



## CoRS now online

**THE** Pharmacy Board of Australia has advised registered health practitioners using the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) portal could now request a Certificate of Registration Status (CoRS) online.

Previously a manual process only, practitioners could now apply online by logging in or using a PDF form, the Board said - [CLICK HERE](#) to access.

## Pharmacy low as health gap

**THE** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has found Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations rated pharmacy services as not as much of a health gap compared with others.

In its 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations: Online Services Report—key results 2012-13', 260 government funded organisations were asked to select the top five health service gaps faced by the community they served and pharmacy services was second only to the 'other' category at 7.3% compared with 6.5% overall.

The most common service gap reported by all organisations was around mental health/social and emotional health and wellbeing service at 61.9% of organisations.

Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs services were the second largest gap overall at 48.1%, followed by youth services (47%), prevention/early detection of chronic disease (45%) and dental services (43%).

AIHW spokesperson Dr Fadwa Al-Yaman said this was because there was more medication access due to programs such as Section 100, under which 83% of organisations had an arrangement for free provision of medication.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the report.

## Flu tender open to all

**THE** Department of Health's tender for the national supply of antivenoms, Q fever and/or pandemic influenza vaccine will be open to all influenza manufacturers, regardless of registration status for seasonal or pandemic influenza vaccines.

In an update to the pre-release notice for the tender (PD 21 May), the Department answered further questions, confirming that the tender was open to influenza manufacturers regardless of registration status for seasonal or pandemic influenza vaccines, but saying further details would be provided.

The Department also confirmed that it had "available funds" for the purchase of pandemic flu vaccines in response to a pandemic.

The National Medical Stockpile, a reserve of drugs, vaccines, antidotes and protective equipment for use in response to a public health emergency, was valued at about \$192m in April.

The Department also said it would consider offers where the vaccine could contain an adjuvant.

When asked what volume of pandemic and pre-pandemic flu vaccine would be required, the

Department said the response would depend on the clinical severity and transmissibility of the virus.

"In a severe pandemic the goal would be to vaccinate the entire population or to vaccinate enough people to achieve herd immunity for the entire population."

To read more, [CLICK HERE](#).

## RGH E-Bulletin

**THE** RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin this week is titled 'Choosing wisely - Geriatrics' and explores the previously introduced Choosing Wisely geriatrics guidance.

To read it, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Research seminars

**THE** University of Sydney Faculty of Pharmacy will present a weekly series of seminars profiling academics from Australia and internationally and their research.

The series is held from 12 to 1pm in the Pharmacy Lecture Theatre and this week features invited speaker Associate Professor Steve Rockman, CSL R&D Influenza associate director.

For more, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Have a date with API

**PHARMACIES** are being reminded to order their 2015 API Calendars, with the 31 Aug deadline fast approaching.

For details see [page four](#).

## ACNM cancellation

**THE** planned 04 Sep meeting of the Advisory Committee on Non-prescription Medicines has been cancelled.

The next meeting is scheduled for 04 Dec, which will be the first time the committee has met since Mar.

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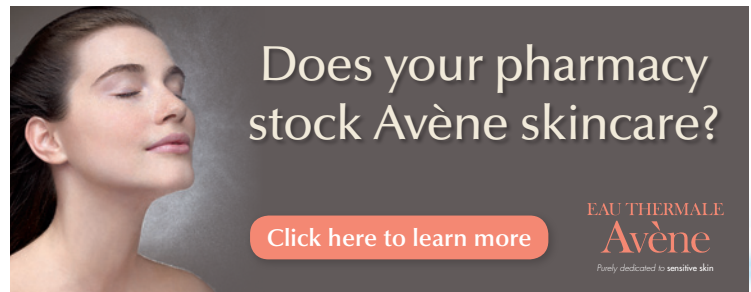
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## New IGR report

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia has said it welcomes the news that a new Intergenerational Report would be produced by the Federal Government later this year.

These reports attempted to “see into the future” regarding Government spending, including Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme spend, but had previously been inaccurate, the Guild said.

It would welcome an updated report as an objective analysis, it said.

