

## Closing the gap

**EXPENDITURE** on medicines per Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person is around 40% of the amount spent on other Australians, despite the fact that Indigenous Aussies, as a whole, are between two and five times sicker than other Australians, according to NPS.

The comments come as part of an NPS push to increase peoples understanding of being medicinewise in helping to close the gap, in the lead up to National Close the Gap Day yesterday.

Speaking about NPS' work in this area, NPS Head of Programs Karen Kaye, said the organisation has a range of courses designed to improve health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through assisting industry members improve their knowledge and skills about medicines, and to then use this knowledge in a clinical setting with patients.

As part of the work involved in the courses participants look at common medicine safety issues, and they also receive Australian Medicines Handbook.

For more information visit NPS at [www.nps.org.au](http://www.nps.org.au).

## The Guild must defend CSO

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia needs to put in place an action plan in defence of pharmacists before the Community Service Obligation (CSO) Agreement is irreparably wounded, according to former Pharmacy Guild President, John Bronger.

"I am deeply saddened by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's failure to protect its members, their customers and, more broadly, national health policy from the damage being wrought by Pfizer and its exclusive distribution model," said Bronger.

"More than a year after the launch of Pfizer Direct there is no Guild action and there is no Guild plan," he added.

The Guild, according to Bronger, could play a pivotal role in resolving this issue, acting as an intermediary between key stakeholders, including the CSO wholesalers, the Government and Pfizer.

"Pharmacists deserve an explanation as to why it has so far failed to do so," he said.

"The Guild has an obligation to work with stakeholders in a way

that restores certainty to the supply of PBS medicines as intended under the CSO Agreement," he added.

Bronger went on to urge the Pharmacy Guild to act now in support of the CSO and its members, before other wholesalers follow Pfizer's lead.

"At that point, a central pillar of our national health policy will be under severe strain and the supply of PBS medicines will be dangerously uncertain," Bronger added.

## Temozolomide approval

**THE** TGA has granted marketing approval for Perrigo Company's generic temozolomide, adding that bioequivalence was met between the brand product, Temodar, and the generic temozolomide, enabling listing on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Temozolomide is indicated for patients with malignant glioma (the most common primary malignant brain tumor in adults, which is responsible for 75 percent of all adult primary malignant brain tumors).

For details visit [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

## New US Orphan

**THE** US FDA has granted Orphan Drug designation for telotristat etiprate for the treatment of carcinoid syndrome.

## Incorrect pricing

**THE** Department of Veterans Affairs has advised that the April 2012 Repatriation Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits (RPBS) contains incorrect prices for three Allevyn Gentle dressings supplied by Smith & Nephew.

The incorrectly priced dressings include: Item 4196W 'Dressing-foam with silicone - heavy exudate, 10cm x 10cm, 10, Allevyn Gentle-66800248'; Item 4207K 'Dressing - foam with silicone - heavy exudate, 7.5cm x 7.5cm, 10, Allevyn Gentle - 66800269'; and Item 4230P 'Dressing - foam with silicone - heavy exudate, 10cm x 10cm, 10, Allevyn Gentle - 66800270'.

The DVA is currently working with Smith & Nephew to amend the prices.

Those wishing to dispense the affected Allevyn Gentle dressings should contact the Veterans' Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre on 1800 552 580.

The RPBS will be amended shortly to show correct prices.

## Customer Care Pharmacists

Do you love counselling customers on dispensary and OTC medicines and products? Feel your expertise is currently under valued and under utilised behind the counter?

Pharmore is currently looking for pharmacists who are confident and sales focused for an exciting role on the sales floor as *Customer Care Pharmacists*.

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## PHARMACIES FOR SALE (Sydney CBD)

PBS-Pharmacy Brokers Pty Limited has several opportunities available, the turnover ranges from \$1M to \$2M.

For further information about these pharmacies please call **Sean Roffey** directly on **0408 882 111**.

PBS-Pharmacy Brokers

GPO Box 2681 Sydney NSW 2001

Ph: (02) 9261 1123 | M: 0408 882 111 | Fax: (02) 9267 5562

Email: [pbs@healthbusinesssales.com.au](mailto:pbs@healthbusinesssales.com.au)

## NMA 2012 NATIONAL MEDICINEWISE AWARDS

ENTRIES NOW OPEN FOR INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS

These prestigious accolades recognise at the highest levels efforts to improve medicines use and patient outcomes.

ENTRIES OPEN UNTIL 20 APRIL

All winners will be announced at the NMS 2012 dinner on Thursday 24 May.

For categories and more information go to [www.nps.org.au/nms2012](http://www.nps.org.au/nms2012)

## NATIONAL MEDICINES SYMPOSIUM 2012



## Events Calendar

**WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's*** Continuing Professional Development Calendar, featuring upcoming events and opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**25 Mar:** Senior First Aid Training for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Staff; 9am - 3pm; North Sydney, NSW; - [beryl.park@psa.org.au](mailto:beryl.park@psa.org.au).

**31 Mar:** Cardiovascular Seminar; 2 - 7pm; Dubbo RSL Club, Dubbo - [beryl.park@psa.org.au](mailto:beryl.park@psa.org.au).

