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## Asthma deaths down

**THE** death rate from asthma in Australia has dropped by 70% since the 1980s, a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has found.

While the mortality rate had seen a substantial decline in recent years, it was still relatively high on an international scale, at 1.5 deaths per 100,000 people, AIHW Australian Centre for Airways disease Monitoring spokesman Professor Guy Marks said.

'Mortality from asthma and COPD in Australia' found in 2011, asthma was the underlying cause of 378 deaths, 0.3% of all deaths in the country that year.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) was the underlying cause of 5,767 deaths among people aged 55 and over, or 4.4% of all deaths for that age group, the report found.

Marks said the report showed that COPD was a leading cause of death in Australia and internationally, and many deaths due to both asthma and COPD were potentially preventable.

The report found that death rates due to asthma increased with age and peaked in late winter for those aged 65 and over.

Death rates from COPD among males were almost double those among females and were usually highest in winter also, Marks said.

**CLICK HERE** to read the report.

## POTY 2015 now open

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia has said the 2015 Pharmacy of the Year competition opened yesterday.

Winners are selected from three categories; excellence in business management, excellence in community engagement and innovation in professional services, and winnings include a cash prize.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## Call for QPIP phase 2 EOIs

**COMMUNITY** pharmacies are being invited to submit expressions of interest (EOIs) for phase two of the Queensland Pharmacist Immunisation Pilot (QPPI) (**PD** breaking news yesterday).

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Queensland branch and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland branch, with the research team from Queensland University of Technology and James Cook University, have called for community pharmacies to submit EOIs for the expansion of the QPIP, which will see a second influenza season in 2015 incorporated, as well as new vaccinations for measles and whooping cough for adults (**PD** 12 Jul).

A PSA spokesperson told **PD** that phase two would look to add a further 120 pharmacies, with about 200 involved in total, compared with almost 80 for phase one.

In a joint statement, the Guild and PSA said this would include 49 from south east Queensland and 71 pharmacies anywhere else in the state.

The projected start date for the new vaccinations was 01 Sep, with the pharmacies from phase one already in place and the pilot working to have systems installed, primarily data recording software, to facilitate the implementation of phase two, the spokesperson said.

EOIs were open from anyone who addressed the criteria, which included having access to Guildcare software and a private counseling room available, and then the pilot would be looking at selecting pharmacies to address a variety of sites and locations, the spokesperson said.

The statement said as with the initial pilot, phase two was designed to target specific criteria

to ensure results provided the evidence needed to evaluate the role of the pharmacist administered measles, whooping cough and influenza immunisation service.

"To facilitate this, we will continue to evaluate safety, ADR's, patient satisfaction and improvements in vaccination access in both South-East Queensland and now in a wider section of Queensland."

EOIs close 25 Aug.

Pharmacies can access the EOI forms **HERE**.

## Health wages rise

**IN THE** public sector, health care and social assistance wages saw the largest quarterly rise to June, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has said.

This category saw a rise of 0.7% and an annual rise of 2.9%.

In the private sector, mining had the largest quarterly rise of wages at 0.9%, which was the largest rise for all sectors, ABS said.

Overall, the wage price index for the private sector in the June quarter rose 0.6% and the public sector rose 0.8%, with all sectors seeing a quarterly rise of 0.6%.

**CLICK HERE** to see more.

## EPSI reminder

**THE** Department of Health and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia are reminding pharmacies about the electronic prescription scanning initiative (ePSI) - see **page three** for more details.

## Free QCPP Refresher

**THE** Guild Academy and Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) have developed a series of free online QCPP Refresher Training courses for pharmacy assistants.

Approved for 30 minutes of Refresher Training, the course covered issues of cough management with pharmacy medicines, the Guild said.

BI manufactured Bisolvon products, the Guild said.

Guild Pharmacy Academy head Sue Bond said the organisation had ensured the content was unbiased and BI's contribution was "very balanced."

The initiative would deliver comprehensive and factual training for assistants, she said.

The new course is called 'A pharmacy assistant's guide to managing cough - Bisolvon' and will be available from the Academy's myLEARNING platform.

