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†RRP = Recommended Retail Price. Prices referred to in this document are recommended and there is no obligation on the retailer to comply with these recommendations.

*Zantac® is a registered trademark. Promotional discount offer available for a limited time only. Offer period: March 31st 2014 – April 4th 2014. Aspen Pharmacare Australia Pty Ltd, 36 Chandos Street, St Leonards NSW 2065 Australia ASPEC0012 10/13t. ABN 096 236 985. To opt out of future faxes, please fax 02 9809 7196 or email: optout@pharmabroker.com.au



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\$14m in inefficiencies

FURTHER to Medicines Australia (MA) ceo Dr Brendan Shaw's call to action on regulatory reform for clinical health trials (**PD** 31 Mar), Shaw has said while implementing national reforms could be complex and time consuming, the pace could be enhanced, and this was something the incoming Abbott Government had recognised in its pre-election commitment.

Regulatory inefficiencies, which Shaw said made it harder to attract investment in pharmaceutical R&D to Australia, included that companies had about a one in three chance of getting their ethics and governance compliance applications approved within 60 days of submitting them.

"In around 30% of cases, it takes more than six months to initiate a clinical trial in Australia.

"We estimate that inefficiencies in the area of research governance alone cost the industry around \$14 million each year.

This was money that could be used for research instead of on unnecessary paperwork, he said.

Eleven proposed reforms were made by the Clinical Trials Action Group including a nationally harmonised system of ethics review for multi-centre clinical trials.

PPA: Wages stagnating

PROFESSIONAL Pharmacists Australia (PPA) has said this year is a "one in 20 year opportunity" to reshape community pharmacy, in light of a survey showing that average hourly base pay rates have risen 23 cents per hour since 2009.

The survey of more than 2,672 pharmacists, conducted in print in November last year and funded by the PPA, reported average hourly base rates for pharmacists had risen from \$34.38 in 2011 to \$34.86 in 2013, the PPA said.

The rates for experienced pharmacists dropped 30 cents to \$37.78 in 2013, pharmacist-in-charge rates grew by 22 cents to \$38.24 and pharmacist manager rates grew by \$3.56 to \$41.15, it said.

One in five, or 21.5% of community pharmacists reported that they had not received a pay rise in four or more years, and PPA president Dr Geoff March said it was concerning that the average community pharmacist was earning the same as they did five years ago.

"Falling wages and poor conditions make it very difficult to attract and retain community pharmacists and that presents real problems for patient healthcare."

March said this year was a unique opportunity in that the negotiation of the next Community Pharmacy Agreement (CPA) and the Fair Work Commission's review of the Pharmacy Industry Award would occur, which the PPA saw as opportunities for community pharmacists to inform decision makers about what they needed.

This was the year for community pharmacists to stand up and be heard, the PPA said.

"We will be advocating actively and loudly for the ideas and needs of community pharmacists to Government and throughout the community."

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia said the ability to remunerate pharmacists was directly related to the viability of the small businesses in which they worked.

"While the majority of pharmacy owners pay over the award, these businesses are under increasing pressure from price disclosure and rising costs making it harder to increase pharmacists' remuneration."

There was a gap between hospital and community pharmacy, with almost 90% of hospital pharmacists reporting having received a pay rise in the last two years, compared with 55.4% of community pharmacists, the PPA said.

RGH E-Bulletin

THE most recent RGH E-Bulletin details the recently released evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for the management of cancer pain in adults.

Intended to aid community prescribers, the guidelines have advice on assessment and non-pharmacological management of pain, the bulletin states.

To read it, **CLICK HERE**.

Aspen double discount

ASPEN is offering a one week only double discount deal on Zantac presentations.

The offer ends 04 Apr and is supported by a national advertising campaign running through April and May.

The offer relates to Zantac Relief 150mg 14s and 28s as well as Zantac Extra Relief 300gm 14s as an assorted buy through your chosen wholesaler.

See the **cover page** for details and a fax order form.



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TGA fees and charges

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has updated its annual charges and low value turnover information, as well as its fees and payments information.

To read more, visit the TGA's website at www.tga.gov.au.

PSA gains 'great traction'

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has gained 'great traction' according to a large number of nominees for PSA state and territory branch membership.