**01 Apr:** Cardiovascular Seminar; 10.30am - 3.30pm; Venue TBA, Orange - [beryl.park@psa.org.au](mailto:beryl.park@psa.org.au).

**04 Apr:** Short Course: Immunology 1; 7pm - 9.30pm; St Leonards, Sydney, NSW; - [beryl.park@psa.org.au](mailto:beryl.park@psa.org.au).

**14 Apr:** First Aid Certificate; 9am - 3pm; St Leonards, Sydney, NSW; - [beryl.park@psa.org.au](mailto:beryl.park@psa.org.au).

**15 Apr:** Cardiovascular Seminar; 10.30am - 3.30pm; Tweed Heads, NSW; - [beryl.park@psa.org.au](mailto:beryl.park@psa.org.au).

## NMS registration open

**REGISTRATION** is now open for NPS' National Medicines Symposium (NMS), which is being held in Sydney from 24-25 May 2012.

The year's theme for the event is 'Building a medicinewise community' and focuses on consumers at the centre of medicines use discussions.

According to NPS Head of Programs Karen Kaye, NMS 2012 will tackle quality use of medicines issues from "a new angle, looking at all the facets that contribute to achieving safe medicines use".

Earlybird discounts are available for registrations before 30 March. See [www.nps.org.au/nms2012](http://www.nps.org.au/nms2012).

## New global code of practice

**THE** International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) is updating its Code of Practice.

The Code governs how companies interact with healthcare professionals and patient organisations, and its creation was aided by Aussie organisations such as Medicines Australia, to ensure that engagements with healthcare professionals are undertaken ethically.

The updated Code includes sections covering Basis of Interactions, Pre-Approval Communications and Off-Label Use, Standards of Promotional Information, Printed Promotional Material, Electronic Materials, Interactions with Healthcare Professionals, Clinical Research and Transparency, Support for Continuing Medical Education, Interactions with Patient Organisations, Company Procedures and Responsibilities and Infringements, Complaints and

Enforcements.

"Medicines Australia endorses the new expanded IFPMA Code of Practice, but our own Code of Conduct goes some way further," said Medicines Australia Chief Executive, Dr Brendan Shaw.

"Governments, doctors and patients must have confidence that those interactions meet the highest ethical standard.

"Both the Medicines Australia Code of Conduct and the IFPMA Code of Practice exist to provide that confidence," he added.

To view the new IFPMA Code, visit [www.ifpma.org](http://www.ifpma.org).

## Generic Boniva in US

**THE** FDA has approved Watson Pharmaceuticals Ibandronate 150mg tablets, (the generic equivalent to Roche's Boniva tablets).

Ibandronate tablets are indicated to prevent and treat osteoporosis in post menopausal women.

## ANIMAL, VEGETABLE...



Call 1800 151 493 for further information Today's the day **BLACKMORES**

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**A VISION** of the future.

People will soon be able to "print" out their tools, according to scientists at the Z Corporation, in Massachusetts.

The Z Corporation specialises in 3D printers, which, according to its scientists, can make tools with moving parts.

The scientists demonstrated their theory for a National Geographic program, by scanning a wrench into a computer, which then sent the image to a 3D printer.

Using a "specially engineered composite material" which started off as powder but was soon bound with resin like material, the printer created a fully working copy of the original wrench in 90 minutes.

**SERIOUS** addiction.

One Belgian bus driver, Issac Fremont, took his love of coffee to all new heights, installing not one, but two coffee machines into the dash of his bus.

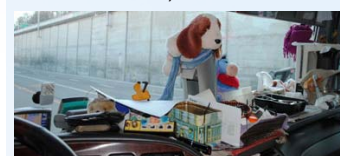
Fremont's stash was discovered after he was stopped during a routine check in Switzerland.

The wired bus driver told police officers that the reason he had the coffee machines was that he didn't like the coffee served up at service stations.

Unfortunately for the coffee connoisseur, Swiss police said that his coffee machines, along with various other knick-knacks breached traffic rules.

"The two coffee machines plus all the other stuff that he had mounted in front of the windscreen (pictured below) made it almost impossible to get a proper view of what he was seeing as he drove along," said one officer.

"It was a serious obstruction of his field of view," the officer said.



## SUKIN, NATURALLY YOURS...



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a **Sukin** Skincare pamper pack valued at \$94.60 each.

Each pack includes: Cream Cleanser, Hydrating Mist, Toner, Facial Moisturiser, Botanical Body Wash, Hydrating Body Lotion, Nourishing Lip

Treatment, Certified Organic Rose Hip Oil and Purifying Facial Masque.

The best news is that Sukin offers everyone affordable skincare with no single product retailing for over RRP\$ 24. With everyday affordable luxurious skincare and environmentally friendly products, Sukin really is 'Skincare that doesn't cost the Earth'.

To win, simply be the first person to send the correct answer to the daily question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

***The Sukin Intensive Firming Serum, Botanical Hydration Booster and Replenishing Night Cream are part of which Sukin range?***

Don't forget to visit [www.sukinorganics.com](http://www.sukinorganics.com) to find the answer!

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner **Lloyd Smith** from **C P Peoples Chemist**.