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PBS fees increase

MEDICARE Australia has released details of higher costs related to the evaluation and listing of items on the PBS and National Immunisation Program, with a 2.5% increase applying from 01 Jul.

The move means that major PBS lodgements cost \$124,447, while minor lodgements cost \$13,018 and Generic lodgements are \$521.

Pharmacy for Sale

Riverina Region NSW (#1569)

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Diabetes MedsCheck study

FOURTEEN NSW community pharmacies are taking part in a new research initiative which aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the gov't Diabetes MedsCheck service.

Conducted by Roche Diabetes Care and the University of Technology Sydney, the study is being led by UTS Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Charlie Benrimoj, with a further 15 pharmacies also expected to enrol in the six month program.

The study will investigate the impact of Diabetes MedsCheck on health outcomes, incorporating the suite of professional services tools from Roche Diagnostics.

These include Meter Match, DVDs and YouTube tutorials on blood glucose meter and lancing techniques, the Accu-Check 360° View 3-day Profiling Tool, and instructions on how to follow a structured self-monitoring of blood

glucose regimen.

"Since the Diabetes MedsCheck service was introduced under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement in July 2012, no research has been undertaken to assess the level of impact the service has had on the person with diabetes or on community pharmacy - until now." Benrimoj said.

He said the expansion of professional services "is an excellent strategy to maintain the viability and sustainability of community pharmacy".

And Roche manager, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs, George Koumantakis, said that partnering with the UTS pharmacy department as an "ongoing education hub" is important to ensure the Accu-Check Pharmacy Sales team remains informed about changes impacting community pharmacy.

"It is our strong belief that maximising the Roche tools and services already available will help pharmacists enhance their role in providing diabetes education and health services to the community".

DDS doggy donation

DISCOUNT Drug Stores has donated \$27,000 to Assistance Dogs Australia, after achieving a two year fundraising target for the organisation twice as fast as previously expected.

The funds were contributed by customers and stores, and will help the charity provide one fully trained Assistance Dog to an Australian with a disability.

Symbion ♥ suppliers

SYMBION Pharmacy is today congratulating the winners of its inaugural Engage Awards (**PD** Fri), with the accolades accorded at a glittering ceremony in St Kilda last week - for details of all the winners see **page three** of today's issue of **Pharmacy Daily**.

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or call (02)9563 4900 for further information.

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NSW Pharmacy - National Convention & Exhibition

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Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre,
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Weekly Comment

Welcome to PD's weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Peter Marshall**, CEO of **Pharmacy Solutions Australia**.



Keys For Acquisition

When purchasing a pharmacy, the buyer must consider several key aspects before making the final decision on the value that the business presents to them. Understanding these aspects and incorporating them into the purchase decision is fundamental to the long term viability of the pharmacy, especially in the current business environment.

Possibly most important, is understand your own skill set – where can you add value to this business, are you deficient in any key skills that this business requires? The competitive environment in pharmacy is intense and understanding how the pharmacy is currently affected and how it will be in the future is crucial to your business decision.

The lease presents security but also a threat if the parameters are incorrect. Is there enough tenure, is the rent too high, are the increases unsustainable and importantly does the landlord understand that the pharmacy environment has changed?

In the investigation of the business you must be able to identify where you can achieve your future growth. With dispensaries under constant barrage, pharmacy services and the retail component of the business are keys to your growth. Customer numbers are vital for retail growth – shopping centres with the rent right may be the answer?

EMA codeine restrictions

THE European Medicines Agency has recommended changes to address safety concerns about the use of codeine in children, including not using the drug at all in those who undergo surgery for the removal of tonsils or adenoids.

The EMA's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) has also recommended that codeine should not be used in people of any age who are known to be "ultra-rapid metabolisers," nor in breastfeeding mothers.

"Having assessed all of the available data, the PRAC noted that the pharmacokinetic profile of codeine has been studied in adults but very limited information is available in children.

