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Prescribing pathway tick

HEALTH ministers from across the country have formally approved the *Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway* (HPPP) which will provide a way for health professionals, other than medical practitioners, to prescribe medications.

The ministers were assembled in Launceston, Tas for a meeting of the Standing Council on Health (SCoH), which was chaired by Michelle O'Byrne, Tasmanian Minister for Health.

The HPPP sets out the steps required for a health professional to achieve safe and competent prescribing of medicines within their scope of practice.

The Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway project is an initiative of Health Workforce Australia, with the development of the final document following almost two years of work and public consultations.

Health Workforce Australia says that improvements to productivity and flexibility across the sector are vital if the growing demand for healthcare is to be met.

The national approach to prescribing by health professionals other than doctors covers concepts such as prescribing

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CORRECTION

Prestige Premium Deals, United Prestige Clearance, United Prestige Group, Mr Andrew Christopher and Mr Kenneth Bridge made a number of statements in respect of Aspen Pharmacare Australia (Aspen) and the Bio-Oil product which they formally retract and correct as set out below.

1. Aspen does not know and cannot provide any comment as to whether Prestige Premium Deals, United Prestige Clearance, United Prestige Group, Mr Andrew Christopher or Mr Ken Bridge legally import Bio-Oil into Australia.

2. No agreement exists or has ever existed between Aspen, Geneva Laboratories and Prestige Premium Deals, United Prestige Clearance and United Prestige Group authorising or entitling Prestige Premium Deals, United Prestige Clearance or United Prestige Group to sell Bio-Oil in Australia.

3. Aspen does not endorse, approve or authorise the importation of Bio-Oil into Australia, for sale and/or promotion, by itself or with any other product, by Prestige Premium Deals, United Prestige Clearance, United Prestige Group, Mr Andrew Christopher or Mr Kenneth Bridge.

4. Aspen has no association or dealings with Prestige Premium Deals, United Prestige Clearance, United Prestige Group, Mr Andrew Christopher or Mr Kenneth Bridge.

Scheduling decisions

THE Poisons Standard has been updated to reflect decisions made by the Advisory Committee on Chemicals Scheduling and the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling at recent meetings.

Scheduling decisions confirmed by the delegate of the Secretary to the Dept of Health relate to Catechol, Iodocarb, cocoyl glycinate, deltamethrin, loratadine, hexyloxyethanol, lurasidone, virotoxetine hydrobromide, hydroquinone and monobenzone, pradoxofacin and tylosin.

The TGA website has also updated details of ACMS & ACCS meeting dates and decision timeframes.

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NPS recruitment

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SHPA urges 7 day coverage

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has highlighted a new study which found a significantly increased risk of death due to medicine related problems for patients admitted to hospital on the weekend.

The researchers looked at over 3 million admissions to NSW hospitals in 2000-2007, with SHPA saying it shows "why we need seven days/week clinical pharmacy services in hospitals".

Patient groups identified as having significant risks after weekend admissions "are also likely to require multiple medicines and be most at risk of medicine-related problems," the SHPA added.

SHPA said the population-based study (CLICK HERE), published late last month in the *British Medical*

Journal confirms the approach in the recently released *SHPA Standards of Practice for Clinical Pharmacy Services*, which says that pharmacist activities described support medication management plans, reduce morbidity, mortality and the cost of care.

"Pharmacy services should be available when patients require them, 7 days per week and for extended hours," the standards say.

"Limiting services to business hours and 5 days per week reduces the timeliness of service delivery and may impact on patient care".

Pharmacy marijuana

A BILL passed by legislators in the US state of Michigan could pave the way for medical marijuana to be available from pharmacies by creating a mechanism for so-called "pharmaceutical-grade" cannabis.

Under the legislation, doctors would be able to recommend that patients be issued "enhanced" cannabis cards - different to those currently used to access medical marijuana by about 130,000 residents of the state.

Implementation of the legislation is contingent upon the federal government reclassifying marijuana as a Schedule 2 controlled substance, which would give it medical legitimacy and would allow pharmacies to dispense it.

Marijuana is currently a Schedule 1 controlled substance, which the federal government still considers to be an illegal substance with no medical benefit.

Mater launches range

AUSTRALIA'S largest provider of maternity care, Mater Mothers' Hospital, has released a range of baby care products developed by Mater midwives and mums and "backed by years of research and development."

The range includes Mater Baby Wash, and Baby Moisturiser both specially developed for a newborn baby's skin as well as nappies, baby wipes, nappy balm, maternity pads and nursing pads.

The Mater Mothers' Hospital welcomes >10,000 babies into the world every year - this represents 1 in every 7 Queenslanders.

