

SHPA on med safety

MEDICATION safety systems are fundamental to every organisation's risk management strategy, which should be supported by targeted programs led by pharmacists, according to the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia.

The comments follow the release of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry in the UK, which amongst its findings highlighted a failure within the Trust's hospitals to address medication safety.

"In the absence of automatic checking and prompting, the process of the administration of medication needs to be overseen by the nurse in charge of the ward, or his/her nominated delegate," the report said.

"A frequent check needs to be done to ensure that all patients have received what they have been prescribed and what they need.

"This is particularly the case when patients are moved from one ward to another, or they are returned to the ward after treatment," the report added.

In the wake of the report, SHPA has urged the Govt to ensure that medication safety is a priority in Australian hospitals and that funding is sufficient to support and sustain the services required to ensure patient safety, so that what is happening in the UK does not happen in Australia.

"SHPA's position on this is unequivocal: medication safety is a fundamental patient right and is not an optional extra," SHPA said.

"Every patient has the right to receive effective medicines in the safest possible manner," SHPA added.

The real cost of the PBS

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme spent \$9,193.7 million on accrual accounting basis for the year ending 30 June 2012, up 3.6% on the previous year's tally of \$8,872.7 million.

The results, posted on the PBS website, also showed that total PBS prescription volumes increased by 3.6% to a total of 194.9 million, compared to 188.1 million for the previous year.

Meanwhile, Government expenditure amounted to 83.4% of the total cost of PBS prescriptions, with the remainder coming from patient contributions that

Looking for work?

PHARMACY graduates are being given a helping hand looking for work via the newly launched website pharmacyinternships.com.au.

Launched by Pharmacy Internships Australia, the site has been designed to help pharmacy graduates find and also apply for community pharmacy internship positions in Australia.

"By offering many features including advanced search capabilities, an advice and resource page, email alerts, online applications, options to contact prospective employers as well as comprehensive information with each internship position advertised, this website is designed to help aid pharmacy graduates in choosing the right pharmacy internship position," said Pharmacy Internships Australia Founder Sherwin Kashani.

For details visit the website at www.pharmacyinternships.com.au.

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amounted to \$1,505.1 million, up from \$1,423.8 million in the previous twelve-month period.

Looking at the breakdown, the majority of government expenditure on PBS prescriptions was directed towards concessional cardholders (\$5,866.3 million, 77.8% of the total), as compared to concessional expenditure of \$5,698.4 million in the previous period (77.7% of the total).

The average dispensed price per prescription of PBS medicines decreased to \$46.42 for the year ending June 2012 (\$46.57 for the year ending June 2011), whilst the average government cost of these scripts was \$38.70 for the same period (\$39.00 to June 2011).

Topping the list as the three highest cost drugs for the Government were Atorvastatin (\$593.3 million), Rosuvastatin (\$359.2 million) and Ranibizumab (\$307.8 million), whilst the PBS drugs most frequently dispensed were Atorvastatin, followed by Rosuvastatin and Esomeprazole Magnesium Trihydrate.

Diane 35 safety review

THE EMA's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee started a safety review of Diane 35 (cyproterone acetate 2 mg, ethinylestradiol 35µg), and its generics following the decision by French authorities to suspend the drugs' approval over safety concerns around venous and arterial thromboembolism.

Love today's Pharmacy

TODAY'S Valentine's Day edition of *Pharmacy Daily* features two pages of lovingly written news, **PLUS** a full page from the Pharmacy Guild regarding registration for APP2013, see **p3** for details.

Nurses and the NPS

ONE quarter of all registered nurses working in general practice took part in NPS programs, according to NPS (*PD* yest).

The data means equates to 5,167 pharmacists and 2,748 nurses, meaning that pharmacists are one of NPS' biggest audiences.

Pharmacy in French alps



A GROUP of Australian pharmacists recently touched down on home soil after an exciting jaunt in the French Alps, at the annual Medici Capital Pharmacy Study Tour.

Held in the world-renowned Val d'Isere, France, the Tour focused on pharmacy management, ownership and getting the most out of community pharmacy in the coming year.

The conference was structured so that pharmacists could hit the slopes during the day, followed by conference sessions each night.