"In addition the limited data on the effectiveness of codeine as a pain relief in children suggest that the effect of codeine on pain is not significantly better than non-opioid painkillers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen," a statement said.

The PRAC has recommended that codeine containing medicines should not be used at all in children aged under 12, and in those under 18 should not be used after tonsil or adenoid surgery because these

patients are more susceptible to respiratory problems.

MEANWHILE the PRAC meeting has also recommended a series of cardiovascular precautions in relation to diclofenac, similar to those already in place for selective COX-2 inhibitors.

Patients who have serious underlying heart or circulatory conditions should not use diclofenac at all, the committee said, while those with key risk factors such as high blood pressure or cholesterol should only use it after careful consideration.

AND the committee also recommended restrictions on oral flurpentine medications and suppositories, saying they should only be used to treat acute pain in adults who cannot use other painkillers, and that treatment should not exceed two weeks.

No DNA patents

THE US Supreme Court has quashed gene patents held by a Utah-based genetic testing company, setting a precedent which is likely to see DNA sequences not able to be patented worldwide.



DISPENSARY CORNER

FLATULENCE has led to a major drug bust in the UK, after a group of police officers opened the windows of their vehicle because one of them kept breaking wind.

The patrol car was in Leicester, and when they wound down the windows the crack team of operatives noticed a distinct smell of marijuana as they breathed in the welcome fresh air.

"They asked their colleague in the back what he had been eating, and after fits of giggles and denials, they realised the cannabis smell was in the air in the street outside," according to a report in the British Police Federation magazine.

Suspicious were raised and the police left the car to find the cause of the smell, tracking it to a nearby house where they found a cannabis factory with a crop worth about \$20,000.

The windy officer had apparently been on a high protein diet after taking up body building, with a report on orange.co.uk citing a police source saying "it was a good collar and it was all down to this officer and his flatulence".

SCOTTISH children are being encouraged to develop their scientific curiosity via new remote controlled cockroaches.

Demonstrated this week at a technology conference in Edinburgh, the revolting insects have been fitted with a minute backpack which communicates via their antennae.

A lot more fun than pulling the wings off flies, *The Scotsman* reports that the electronically adapted roaches can then be controlled via bluetooth using a smartphone.

They've been created by scientist Greg Gage, who said he was "pretty certain" it didn't cause pain for the cockroaches.

However an RSPCA spokesman said the society "believes it is inappropriate to encourage children to dismantle insects".



WIN A MOR ESSENTIALS PACK

Every day this week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a **MOR Essentials** set, valued at \$59.95 each.

Each beautiful prize includes a Fragrant Candle, Hand & Body Wash and Hand & Body Lotion in 1 of 5 unique fragrances.

The MOR Essentials collection is designed to embrace everyday quality self indulgence with rich beneficial formulations presented in mesmerising packaging.

To win this great prize pack, simply be the first person to send through the correct answer to the question below.

What extract in the MOR Essentials Hand & Body Wash is known for its cooling properties?

Send your answer to: Hint! Visit www.morcosmetics.com


Celebrating our Suppliers

Congratulations to the winners of the **2013 Symbion Engage Awards** which were announced at a glittering industry event in Melbourne last week. At Symbion our goal is to improve our customers' businesses and enable them to deliver better healthcare outcomes to the community. Our suppliers play a key role in ensuring we continue to provide excellent service to our customers and we're pleased to recognise them with these accolades.



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Supplier of the Year:
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Pharmacy Choice
Supplier of the Year:
Reckitt Benckiser

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Chemmart Pharmacy
Supplier of the Year:
Apotex

AstraZeneca 

Achieving Excellence Award,
Ethical, Large Supplier:
Astra Zeneca

APOTEX
ADVANCING GENERICS

Achieving Excellence
Award, Generics:
Apotex

 **ALLERGAN**

Achieving Excellence Award,
Ethical, Small to Medium
Supplier: Allergan



Achieving Excellence
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Key Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd

Achieving Excellence Award OTC,
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