

WHAT'S YOUR SCAN RATE?

“eRx is the best innovation to be added to dispense programs for the last 5 years”

– Chris Walsh, Amcal Pharmacy Drysdale

eRx.com.au/ScanRate 

Roche: Tamiflu works

TAMIFLU manufacturer Roche has said it “fundamentally disagrees” with the overall conclusions of the Cochrane report on the antiviral.

The evidence review (**PD 14 Apr**) questioned the effectiveness of Tamiflu (oseltamivir) in reducing admissions to hospital or the complications of influenza, and said this raised the question of whether stockpiling the drugs was still justifiable.

Roche said it stood by the quality of its data, which was reflected in the decisions reached by 100 regulators globally.

The Cochrane report did not take into account all data available for Tamiflu, including only 20 out of 77 clinical trials available to it and excluding data from observational trials, Roche said.

“The result is a misrepresentation of the efficacy and safety of an established influenza medicine, undermining global public health consensus.”

Roche said while it welcomed third party research, it did not consider the Cochrane Group that conducted the review to be “an authority on the value of neuraminidase inhibitors.”

Roche said it was important for public health bodies and influenza experts to provide their opinion on the review before any conclusions were drawn and referenced a trial in *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine*, which showed that treatment with neuraminidase inhibitors was associated with a reduction in the risk of death by 19%.

To read it, **CLICK HERE**.

Address antipsych overuse

NPS MedicineWise is encouraging residential aged care facilities to take on the overuse of antipsychotic medicines in people with behavioural problems associated with dementia.

NPS said it welcomed the recommendations made in a Senate Committee report on the care and management of Australians living with dementia that residential aged care facilities should report when someone had been prescribed antipsychotic medication for more than six months, together with the reasons for and any steps taken to minimise this use, and general usage patterns of such medications in each facility, as part of its existing annual audit process.

The report also recommended that the use of such medication should be reviewed by the prescribing doctor after the first three months to assess ongoing need.

NPS MedicineWise ceo Dr Lynn Weekes said there was evidence to suggest instances where psychotropic medicines were being used too often, for too long and at higher doses than recommended.

“Health professionals should

review the need for antipsychotics regularly. Clinical improvement would be expected within 12 weeks, and when possible, attempts should be made to gradually withdraw the medicine.”

Weekes said NPS had a range of resources to help aged care facilities improve resident care, such as the Quality Use of Medicine report, to help such facilities understand and analyse antipsychotic medicine usage.

To read the Senate Committee report, **CLICK HERE**.

Medtronic advisory

MEDTRONIC has issued a safety advisory, in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

The advisory highlights the need to confirm insulin dosage when using certain Medtronic Paradigm insulin pump models, due to the risk of over-inflation.

Medtronic said this followed a small number of reports about users who had accidentally programmed the pump to deliver the maximum amount of insulin when in ‘bolus’ mode.

This included one case which resulted in severe hypoglycaemia, the company said.

The TGA said it had received one Australian report where this issue led to a patient being hospitalised.

Consumers and health professionals should have received a letter from Medtronic with more information.

To read more, **CLICK HERE**.

Rating pharmacists

PHARMACISTS have come in second only to nurses in the annual Roy Morgan Image of Professions Survey.

The telephone survey, conducted from 08 to 10 Apr with 644 Australians aged 14 years and over, found that 86% of Australians thought pharmacists were ethical and honest, compared with nurses at 91% and doctors, also at 86%.

This was an increase of 2% for pharmacists and 1% for nurses from last year’s survey, and a decrease of 2% for doctors, Roy Morgan said.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia said pharmacists had performed “extremely well” in the survey, confirming that they were a valued and respected part of the health system.

“These findings should put a spring in the step of pharmacists all over Australia.

“They show they are indeed valued and respected by patients for the great work they do dispensing medicines and providing general health care services and advice.

To read the survey, **CLICK HERE**.

The Script - CPExpo

CLINICAL and Practice Expo (CPExpo) 2014 will create a special opportunity for delegates to vote & comment live during the conference on resolutions and ideas submitted by their colleagues using an interactive live polling system called *The Script*.

In addition the CPExpo14 smartphone app is being launched today to registered delegates.

CLICK HERE for more details.

PD psychosis therapy

REPATRIATION General Hospital (RGH), Daw Park, SA, has released this week’s *RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin* with a focus on pimavanserin and treatment of psychosis in Parkinson’s Disease (PD).

CLICK HERE to access the bulletin.



Specialists in:

• Pharmacy Insurance • Professional Indemnity Insurance

Tony Carollo - VIC/NSW/TAS

Nick Nicola - VIC

Susan Carollo - WA

**FOR AN OBLIGATION FREE QUOTE CLICK HERE
OR PHONE 1300-CAROLLO / 1300-2276556**

Looking for a competitive edge...?

10 GOOD reasons to join GOOD PRICE!

- ✓ Group buying power
- ✓ Best in breed generic offer
- ✓ Compete against grocery & other discounters
- ✓ Sales driven marketing program
- ✓ Minimum buys for best discount
- ✓ Head office support team
- ✓ QCPP coordination & assistance
- ✓ Retail analysis & benchmark reporting
- ✓ Complete shopfit coordination
- ✓ Merchandise optimisation & management

To find out how Good Price can help you compete in today’s changing landscape speak to Anthony Yap or Milton Burrell (07) 3907 0533

www.goodpricepharmacy.com.au



Alzheimer's workshop

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) is seeking expressions of interest in attending its workshop on the clinical investigation of new medicines for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease (AD).

