Pharmacy Daily Pty Ltd ABN 97 124 094 604. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.

NEW PRODUCTS

Keytruda (pembrolizumab) is a selective humanized monoclonal antibody designed to block the interaction between PD-1 and its ligands, PD-L1 and PD-L2. Pembrolizumab is an IgG4 kappa immunoglobulin. By inhibiting the PD-1 receptor from binding to its ligands, Keytruda reactivates tumour-specific cytotoxic T lymphocytes in the tumour microenvironment and reactivates anti-tumour immunity. Keytruda is indicated as monotherapy for the treatment of unresectable or metastatic melanoma in adults. Keytruda is available as a 50 mg powder for infusion in single use vials of 1's.

Noxafil Concentrated Injection (posaconazole) is a broad spectrum triazole antifungal indicated for use in the treatment of the following invasive fungal infections in adults: invasive aspergillosis in patients intolerant of, or with disease that is refractory to, alternative therapy; fusariosis, zygomycosis, coccidioidomycosis, chromoblastomycosis, and mycetoma in patients intolerant of, or with disease that is refractory to, alternative therapy. Noxafil is also indicated for the prophylaxis of invasive fungal infections among adults, who are at high risk of developing these infections, such as patients with prolonged neutropenia or haematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) recipients. Noxafil Concentrated Injection is contraindicated with ergot alkaloids (ergotamine, dihydroergotamine), HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors. Also contraindicated (although not studied *in vivo* or *in vitro*), is coadministration with certain drugs metabolised through the CYP3A4 system- terfenadine, astemizole, cisapride, pimozide, and quinidine- leading to potentially serious and/or life threatening adverse events, such as QT prolongation and rare occurrences of torsades de pointes. Noxafil Concentrated Injection is available as a Type I glass vial containing 16.7 ml of solution equivalent to 18 mg/ml of posaconazole.

Simbrinza eye drops (brinzolamide, brimonidine tartrate) contains a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor and an alpha-2 adrenergic agonist respectively that lower the intraocular pressure (IOP) by suppressing the formation of aqueous humour from the ciliary process in the eye. Brinzolamide acts by inhibiting the enzyme carbonic anhydrase in the ciliary epithelium and brimonidine inhibits the enzyme adenylate cyclase and suppresses the cAMP-dependent formation of aqueous humour. Additionally, brimonidine causes an increase in uveoscleral outflow. Simbrinza is indicated in the reduction of elevated intraocular pressure (IOP) in adult patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension for whom monotherapy provides insufficient IOP reduction. It is contraindicated in patients receiving monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitor therapy; patients on antidepressants which affect noradrenergic transmission (e.g. tricyclic antidepressants and mianserin); severe renal impairment and hyperchloraemic acidosis. Simbrinza is also contraindicated in children under the age of 2 years. Simbrinza is available as a 5 ml Drop-Tainer containing 10 mg/ml of brinzolamide and 2 mg/ml of brimonidine tartrate.

TachoSil (human fibrinogen and human thrombin) is a biodegradable, highly flexible, hygroscopic surgical medicated sponge. Upon contact with physiological fluids such as blood, lymph or physiological saline solution, the components of the coating dissolve and partly diffuse into the wound surface. TachoSil is indicated as an adjunct to haemostasis during surgery when control of bleeding by standard surgical techniques is ineffective or impractical. Do not apply TachoSil intravascularly. Intravascular application of TachoSil may result in life-threatening thromboembolic events. Tachosil is available as a pack of 2 4.8 cm x 4.8 cm sponges and a pack of 1 9.5 cm x 4.8 cm sponge. Each of the presentations contains 5.5 mg per square centimetre of human fibrinogen and 2 IU per square centimetre of human thrombin. Each sponge is individually packaged in a blister sealed pack with HDPE foil, packed in an aluminium bonded foil sachet with a desiccant bag.

SAFETY RELATED CHANGES

Coralan (ivabradine) is now indicated in the symptomatic treatment of chronic stable angina due to atherosclerotic coronary artery disease in patients with normal sinus rhythm and heart rate at or above 70 bpm, who are unable to tolerate or have a contraindication to the use of beta-blockers, OR in combination with atenolol 50mg once daily when angina is inadequately controlled.

Flutiform (fluticasone propionate and eformoterol fumarate dehydrate) inhaler is now indicated for the regular maintenance treatment of asthma where the use of a combination product (an inhaled corticosteroid and a long-acting β_2 -agonist) is appropriate. This includes patients not adequately controlled with inhaled corticosteroids and inhaled short-acting β_2 -agonist on an 'as required' basis.

Herceptin (trastuzumab (rch)) is now indicated for the treatment of HER2-positive early breast cancer following surgery, and in association with chemotherapy and, if applicable, radiotherapy.

Zinnat (cefuroxime) is now indicated in acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis, or acute bronchitis.

Coralan (ivabradine) is now contraindicated in combination with verapamil or diltiazem which are moderate CYP3A4 inhibitors with heart rate reducing properties.

Coralan (ivabradine) is now contraindicated in those with a resting heart rate below 70 bpm prior to treatment.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.