Chief Executive Officer and company secretary of PSA Liesel Wett said the number of

nominations received meant PSA members would be able to vote for a broad cross-section of pharmacists to represent them on their branch committees.

"This is recognition that PSA had come of age and is the go-to body representing all sectors of the profession.

"A number of nominees have indicated to me they believe PSA had gained great traction as a representative body over the past few years and they want to be part of this success and also help guide it in the future.

"They also want to help PSA shape the profession for the future, and shape it in a way that ensures pharmacists have a viable and sustainable future."

What was particularly encouraging was the number of early career pharmacists (ECP) who had nominated, she said.

Wett said branch committees needed to "move with the times and the changing environment of the profession" and the increasing proportion of ECPs would ensure that they drive innovation for a viable and sustainable future for pharmacists.

1,000,000 time bombs

ACCORDING to recent data released by the Australian Heart Foundation (AHF), more than one million Australians over the age of 45 have both high blood pressure and high cholesterol, the two major risk factors for heart attack.

Dr Robert Grenfell, National Director of Cardiovascular Health at the AHF said every year around 55,000 people had a heart attack and risk factors like high blood pressure and high cholesterol significantly increased the chance of having one.

"Other risk factors like smoking, obesity, lack of physical activity, poor diet, diabetes and kidney disease all contribute to a higher risk."

Dr Grenfell said the large number of people who have both risk factors is disturbing considering that they are preventable and manageable and that nine out of 10 people diagnosed with high cholesterol and seven out of 10 with high blood pressure didn't know they had it.

"The only way to find out if you're at risk is to get your blood pressure and cholesterol checked by a health professional."

Infectious diseases

PROFESSOR Keith Grimwood has been appointed as Griffith University's new professor of infectious diseases.

Grimwood was formerly a director of the Queensland Children's Medical Research Institute and his appointment was supported by both Gold Coast Health and Griffith University, with the aim to improve research collaboration, the institution said.

Nesina CV safety news

TAKEDA has announced that alogliptin, marketed in Australia as Nesina, has demonstrated strong CV safety in the EXAMINE Cardiovascular Safety Outcomes Trial presented at the American College of Cardiology meeting in Washington DC.

Alogliptin is the first and only DPP-4i to demonstrate CV safety outcomes in Type 2 diabetes patients with recent acute coronary syndrome (ACS).

Prof Henry Krumm, Monash University, Melbourne and the Georgia Institute, Sydney, said the new data generally supported the CV safety of alogliptin in high risk patients following an ACS event.



PHARMACY PRACTICE INCENTIVES (PPI)

PPI DOSE ADMINISTRATION AND CLINICAL INTERVENTION CLAIM DUE

Claiming for PPI will only be available on the 5CPA portal from 1 - 14 April 2014

5cpa.com.au



Funded by the Australian Department of Health as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

WIN A HYDRALYTE PRIZE PACK

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving ten lucky readers the chance to win a Hydralyte prize pack, to ensure you stay hydrated whilst travelling.

Travelling?

Send dehydration packing with Hydralyte

The Risks:

- Travellers' Diarrhoea (up to 50% of those travelling to a high risk destination will suffer)
- Long Haul Flights (dry cabins)
- Increased Sun Exposure
- Increased Physical Activity
- Excessive Alcohol Consumption (alcohol acts as a diuretic)

The World Health Organization recommends all travellers' first aid kits contain an Oral Rehydration Formula (such as Hydralyte)

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

Why does alcohol leave you dehydrated?



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Move for Health

THE Australian Food and Grocery Council is holding its Move for Health event today at ANZ Stadium, Sydney Olympic Park from 7.45am.

Attendees including NGOs, industry and government organisations are meeting to address the effects of physical inactivity on chronic and mental illnesses, and to hear and discuss evidence for the value of exercise in health outcomes.

Guild Update

PPI Claiming Now Open

IT is vital that pharmacies register via the 5CPA Registration and Claiming Portal in order to claim Pharmacy Practice Incentives for Clinical Intervention and DAAs.

It is particularly important that you register quickly as claims for the current Clinical Intervention and DAA eligible claiming period 1 Jan – 31 March 2014, are due between the 1 - 14 April 2014.

