

NPS recruiting HCP's

NPS MedicineWise is looking for qualified health professionals to fill the role of Clinical Services Specialist in Melbourne.

There are one casual and one full-time position available - for more information on these opportunities [CLICK HERE](#).

Health costs climb to \$140b

SPENDING on medications in Australia comprised just 14.2% of total health expenditure in 2011-12, which overall was estimated at \$140.2 billion.

According to the *Health Expenditure 2011-12* report released this week by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the largest components of health spending were public hospital services, at \$42 billion or 31.8% of recurrent expenditure, followed by medical services at \$23.9 billion (18.1%).

Medication costs amounted to \$18.8 billion, and interestingly although total health spending as a proportion of GDP was up slightly to 9.5%, "our analysis of health inflation suggests that in recent years annual price rises in the broader economy have generally been greater than price rises in the health sector," stated AIHW ceo

David Kalisch.

Year-on-year increases in health spending were highest for public hospital services and medical services, with medication costs actually declining as a proportion of total expenditure.

The report breaks out expenditure by the federal and state governments as well as health insurers and individuals, with the Commonwealth providing \$59.5 billion of the funding, most of which was direct expenditure on the Medicare Benefits Schedule and Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme.

To view the report [CLICK HERE](#).

EMA transparency bid

AS part of the European Medicines Agency's (EMA) determination to improve transparency, it is publishing the CV's of medical experts who are advising the agency with relation to medicines.

There are currently over 3,600 consulting experts in their database.

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Carbimazole tablets

SLADE Pharmacy says it's currently able to supply carbimazole 5mg capsules in compounded form, while the commercial product, Neomerazole is unavailable.

There's currently a major supply issue with Neomerazole, with the only way to source the products being via the Special Access Scheme.

Slade Pharmacy requires a prescription for each order, and can supply nationally with 48 hours notice - for more information call the pharmacy on 03 9565 4400.

California pharmacists

PHARMACISTS in the US state of California are expected to shortly be able to conduct a full range of vaccinations as well as dispense contraceptives and some other medications, after the passage through the California State Assembly of a new "pharmacist provider-status" bill.

The legislation is now awaiting the consent of state governor Jerry Brown, with the new law allowing pharmacists to administer biological products by injection, prescribe smoking cessation drugs and medications not requiring a diagnosis which are recommended for international travellers.

The new law also lays out training requirements and recognition for "advanced practice pharmacists," who would have the authority to order and interpret tests to monitor and manage drug therapies.

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Burrell rides BUPA

MILTON Burrell, CEO of Good Price Pharmacy Warehouse in Indooroopilly, Queensland, is so enthusiastic about the 21st *Bupa Around the Bay – Fundraise for The Smith Family* bike riding challenge, he's even extended an invitation to Tony Abbott.

On Sunday 20 October, Milton will bike around Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay with 16,000 others, in Australia's largest mass participation one-day ride.

"I am new to cycling after receiving advice from my back specialist to take up a low-impact sport," said Milton.

The Smith Family's Anton Leschen said the charity is asking riders to help it raise \$1,275,000 to help young Australians in need.

Milton's personal goal is to raise \$2000 - to help out see aroundthebayfundraising.com.au.

Medication pollution alert

HEALTH professionals should be "aware of the need for pharmaceuticals to be managed as organic and persistent pollutants," with an article in the *Medical Journal of Australia* this month urging a "national initiative to reduce pharmaceutical pollution in water supplies".

The authors said that there is a limited extent to which sewerage and waste disposal systems can deal with drugs, some of which are highly stable even when washed down the drain.

To make matters worse, sometimes bacterial processes in sewage treatment can produce toxic breakdown products, such as bacteria converting NSAID (S)-naproxen to (R)-naproxen which is highly toxic to the liver.

Hospitals and clinics constitute

point sources of these pollutants, although naturally patients in the community are also sources which are much harder to monitor.

"In the first instance, tackling hot spots in source control could make significant inroads on the drug load entering treatment plants - for example, as much as 25% of all human antibiotics are estimated to be administered in hospitals," the report states.

Initiatives urged include better housekeeping, discouraging the emptying of syringes into sinks, choosing less environmentally persistent drugs where possible, and establishing protocols to reduce the release of drugs into the environment.

CLICK HERE to view the report.

Ranbaxy reassurance

RANBAXY Australia has responded to the US Food and Drug Administration import restrictions on medications manufactured in the company's Mohali, India plant (**PD** 20 Sep), this morning issuing a statement confirming that the Australian operation does not currently source products from the facility.

The FDA move was a response to inspections revealing significant GMP violations at the factory.

"As such, the 'import alert' placed on the Mohali manufacturing plant by the FDA will have no bearing on the local business," Ranbaxy said.

"Please be assured that Ranbaxy remains fully committed to upholding the highest standards that patients, prescribers, regulators and all other stakeholders expect from the Company and we stay firmly committed to our policy of 'Quality and Patients First'," the statement concluded.

DISPENSARY CORNER



COULD the future of aged care in Australia be robotic?

Absolutely, according to Professor Rajiv Khosla, who's one of the presenters at the upcoming national conference to be hosted by Health Workforce Australia.

Khosla, who is Director of the Research Centre for Computers, Communication and Social Innovation at La Trobe University, has invented the robot companions which are "programmed to provide emotional support to older people in aged care facilities".

He said they can interact and engage with patients, and allow health professionals to undertake other healthcare tasks.

Titled *Skilled and Flexible: The health workforce for Australia's future*, the conference will take place at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 18-20 Nov - see hwa.gov.au/2013conference.

CONTRARY to what you might expect, having a plump puppy may not be just due to overfeeding.

It may in fact be linked to some "underlying emotional turmoil," according to research published in the latest edition of the *Journal of Veterinary Behaviour*.

Dr Franklin McMillan, former clinical professor at the Western University of Health Sciences College of Veterinary Medicine in California, reviewed studies on the eating habits of pets, and says he found that overeating may be "in response to stimuli other than internal hunger cues".

He said there's a clear link for some cats and dogs between eating and "negative emotions" on the part of the animals.

WIN A SUKIN BODY OIL PACK!

Every day this week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving two lucky readers the chance to win a **Sukin Body Oil pack**. Each pack includes: Sukin Wellbeing Body Oil 100ml, and Sukin Botanical Body Wash 250ml.

Sukin Wellbeing Body Oil is a luxurious blend of botanical natural oils with rose hip and marula seed oils for instant hydration, soybean oil and calendula flower extract for soft and silky smooth skin.

TO WIN, be one of the first two people to send the correct answer to the question below.

Name one of the many uses for the Wellbeing Body Oil

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Hint! Visit www.sukinorganics.com

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners, **Denvin Wong** from **Symbion** and **Kaye Hazel** of **Angel Medicine**. The correct answer was: hydration, elasticity.



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