



NEHTA future focus

THE National E-Health Transition Authority plans to focus during 2013-2014 on increasing hospital uploads of discharge summaries, outpatient medication records and preparing for the implementation of medication terminology products within public hospitals.

The NEHTA has released its 2012-2013 annual report claiming over 908,000 people have now registered for an eHealth record.

There are also 5,360 healthcare organisations and 7,766 individual providers (HPI-Is).

The system allows HCP's to access key information such as clinically important, time-saving information such as current medications, details of allergies and previous adverse reactions to treatment.

Additionally, thirty software vendors have been authorised to access the data from the system.

14 of these represent clinical information systems used by GPs, eight are systems used in hospitals, five in aged care, two are systems used in pharmacy settings and one is a Shared Health Product across a few different settings.

Federal health minister Peter Dutton has just announced a review of the system (PD 04 Nov) given its lower than anticipated uptake.

Board lays out '13/14 plans

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia will deliver policies and guidelines relating to "pharmacist prescribing," "vaccination by pharmacists" and "advanced practice by pharmacists" in the next 12 months, according to details revealed in its Health Profession Agreement with the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Authority.

Released yesterday, the agreement lays out how the Board and AHPRA work in partnership to implement the national registration scheme for pharmacists.

"Publishing the agreement demonstrates our commitment to transparency and accountability," said Pharmacy Board Chair, Associate Prof Stephen Marty.

"We are responsible for using practitioners' registration fees wisely...the Board is pleased to provide more detailed information about how registration fees are allocated to regulate the profession in Australia," he said.

Figures in the agreement show the Pharmacy Board will have a total income of \$8.67 million - \$7m from registration fees plus income from application charges & interest. Expenses are budgeted at \$9.45

million including \$933,000 for board and committee expenses, \$1m for legal costs and expert advice, and \$6.59m allocated to indirect costs shared by the various National Boards such as staff, systems and infrastructure, with no cross-subsidisation between the various regulated professions.

One of the Board's key strategic priorities is to "work toward nationally consistent practice by pharmacists," and as well as the prescribing, vaccination and advanced practice guideline development there's also a planned paper on the "possible regulation of pharmacy assistants/technicians".

The Board also plans to contribute to harmonisation of state and territory drugs and poisons legislation, while the agreement also reveals that AHPRA is considering a proposal for a centralised CPD recording platform.

Coralan on PBS 01 Dec

CORALAN (ivabradine), a medication from a novel class of therapy for heart failure (selective sinus node inhibitors) shown to significantly reduce the risk of cardiovascular death and hospitalisation due to worsening heart failure, will become available on the PBS 01 Dec.

Coralan will be reimbursed for the treatment of symptomatic moderate to severe chronic heart failure in patients with a resting heart rate of 77 beats per minute (bpm) or more.

"Coralan is one of the very few therapies shown to significantly improve both survival and quality of life in this patient group," said Professor Henry Krum, Director of Monash University's Centre for Cardiovascular Research and Education in Therapeutics.

New combo analgesic

ASPEN Australia has released Zaldiar, a new low-dose combination analgesic indicated for the treatment of moderate pain.

Each film-coated Zaldiar tablet contains 325mg of paracetamol and 37.5mg of tramadol, and has the benefits of paracetamol's rapid onset of action (15-30 min) as well as the lasting pain relief of tramadol (5-7 hours).

Zaldiar is an S4 private prescription product available from wholesalers or by calling 1300 659 646.

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CABLE Beach Club Resort & Spa in Broome, WA has a super special deal for families wanting to enjoy a pre-Christmas escape.

Classic Bungalows are offered for \$329 per night including full buffet breakfast daily and return airport transfers - a saving of \$119 per night.

The deal is on offer for travel 01-24 Dec 2013 with the price for two adults and two children.

See your travel agent or visit www.cablebeachclub.com.

EARLY booking deals are on offer from Worldwide Cruise Centres on a 19 day Mediterranean cruise holiday aboard P&O Cruises *Ventura*.

The roundtrip voyage departs and ends in Venice, with the deal also including a night at the Santa Marina Hotel there.