If your pharmacy is NOT currently registered, before you begin you will need to complete a '5CPA Programme Registration PDF Form'.

If your pharmacy has already registered, please ensure your claim is submitted before the due date as outlined above.

Once you are logged on you can see if your claim has been submitted by clicking on the YOUR CLAIMS tab on the Portal.

For more information on how to register or claim go to www.5cpa.com.au.

MedsCheck, Diabetes MedsCheck, HMR or RMMR services provided on or after 1 March 2014, need to be claimed within 30 days of the date of service (patient interview).



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Compounding guidelines

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has said in response to queries about its revised compounding guidelines that draft revised guidelines would be published on the Board's website in April.

These were in the process of being finalised for public consultation and would be published on the current consultations page of the Board's website, it said in its latest communiqué.

This followed the revised guidelines being one of the common queries during the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP 2014), the Board said, as pharmacists were interested to know when the public consultation would be released.

The Board would be encouraging feedback once the revised guidelines have been released, it said.

Saline shortage update

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has said that due to the shortage of 0.9% sodium chloride injection, or normal saline, Fresenius Kabi USA would temporarily distribute normal saline in the US from its Norway manufacturing facility.

The FDA said it was temporarily exercising enforcement discretion for the distribution of this product while it was needed to address the "critical" shortage which impacted patients.

"While these initial shipments will help, they will not resolve the shortage."

The FDA said it was working with manufacturers to meet the needs for normal saline across the country in the next few weeks, in particular Baxter Healthcare Corp, B. Braun Medical Inc and Hospira Inc as the companies sought to restore their supply for hospitals and health clinics.

The shortage was first reported in January and was triggered by a range of factors including a reported increased hospital demand possibly related to the flu season (PD 30 Jan).

Pharmacists also sought clarification about issues related to ownership of pharmacies at APP, the Board said.

This is not covered by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and the Board had provided contact details of relevant organisations to help with this on its website, it said.

FDA nods Topamax

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Topamax (topiramate) for migraine prevention in adolescents aged 12 to 17 years of age.

The FDA said this was its first approval for a migraine prevention drug in this age group.

The drug was approved for migraine prevention in adults in 2004.

FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Division of Neurology Products deputy director Eric Bastings said adding dosing and safety information for the age group to the prescribing information would help to inform health care professionals and patients in treatment choices, as migraines could impact school performance, social interactions and family life.

A clinical trial of 103 participants established the safety of Topamax.

NSW Guild scam alert

THE NSW branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia is warning pharmacists that a member has alerted the branch to a phone scam.

Customers had received phone calls from a 'Northern Lights Pharmacy', operating from India but with calls coming from a Canadian or US number.

The caller might claim the patient had previously ordered products with them, and had likely sourced contact and order details from purchases made with another company, the Guild said.

Patients can contact the ACCC SCAMwatch service if called, on 1300 795 995.

DISPENSARY CORNER

NO-RISK lollipop.

Scientists in Singapore, following the success of e-cigarettes, are in the process of developing e-lollipops.

According to Ripley's *Believe It Or Not!* the digital lollipops are apparently able to fool the tongue into believing it can taste sweet, bitter, sour and salty flavours.

THIS story in Garamond font.

A teenage student in Pittsburgh, USA has published a study which demonstrates that the federal government could save millions of dollars a year in printing costs by choosing a thinner typeface that requires less ink.

According to *Yahoo News*, Suvir Mirchandani's research, published in the *Journal of Emerging Investigators*, a peer-reviewed journal created for promising middle and high school students, showed that if the government used 12-point Garamond, rather than Times New Roman or Century Gothic, there would be up to 29% saving in print costs.

Maybe it would save on printing costs, but in an e-newsletter where no printing is required, we think it's harder to read.

FUNNY, but cross nevertheless.

New zebra crossing signs inspired by the Monty Python *Ministry of Funny Walks* sketch starring John Cleese have been rejected by the Norwegian Public Roads Administration as potentially confusing for the public.

According to *Orange News*, an artist group named Kreativiteket in the town of Orje on the Swedish border thought it would be a fun way to emphasise the presence of the zebra crossing not counting on such a negative reaction that caused their removal.

