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## Ranbaxy plummets

**THE** US FDA has issued a warning about drugs made at Ranbaxy's factory in Mohali, India, with the move seeing shares in the company dive 35%.

Under the FDA "import alert," US border officials may detain any products originating at the plant, with the organisation saying Ranbaxy would remain on the banned list until it complies with Good Manufacturing Practices.

Other Ranbaxy facilities in Dewas and Paonta Sahib have been on FDA import alert since 2008.

The latest move follows inspections which identified significant GMP violations at Mohali, with some reports saying a tablet was found to contain an "embedded black fibre that could have been a hair from an employee's arm".

Ranbaxy said it would review the alert and "take all necessary steps to resolve the concerns".

## New orphan drug

**THE** TGA has designated Eli Lilly's ramucirumab (Cyramza) as an orphan drug, for the treatment of patients with advanced gastric cancer or gastro-oesophageal junction adenocarcinoma.

## Over 1 million signatures

**THE** Pharmacy Guild has issued a sincere thanks to the pharmacists, pharmacy assistants and pharmacy students around Australia who have contributed to the Pharmacy Under Threat petition campaign, which has now gathered more than 1 million signatures from the public.

That will make it the biggest ever petition to be presented to the House of Representatives in Canberra, with Guild executive director David Quilty saying "we have had tremendous support from many quarters across the industry, so thank you all".

He said that the outcome shows that patients care about their local pharmacy services and "value the professionalism of the committed pharmacy staff who deliver them".

The petition will be presented to parliament next month, with Quilty saying the campaign finished strongly on 14 Sep, with around 300,000 signatures collected after the federal election.

"Every signature counts in terms of sending the clearest and strongest possible message to the Federal Parliament that Australians do not want their pharmacy services and local pharmacy jobs put at risk," he said.

Quilty said that the Guild will be engaging with the new government at the earliest opportunity to discuss Labor's "shock pre-election changes to price disclosure".

"The Guild wants to achieve a solution that addresses the impact of this change on pharmacies, their staff and patients," Quilty said.

"As we enter into these discussions, the success of the Pharmacy Under Threat petition provides a very clear signal that community pharmacies and their loyal staff enjoy the strong support of the Australian public," he added.

See **page three** for a special letter of thanks to the industry.

## Saving 35,000 lives

**CANCER** Council ceo Professor Ian Olver has welcomed Peter Dutton to the health ministry, saying that Dutton's promise to finalise the bowel cancer screening program by 2020 would save an additional 35,000 lives over the next 40 years.

"By screening all Australians age 50 and over, every two years, we will be able to pick up a significant number of those cases when they are relatively easy to treat," he said.

## CHC NHMRC comment

**THE** Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia says it's disappointed in draft resources for health professionals issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

The CHC was responding to an NHMRC consultation on *Complementary and Alternative Medicine Resource for Clinicians* which aim to highlight the importance of discussing CAM use with patients.

CHC ceo Carl Gibson said the CHC is "concerned that there is an unrealistic expectation for consumers to accept the burden of seeking and reviewing scientific evidence".

**CLICK HERE** for the CHC response.

## Generic Xeloda tick

**THE** US FDA has approved the first generic version of Xeloda (capecitabine), an oral chemotherapy pill used to treat metastatic colorectal cancer and metastatic breast cancer.

Teva Pharmaceuticals USA has gained FDA approval to market generic capecitabine in 150 and 500 milligram strengths.

Xeloda is marketed in Australia by Roche Products.

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## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, 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).