It departs Australia on 11 Aug 2014, with the special priced from just \$4199 per person twin share, including return economy flights from Sydney or Brisbane - worldwidecruisecentres.com.au.

INTERNATIONAL Rail is offering 20% off a range of Eurail passes for travellers heading to the UK and Europe over the festive season.

Available for purchase until 31 Dec, the discounted passes include the Global Flexi Pass, which allows 10 or 15 days of travel to use over a two month period in 24 European countries such as France, Italy, Germany and many more destinations. See your travel agent for info.

Govt scraps CPD tax cap

PHARMACY organisations are hailing yesterday's decision by federal treasurer Joe Hockey to scrap the proposed cap on tax deductibility for self-education expenses (*PD* breaking news).

The move, which reverses the plan introduced by the former Labor government, follows the formation of a "Scrap the Cap" coalition of professional and educational groups (*PD* 08 Jul) which lobbied against the move.

Health organisations including the PSA and the Pharmacy Guild were particularly vocal in their opposition, because the cap could have affected professionals' ability to earn compulsory continuing professional development credits by attending conferences and educational updates.

PSA National President, Grant Kardachi, said the decision recognised the challenges that many people face in meeting the mandatory levels of annual CPD.

"The government must provide incentives and support for pharmacists... to undertake educational activities to further expand their knowledge and provide better healthcare for the public we serve, rather than impose barriers to further education," he said.

And Guild executive director, David Quilty, said scrapping the cap had removed a risk that the quality of health delivery would reduce.

Macutec ruling

THE TGA has published the outcome of a decision relating to the promotion of a product called Macutec by Stiltec Pty Ltd.

In Aug the TGA delegate of the Secretary made an order about ads on the macutec.com.au website which found that it breached the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code, carrying incorrect and unbalanced claims and inappropriately referred to serious medical conditions.

Stiltec was ordered to withdraw representations that Macutec protects against macular damage as well as publish a retraction.

The company has worked closely with the TGA to ensure full compliance with the orders, with the website "considered to be compliant with the order including the publication of the retraction" as at 26 Sep 2013.

Smoking conference

THE University of Sydney is today hosting the inaugural Australian Smoking Cessation Conference.

The 06-08 Nov event will cover a range of topics relating to smoking including myths and barriers with mental illness, pregnancy, adolescent cessation programs, Indigenous communities, genetics and pharmacogenetics, and nicotine replacement therapy.



DISPENSARY CORNER

THIS is a great way to destresssss.

A spa in Bali is offering special massage techniques utilising live snakes.

The Bali Heritage Reflexology and Spa centre has five 1.8m long pythons, which slither over the skin of visitors instead of the hands of masseurs.

The snake massage is done under close supervision, with two attendants in place to ensure safety and encourage the reptiles to move around rather than just coil up and stay in one spot.

The spa insists that the snakes also have their mouths taped shut just in case, and says that the creatures are very well treated, being fed a diet of live rabbits.

"We don't treat them like workers, we treat them like our friends or family," said spa general manager Paulus Abraham.

"We kiss them, we hug them, we take good care of them".

A THIEF in the US has left a fairly big clue to his identity after allegedly stealing some copper wire from a truck in Arizona.

Investigating officers found that the spool of wire had been pulled out from the truck, with what appeared to be a human finger entangled in the remains.

Forensic technicians were able to extract the fingerprint and match it to a 29-year-old man whose details were in the system.

The miscreant claimed he lost the finger while working on a car but police are fairly certain of a conviction given that he only has nine digits left.

WIN A COPY OF AUSTRALIAN PHARMACY LAW AND PRACTICE

This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a copy of 'Australian Law and Practice 2nd Edition' valued at \$89.95.

'Australian Pharmacy Law and Practice 2E' by Laetitia Hattingh, John Low and Kim Forrester is the key law and ethics resource. Including a wealth of new content, all chapters are mapped to the National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists 2010. A must-have resource for every Australian pharmacist.

To win, be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What are the Titles of Chapter 3 and Chapter 4?

Hint! Visit www.elsevierhealth.com

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Susan Cheng** from **MIMS**. The correct answer was: Pharmacy Practice Developments.