## Avastin approval

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved Avastin (bevacizumab) for the treatment of advanced ovarian cancer, in addition to its listing earlier this year for recurrent ovarian cancer (PD 07 May).

The move means Avastin can be used as first line treatment for women battling advanced stages of the disease, adding to the existing paclitaxel which was listed in 1997.

## Kalydeco pay 4 performance

**THE** PBS listing of ivacaftor (Kalydeco) for the treatment of cystic fibrosis is likely to be subject to a “pay for performance” framework recommended by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) in March.

Details of a stakeholder meeting held on 31 Jul have just been made public, with the proposal being that the price paid by the government vary depending on the benefit gained by patients, in recognition that not all sufferers respond equally to treatment.

The meeting included the PBAC, representatives of the Cystic Fibrosis Association and specialists from NSW, Vic, Qld and SA, all of whom discussed the prescribing criteria for PBS listing.

Cystic Fibrosis has lobbied the government and the manufacturer of Kalydeco, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, in the past to fund the medication on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PD 11 Feb and 28 May).

Without a subsidy, the annual cost of Kalydeco exceeds \$250,000.

The Department of Health will now continue to work with the sponsor to finalise the payment criteria and risk sharing arrangements, as well as a draft protocol for data collection.

## LSDP review open

**PUBLIC** submissions for the post market review of the Life Saving Drugs Program (LSDP) are open.

The review would look at the current program to ensure Australians with very rare conditions continued to have subsidised access to needed but expensive medicines, the Department of Health said.

The review would look at issues such as access and equity, and value for money, and patients currently treated through the program would continue to receive subsidised access, the Department said.

## TENS complaint

**THE** Complaints Resolution Panel has determined that an advertisement by TENS “R” US Pty Ltd breached the Therapeutic Goods Regulations 1990.

The Panel said the advertisement, through the claim of long-term therapy in chronic disorders of the central nervous system, was “very likely” to lead consumers into self-diagnosing or inappropriately treating potentially serious diseases and requested that the company withdraw the advertisement and references to government agencies, among other sanctions.

**MEANWHILE** a complaint made against a Chemist Warehouse advertisement featuring Zyrtec, claiming the advertisement did not include an approval number, was found to be not justified.

However the Panel said “without making any formal finding” that the advertisement was likely to breach sections of the Code given that mandatory statements were illegible.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

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## APHS appointment

APHS managing partner for Western Australia, Russell Hill, has been appointed to the APhS Advisory Board.

The Board has played a core role in the organisation's strategic direction of the last five years, including the evolution of APhS Packaging and Icon Cancer Care as part of the group's wider strategy.

Hill's experience includes roles in Australia and the UK and APhS executive chairman Stuart Giles said his extensive knowledge of current practice brought a fresh perspective to the board.

In the UK, Hill was heavily involved in the review and modernisation of hospital pharmacy practices, including research into strategic public and private partnerships.

He's also currently a director of the Pharmaceutical Society.

The appointment would see the Advisory board "continue to guide the organisation's innovative approach in a challenging pharmacy landscape," Giles said.

## Guild Update

### Electronic Prescription Scanning Incentive (ePSI)

SEPTEMBER is the second review period for the Electronic Prescription Scanning Incentive (ePSI) and all pharmacies eligible for Pharmacy Practice Incentives - Community Services Support are again encouraged to scan all available barcoded prescriptions to reach or exceed the 30% scan rate target for this review period.

All pharmacies eligible for PPI Community Services Support are able to participate in the second review period for ePSI.

If your pharmacy was unable to meet the requirements for the March 2014 review period, your pharmacy can still participate and receive the \$1,200 payment if your pharmacy is eligible and meets or exceeds the 30% scan rate target across September.

## Transparency difference

PFIZER'S submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on Medicines Australia's 18th Code of Conduct said it had become apparent that there were "widely differing opinions" as to what transparency should look like.

The company said it strongly supported increased transparency in the industry and endorsed the Code.

There were a number of outstanding issues to be resolved with the latest edition of the Code, including the availability of a unique identifier for healthcare practitioners, Pfizer said.