Pharmacists wanting to stock the products can ring 1300 162 837.

EMA caution on meds

THE European Medicines Agency's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC), has issued cautions on the use of cancer therapy Iclusig (ponatinib) and meds containing acipimox.

CLICK HERE for full details.

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to
PD's weekly
comment feature.
This week's
contributor is
Richard Manthey,
National Manager
of Pharmacy
Choice.



Use your data

Pharmacy, like most good retail businesses, has an abundance of data. But the real issue is how to use this data effectively.

The majority of pharmacies have a POS system and therefore have access to up-to-date data. Yet the reality is many stores don't use the data effectively to make business decisions.

According to management and consulting firm McKinsey & Co there are three rules to the effective use of data:

- 1) The requirement to be able to correctly choose the data and data sources to use;
- 2) The ability of the manager of the data to create models that turn that data into meaningful insights; and, most importantly
- 3) The drive and ability to take those insights and turn them into valuable actions.

Getting a view on whether you have purchased stock effectively, the best companion products, information about customers' buying patterns and other trends can help you to get a better return on your time and capital.

However, understanding these insights is one thing – knowing the actions required and how to implement them are another. On many occasions your retail support program can help guide you in the right direction, but only you can make the appropriate changes in-store to provide the right outcomes.

So, make sure you can access the relevant data; understand the action points that come from the insights and, importantly, how to implement them.

Pharmacy asthma checks

WYMEDICAL, the supplier of Able asthmatic support products manufactured by Clement Clark, has released a new *5-Minute Asthma Check-up* program which it's urging pharmacy assistants, pharmacists and other staff to use to educate every asthma customer.

The company says asthma outcomes can be improved, with more than 2.2 million Australians suffering from the condition and up to 90% of these patients not using their devices correctly.

"Many pharmacy staff do not feel as though they have the knowledge or confidence to make the right recommendation to asthma customers," Wymedical said.

The aim of the check-up is to take the opportunity to educate asthma patients while they are waiting to have their script filled.

It focuses on the why and how of spacer device use, indicators that a doctor review is due, how to take a Peak Expiratory Flow reading and the correct use of an *In-Check Dial* to assess speed of inhalation for various common inhaler devices.

The free training program has been developed in consultation with Asthma Australia, with Wymedical also recently updating its asthma range of spacers, masks,

peak flow meters, nebulisers, kits and bowls into a co-ordinated package.

A key part of the training is education on recommendations that a spacer be used with all puffer medications, enabling up to 90% more medication to get to the lungs.

CLICK HERE to view the program.

FDA trims trans fats

THE US Food & Drug Administration has announced its preliminary determination that partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs), the primary dietary source of artificial trans fat in processed foods, are not "generally recognised as safe" for use in food.

Trans fat can be found in certain desserts, microwave popcorn products, frozen pizzas, margarines and coffee creamers.

PHOs have been shown to raise levels of so-called "bad" cholesterol, and although consumption has declined over the last 20 years "current intake remains a significant public health concern," the FDA said.

A proposed FDA ban on trans fats is hoped to prevent an additional 20,000 heart attacks and 7,000 deaths from heart disease in the USA each year.

DISPENSARY CORNER



WINNING the lottery didn't slow down a 67 year old UK man, who scored £8 million in the Lotto Lucky Dip last week.

Despite the massive windfall, Ron Elliott was straight back to work at his job at an aged care centre the next morning.

"I went to work as normal on Sunday. The residents are 90 years old and many have dementia. I have to give them their breakfast, do their laundry and the housework," he said.

"Because you work with old people who rely on you, you can't just sort of take time off."

WHAT ethics committee approved this?

A US man says he's hoping to be accepted into a medical trial in which he will be paid a large sum of money to have a testicular replacement.

Details are sketchy, with Mark Parisi revealing the plan during a segment on the *Extreme Cheapskates* reality show, which highlights the extremes some people will go to to save money.

"What you do is go in and you donate one of your testicles, they replace it with an artificial one and when you check out after 14 days you get a cheque for \$35,000," he enthused.

Parisi said it's one of a number of trials he's participated in, including one where he was paid \$5000 to test a medication targeting the haemorrhagic Ebola virus.

The Las Vegas man also expressed his disappointment in the Food and Drug Administration's cancellation of a so-called "flatline" medical trial, which would have involved a simulated heart attack.

"What they do is stop your heart for one minute, but you still breathe ... stay there for 14 days and they pay \$25,000.

"But the FDA kind of stepped in and stopped that," he said.

The program will be shown on the US TLC network next week.

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What are the steps in Thursday Plantation 3 Step Program, to maintain clear skin naturally?