**CLICK HERE** to register.

## APC Accreditation Colloquium

19 August 2014, Brisbane

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## Pandemic registration

**THE** Department of Health has said successful tenderers for its tender for the provision of uniquely Australian antivenoms, Q fever and/or pandemic influenza vaccine (**PD 21** May) will need to seek registration before the expiration of current supply arrangements.

Responding to a question from **PD**, the Department confirmed that tenders could be submitted with offers of pandemic influenza vaccines that were not yet registered on the Australian Register for Therapeutic Goods (**PD 11** Aug) but successful tenderers with an unregistered vaccine would be required to seek registration for it prior to 2016.

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry.

TRAVEL *On Sale*

This weeks travel specials are brought to you by Travel on Sale.

This week, **Travel on Sale** is offering fantastic family packages to Fiji including accommodation and return economy airfares with Fiji Airways. Escape the cold and head to Fiji's tropical Coral Coast where luxury resorts are on sale. Six night packages start at just \$1,199 per adult and \$245 per child at The Warwick Fiji Resort & Spa and \$1,255 per adult and \$245 per child at the Shangri-La's Fijian Resort and Spa plus kids stay, play and eat free. There are even exclusive inclusions like free golf, Fijian cooking classes, spa discounts and more. Fiji is the perfect family getaway destination and with more great deals like these, there is something to suit everyone.

For more great value Fiji deals or to book visit [www.travelonsale.com.au](http://www.travelonsale.com.au) or call 1300 013 729.

\*Conditions apply

## \$57,000 for Vic QUM pilot

**THE** Victorian Minister for Health David Davis has approved \$57,685 funding for a Quality Use of Medicines pilot, working with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS), a move welcomed by both organisations.

The project comes after a recommendation was made by the Health Innovation and Reform Council to the Victorian Minister for Health to focus on consumers with multiple medications capable of managing their own medications, the Guild said.

This included helping such people know more about quality use of medicines and supporting GP referrals to community pharmacists for medication reconciliation services, the Guild said.

The project would involve elderly patients taking more than seven medicines who were capable of managing their own medications and aimed to help them develop health literacy in order to manage their medications more effectively, the Guild said.

Other details, such as how groups would be selected, when the pilot would start, how long it would last, how many patients would be involved and when results could be expected, were still being finalised, the Guild said.

The Victorian Department of Health said the announcement had been made as part of a number of projects it was interested in getting involved with, but since an agreement was still being reached as to details, no further information was available.

Guild Victorian branch president Anthony Tassone said with 2 to 3% of hospital admissions medication related and 10 to 15% in older people thought to be medication related, projects such as the pilot were "vital" to improve the quality use of medicines and reduce preventable hospital admission and healthcare expenditure.

"More than 50% of medication errors occur at transitions of care, and poor medication reconciliations can result in unplanned hospital readmissions."

## No antibiotics for flu

**NPS** MedicineWise is reminding Australians that rest and treating symptoms is the best way to treat colds or the flu, rather than antibiotics.

Antibiotics would not work to treat colds or flu, NPS Medicines Line manager Sarah Spagnardi said, since these were caused by a viral infection and antibiotics only worked for bacterial infections.

## DISPENSARY CORNER



**A GROUP** of British MPs has urged the addition of "cigarette-style warnings" to wine, to alert drinkers to health risks and the calories the drink contains.

According to a new 'alcohol manifesto' issued by the cross-bench committee on alcohol misuse, suggested labels could advise that alcohol causes at least 15,000 deaths annually across the UK, and also causes cancer.

"After smoking, alcohol is the second biggest preventable killer," said Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe, vice chairman of the group.

**THE** famous Ig Nobel prizes, which award improbable research findings each year, have spawned a new book which contains some fascinating scientific conversation starters.

'This is Improbable Too: Synchronised Cows, Speedy Brain Extractors and More WTF Research' by Marc Abrams highlights some of the 9,000 odd entries he receives each year.

For example, a study of drunken handwriting found that in most cases it's worse than when sober - but some is actually better.

An intriguing study found that 13% of children in Greece have dimples on at least one cheek.

When it comes to bodily functions, mothers rate their own babies' nappies as significantly less stinky than other infants' - while another fascinating fact is that old men have longer ears than their female counterparts.

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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).



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