Such an identifier would be used to consolidate data in a centralised database, necessary to ensure all member companies reported consistently in a consolidated

form, Medicines Australia's agent's application for revocation and substitution of authorisation said.

Pfizer said these issues were why it was committed to continuing discussions with stakeholders to develop workable solutions.

"We are confident these matters can be addressed in time, and trust they do not prevent the timely adoption of the improvements already contained within the 18th Edition of the Code."

## New CP guidelines

CLINICAL guidelines on early intervention and diagnosis of cerebral palsy in infants will significantly accelerate treatments of affected children, according to the Cerebral Palsy Alliance.

The 'General Movements Assessment', which is being undertaken in Sydney Neonatal Intensive Care Units, has in some cases brought down the age at diagnosis from 19 months to three months, which allows earlier intervention, it said.

The results were highlighted at the recent European Academy of Childhood Disability meeting in Vienna which was funded by Australia's Balnaves Foundation.

Cerebral palsy is estimated to cost US\$40b worldwide each year.

## PHARMAC, Novartis

PHARMAC is seeking feedback on two funding proposals, including a multiproduct proposal from Novartis New Zealand.

The Novartis proposal involved 17 products, including 10 products to be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule from 01 Nov.

The second proposal involves five treatments for multiple sclerosis, including two new treatments.

For more, [CLICK HERE](#).

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**ASTRONIGHTY** night.

Look out for customers tanned by solar winds and wearing a bulky white suit stocking up on sleeping pills.

A *Lancet Neurology* report on a study billed as the "largest ever look at astronaut sleep habits" found that space shuttle pilots slept just under six hours a night.

Three out of four astronauts took sleeping pills, with the majority using zolpidem (Stilnox).

The results could indicate some concerns for the safety of space travellers, because "In ground-based studies we know that sleeping less than six hours is associated with performance detriments," said lead author Laura Barger from Harvard.

**HERE'S** a quick way to lose a lot of excess weight.

A 78 year old Florida woman has shed about 10 kg in a flash after customs authorities found she had \$41,000 in cash sewn into her undergarments.

According to court documents filed in the US District Court, the woman was trying to fly from Detroit to the Philippines when suspicious border officials conducted a search.

After they found \$13,000 in her carry-on baggage, she confessed to also having \$5,000 sewn into her bra and \$21,000 in her girdle.

She said she had recently sold her house and thought it was safer to carry the money in cash than transfer it electronically, apparently.

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## WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS

This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five readers the chance to win **Designer Brands'** latest foundation range.

Each pack includes each of the new Designer Brands Flawless Finish Foundations: Lightweight Oil-Free Foundation - The secret to a radiant complexion, this oil-free foundation boasts light-to-medium coverage. Longwear 24 Hour Foundation - Make-up that goes the distance, this full coverage foundation boasts full coverage. Firming Age Revive Foundation - If you're looking for younger looking skin, this buildable coverage foundation will help reduce the signs of ageing.

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To win, be the first to send in the correct answer and your foundation shade to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).



## What is the price point of the foundations?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner **Julie Sage** from **Plunketts Pharmacy**.

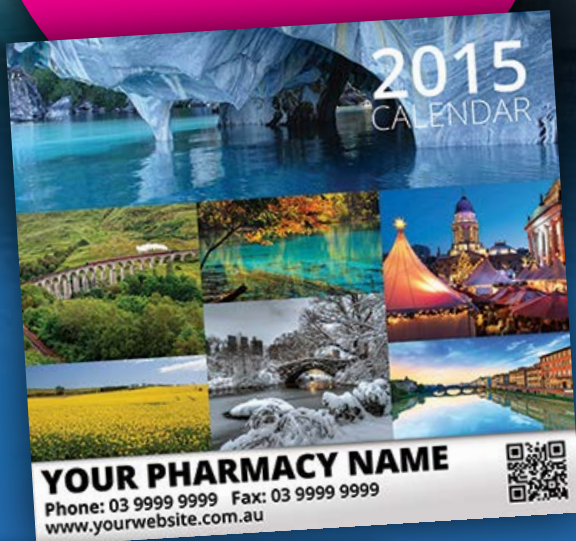


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