- 19-22 Sep:** Medicines Management 2013, the 39th SHPA National Conference, Cairns Convention Centre - [www.mm2013shpa.com](http://www.mm2013shpa.com).
- 20-22 Sep:** Pharmacy Business Network, Canberra; see [pharmacybusinessnetwork.com](http://pharmacybusinessnetwork.com)
- 26 Sep:** 2013 Advancing Your Practice Seminar; Monash University, Parkville; visit [www.monash.edu.au](http://www.monash.edu.au)
- 2-4 Oct:** Essential Pharmacy Financial Management; Sanctuary Cove Resort, Gold Coast; more info at: [www.fmrbusdev.com.au](http://www.fmrbusdev.com.au)
- 11-13 Oct:** Pharmacy Australia Congress in Brisbane - details [www.psa.org.au/pac](http://www.psa.org.au/pac).
- 17-19 Oct:** Pharmacy Assistant National Conference, Gold Coast - visit [www.pharmacyassistants.com](http://www.pharmacyassistants.com)
- 14 Nov:** 2013 ASMI AGM, Conference & Awards - see [www.asmi.com.au](http://www.asmi.com.au)

## Advanced practice paper

**THE** Australian Pharmacy Council has released a new document which provides a global context to the development and implementation of advanced pharmacy practice recognition.

Dubbed *An environmental snapshot of Advanced and Extended Pharmacy Practice*, it's the outcome of a study commissioned by the APC including an environmental scan and literature review to define key terms and concepts around

advanced practice.

"There is compelling evidence of the increase in therapeutic interventions and complexity of medicine use as a result of an ageing population, increasing multi-morbidity and co-morbidity of mental health and physical disorders," said accreditation committee chair Debra Rowett, who's also a member of the APC Steering Committee on Advanced Practice.

The new document will help feed into the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Framework (APPF) 2012, which was developed about 12 months ago by the steering committee which is backed by groups including the AACP, ACP, APC, PDL, PSA, SHPA, PBA, PPA, the CPSANZ and the Pharmacy Guild.

**CLICK HERE** to view the report.

## Merck Serono PSP

**MERCK** Serono Australia has launched a new "patient support program" (PSP) for first line access to its Erbitux treatment for metastatic colorectal cancer.

Under the program Merck Serono will pay for every second treatment using Erbitux, and once the patient contribution reaches \$16,000 Merck will pay for every subsequent treatment.

Erbitux will be ordered through, and shipped directly to, the patient's nominated pharmacy for dispensing and the pharmacy will be charged at the price of \$400 per 100mg/20mL vial.

The medication must be ordered and purchased directly from Merck Serono Australia Customer Service.

The PSP will be available from 01 Jun-31 Dec 2013.

For details ring Merck Serono medicines info on 1800 633 463.

## Walker recall

**MOBILITY** Plus is undertaking a recall for product correction of Crocodile size 3 walkers, which are wheeled walking aids for use by children with disabilities.

The firm is replacing bolts on the handles to rectify a safety issue.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

**UKRAINIAN** men are being encouraged to boost their fitness, with a new range of breast-shaped dumbbells.

The novelty weights have been created by the "306 Creative Communication Agency" based in Kiev, which is using them (extremely successfully) to create awareness of its brand.

The special fitness aids come in three sizes - small, medium and large - and are made from cast iron and finished off with a rubber and gloss paint coating.

The special dumbbells have been patented, and will be stocked in Ukrainian sporting goods stores from next month.

According to the firm's website, they are "sports equipment for real men, who think about women all the time even when the iron is held in the hands".



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**UNDER THREAT**

## More than 1,000,000 signatures!

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia would like to thank pharmacists, pharmacy assistants, pharmacy students and – most of all – pharmacy patients from across Australia for supporting our Pharmacy Under Threat campaign.

Thanks to you, more than 1,000,000 signatures have been collected, putting our petition on track to be declared the largest ever to be presented to the Australian House of Representatives.

The Pharmacy Under Threat petition will now form the central plank of our campaign as we continue to negotiate with the government for a fair deal for community pharmacy.

Thank you for your support.

**THANK YOU  
FOR SIGNING  
OUR PETITION!**

Written and authorised by David Quilty, Pharmacy Guild of Australia, 15 National Circuit  
Barton ACT 2600