The workshop will be held from 24 to 25 Nov and follows public consultation on its paper looking at the need for revision of the guidelines on products for the treatment of AD, the EMA said.

Guild Update

Pharmacy: a valued and trusted part of the health system

Pharmacy is a valued and respected part of our health system. Public opinion research in Australia consistently shows that people rate their community pharmacist among the most trusted professionals.

Since 1988, the Roy Morgan Professions Survey has produced strong results for pharmacists. In April 2013, 84 per cent of Australian men and women rated pharmacists very highly on 'ethics and honesty'. Pharmacists were rated the third highest of thirty professions, after nurses and doctors.

Now the 2014 results have been released, with pharmacists' support rising to 86 per cent, equal with doctors who slipped two points, but still trailing the nursing profession at 91 per cent.

In late 2013, pharmacies around Australia asked the public to demonstrate their support of their local pharmacy by signing a petition. More than 1.2 million Australians responded, making it by far the biggest petition ever presented to the House of Representatives.

These findings, and displays of support, should put a spring in the step of pharmacists all over Australia. They are valued and respected. But it is also a challenge to the profession to ensure that this high regard is nurtured and grown.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

ANZ Lyme Disease reality

FOLLOWING a position statement by The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) wherein they reiterated their long-held belief that there is no established Lyme Disease (or Borreliosis) in Australia or New Zealand (*PD* 08 2014), Sarcoidosis Lyme Australia (SLA) and the Lyme Disease Association of Australia (LDAA) have responded very strongly.

The LDAA has made a number of points which we summarise below.

The RCPA position statement said that there is only evidence for imported Lyme disease which has been brought in by people bitten by ticks overseas.

The LDAA contends that there is in fact a growing number of people with locally acquired Lyme-like illness in people who have never travelled overseas.

"The RCPA needs to be reminded that the absence of evidence is not the evidence of absence," says the LDAA, and "A disease does not have to be 'officially recognised' to be present" pointing out that there has been a lack of research and data collection in the area resulting

in a perception that there is no disease.

"The most irredeemable statement currently used in regard to the Lyme situation in this country is that 'there is no evidence to suggest...'

"It is disappointing to the LDAA to see this position perpetuated again within the Pathology community," the spokesperson said, citing more than eight specific academic reports of borrelia burgdorferi genotypes in Australia.

The Department of Health is considering embarking on a research program on the disease following their recent public consultation on the Scoping Study on Lyme Disease, and there is also work underway to develop a diagnostic pathway.

Other issues that the LDAA have taken with the RCPA relate to the chronic nature of the disease, the need for ongoing therapy, related syndromes, timely diagnosis, diagnostic techniques, test kits and adoption of European Guidelines.

A response is expected from the Department of Health soon.

Pharmacy "Essential Financial Skills"

Perth 5-6th May

Melbourne 3-4th June

Sydney 22-23rd July

Brisbane 19-20th August

[Click here for detailed brochure](#)

"With the impending PBS changes this workshop has empowered me to analyse my business and put strategies in place to reduce the impact. Geoff is a vibrant presenter"

Fiona Mann, Mannum Chemplus



Pharmacy Accredited A1403FMRC1 This course has been accredited for 28 group 2 CPD credits and 10 group 1 CPD credits for inclusion on a pharmacist's CPD Record. Participants can convert the 10 group 1 CPD credits into 20 group 2 CPD credits by completing an optional assessment within 3 months.

DISPENSARY CORNER

I WANT a refund.

Marijuana is now legal in a few US states, including Colorado and Washington, under certain conditions.

Either Evelyn Hamilton forgot which state she was in or she was too outraged at the quality of her most recent purchase to care, but when she called police to complain that a drug dealer had sold her a less-than-acceptable batch of pot, she was in Texas, which meant she was promptly arrested, *Reuters* reported.

Hamilton, 37, told police the dealer had refused to give her a refund, and was later released on bail; whether Hamilton has a case with America's version of the Department of Fair Trading, is another story...

YOU maniacs!

It's only a matter of time before apes not only start speaking to us, but also start ordering us around, based on this report from *Reuters*, which says that seven chimpanzees used an improvised ladder to make a prison break attempt from Kansas City Zoo.

One of the chimpanzees pulled a log out of a tree, up to a wall, leaned it against the enclosure wall, where it was then used to scale said wall and allow the primates a (brief) escape from the zoo, the publication reported.

The animals escaped into an area reserved for zookeepers, thankfully, where they were enticed with food back into their enclosure, with the zoo director Randy Wisthoff putting the heat on one chimp as the "ringleader."

APPEN-WHAT-NOW?

William McCormack of New York is apparently suing Lawrence Hospital after doctors forgot to remove his appendix - after he'd gone into surgery for an appendectomy, *WCBS 880* reported.

A pathology report said that what was presented to the department was not the appendix, the station said.

WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS



This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving four lucky readers the chance to win a **Designer Brands** prize pack, valued at \$33.

Each prize pack contains four Quick Colour Nail Polishes and one Twist 'n' Go nail polish remover.

Australia's fastest drying nail polish! DB's Quick Colour Nail Polish dries in 30 seconds! With a high-gloss finish, the nail polish glides on with the newly designed precision brush for a streak free application. Available in a chic, glass bottle in 20 shades and five treatments. The award winning Twist 'n' Go allows you to remove nail polish in one second! Available in Pharmacy, Price Attack & online.

To win this great prize pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What colour is the bottle cap on Quick Colour Nail Polish?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Cheyenne Sullivan from Flinders Medical Centre.