Pictured above taking a short ski break is Peter Pitt (pharmacist), Mina Sirianni (Medici Capital), Frank Sirianni (Medici Capital).

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Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by **Cruise Weekly**.

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Port Stephens' Nelson Resort is offering a new adventure package, which gives holidaymakers a choice of sandboarding, kayaking, paddleboarding, cycling and dolphin watching.

The package includes two nights accom, brekkie daily, a dolphin cruise for two, bike hire for two hours and a choice of either a guided kayak eco tour for 90 minutes, one-hour on a stand-up paddleboard or sandboarding rides.

The deal is priced from \$390 per couple, call 02 4916 4600.

Meanwhile, families looking for a holiday may be interested in a BYO Kids Family of Five offer from the **Sonaisali Island Resort Fiji**, which includes 7 nights accom for 2 adults and up to 3 kids, brekkie daily, a sunset cruise for two, jungle cruise for 5 and free non-motorised water sports.

The deal is priced from \$1,358 and is available for stays in Feb and Mar, see www.byokids.com.au.

Getting healthier together

PHARMACISTS looking for a new tool to utilise in their consultations with patients who are looking for better health outcomes, now have access to *Together Counts*, courtesy of the Healthier Australia Commitment and the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC).

The new online Together Counts program is aimed at improving the health of Australians by helping them to get their energy balance right.

"Energy Balance is the balance of kilojoules we eat and drink with the kilojoules we burn through physical activity and basic body processes like breathing, thinking and even sleeping," a statement from the program said.

"When we balance the kilojoules we consume with the kilojoules we burn, it can contribute to good health in many ways.

"Making sure we eat a range of foods from different food groups is also really important to get the variety of nutrients we need," the statement added.

To this end, the program, led by its ambassador Olympian Susie O'Neill, has practical suggestions for meals, lunchbox ideas and physical activity tips for the whole family.

The program helps users to calculate their BMI and intake needs, and provides tips, information and pointers as to how Aussies can maintain the right balance.

"It's back to school and work time for many, so it's a great time to form new habits and routines and to make a positive step towards living a healthy active lifestyle," said

O'Neill.

"Achieving energy balance isn't just about eating the 'right' food; it's also about being active every day – it's the energy 'in' versus energy 'out' equation," she added.

Speaking to **PD**, a representative from the AFGC said the program is a great way for pharmacists to engage patients who want to live healthier lifestyles.

See www.togethercounts.com.au.

FWO audit webinar

IN the lead up to a national education and compliance campaign focusing on the pharmacy industry by the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO), the FWO is hosting a webinar for pharmacy employers on 06 Mar at 6pm.

The webinar will provide an overview of the campaign and what to expect if selected for audit; as well as an overview of the Pharmacy Industry Award 2010; and a walk through of resources and tools on the FWO's website to help employers comply.

Register at www.fairwork.gov.au/pharmacy.

DISPENSARY CORNER



THE name wasn't warning enough?

A daily customer of the infamous Heart Attack Grill in Las Vegas has died of a heart attack.

The man, 52-year old John Alleman, had been a daily patron of the restaurant since it's opening two years ago, enjoying its daily fare of calorie and cholesterol heavy food.

In fact, John had become such a mainstay at the Heart Attack Grill that he inspired a Patient John caricature on the Heart Attack Grill's menu, clothing line and merchandise.

The restaurant itself has a slogan 'a burger to die for', dishes out free meals for customers weighing over 158kgs, has a menu which includes an 8,000 calorie Quadruple Bypass Burger, and has a sign that reads "Caution: this establishment is bad for your health".

John unfortunately did not take much heed of the sign, and passed away from a heart attack outside the Grill.

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The Pure Therapy range is uniquely designed for dry and sensitive skin prone to Eczema, Psoriasis and Dermatitis, providing lasting skin moisture relief.

Pure Therapy by **Purist** is giving away five gift-sets (pictured left) to **Pharmacy Daily** readers valued at \$72.75. These gift sets are

everything you're looking for in natural skincare.

This set has been carefully selected to combine Pure Therapy products that work together for low irritancy, even on the most sensitive skin.

For your chance to win this great prize pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below.

Which other two brands is
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Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Amanda Seeto** from **Good Price Pharmacy Ashmore**.

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