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## Friday's comp winner

**FRIDAY'S** winner of an 800mL bottle of a Chillax Natural Sleep Support Drink was **Adrian Sung** from Pharmacy Online Discount Outlet.

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Hydralyte are giving readers the chance to win a Hydralyte prize pack, starting with NSW and ACT readers today.

See **page two** for details.

## Vet'sMATES update

**FOR** November, the Veteran'sMATES site has released four documents focusing on health in hot weather, managing medicines in the heat, medicines commonly used to treat heat-related conditions and a full reference list for the Therapeutic Brief.

**CLICK HERE** to read all four documents.

## Remicade colitis PBS

**EFFECTIVE** today, biologic therapy Remicade (infliximab) from Janssen is available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for moderate to severe ulcerative colitis both for adults and children, aged six to 17 years, under certain conditions.

## Forxiga - PBS relaxes

**ALSO** effective today prescribers no longer require prior approval from the Department of Human Services or the Department of Veteran Affairs to use Forxiga (dapagliflozin) from AstraZeneca for the treatment of type 2 diabetes under certain conditions, following changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Go to [www.pbs.gov.au](http://www.pbs.gov.au) to see the full detail around changes.

## NSW: extend rural phmcy

**THE** NSW Rural Health Plan has said one of its goals is to develop opportunities for community pharmacy to extend its role in small rural communities, particularly with regards to chronic disease prevention and management.

A NSW Ministry of Health spokesperson told *PD* it was "well recognised" that community pharmacists were instrumental in keeping people out of hospital.

"NSW Health is committed to providing additional resources and professional practice tools to improve regional and rural health services in NSW and we are always looking for ways to partner and work with pharmacies to deliver enhanced tailored health services to the community."

The spokesperson said the government was already funding the Pharmacy Health Checks program in 750 pharmacies, that provided non-invasive health checks and advice, and the Rural Health Plan included a commitment to further develop opportunities for pharmacy to extend its role.

Rural Pharmacy Australia (RPA) applauded the proposal.

Pharmacy was well placed to be part of a total solution when it came to effective healthcare, but adequate incentives needed to be in place to encourage investment and attract workforce, it said.

Rural and remote pharmacies could be developed as healthcare

## Orphan drugs added

**FINGOLIMOD** (Gilenya, Filosir and Fynefta) and Ivacaftor (Kalydeco) have been added to the orphan drugs list on the Therapeutic Goods Administration's website.

**CLICK HERE** for more information.

hubs, RPA said.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) NSW president Dr Stephen Carter said the initiative reflected the stated aims of the PSA to improve health outcomes in rural areas.

The organisation had developed programs to help address some issues in rural and remote areas which would be included in its election manifesto, Carter said.

The programs looked to keep people out of hospital through such services as medication monitoring, and some might require funding, Carter said.

"However, the plan doesn't respond to our call for more pharmacists to be employed in rural hospitals, in order to improve medication safety."

**CLICK HERE** to read the plan.

## New approved pharmacist conditions

**THE** new condition for approved pharmacists comes into effect today, stating that approved pharmacists must not make a claim for payment for the supply of a pharmaceutical benefit unless it is supplied at or from an approved premise, the Department of Health said.

It follows an announcement from the government that it was cracking down on pharmacies dispensing PBS medicines from unapproved premises (*PD* 17 Sep).

## Dec PBS updates

**DECEMBER** updates to the PBS site include new the PBS calendar, drugs subject to price disclosure and items exempt from statutory price reductions - **CLICK HERE**.

## Advertising, Production & Sales Coordinator - Epping, NSW

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### Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Ashley Smith, Professional Program Manager, Instigo**



### Optimising Your Professional Services

WITH another year coming to an end, there has never been a better time to assess your current professional services offering and establish your direction for 2015.

It's important to not only look at your core range of services but also understand where real opportunity lies to develop more specialised services relevant to your pharmacy's demographics and community needs.

The following questions are just a starting point for your assessment; if you have selected professional services as the pathway for your business, then it's definitely time to think beyond clinical interventions. Can you answer the following:

- What is your current position?
- What are your opportunities?
- How are you going to make the most of these opportunities?
- Where do you want your business to be in 2015?
- What prevented you from achieving your goals in 2014?
- How will you overcome that in 2015?
- Do you have the right resources to guide/implement/review where you need to be?

Most pharmacies have significant opportunities that they are not making the most of because they aren't taking the time to assess, execute, market and measure their professional services offering.

Make 2015 the year your business gets serious about professional services.

### NW Tas drug use

**ALCOHOL** and cannabis are the drugs of most widespread concern for government services in North West Tasmania, according to a report from the Statewide Alcohol and Drug Service.

The report said that while methamphetamine use appeared to be increasing across Tasmania, there was no evidence of an ice 'epidemic' in the North West.

Recommendations from the report included improving access to and capacity of enhanced service treatment, strengthening the capacity to identify and respond to drug use issues, improving service collaboration, strengthening governance arrangements and improving mechanisms that impacted on the supply of and demand for illicit drugs.

**CLICK HERE** to read the report.

### NASH ethics approval

**IMMURON** Limited has said it has gained ethics approval for the six Australian hospitals participating in its clinical trials for non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH).

The Australian sites could now start recruiting patients for the trials, with eight hospitals in the US also set to take part once ethics approval had been granted, the company said.

### Marijuana lessons

**AUSTRALIA** could take lessons from the Canadian experience, one of the first countries to allow the use of cannabis for medical purposes, *The Conversation* has said.

Such lessons include the establishment of guidelines around use, doses and patient eligibility, the accessibility of patient resources to assist communication and tracking patient outcomes.

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

### Vic Labor to fund sun care

**VICTORIAN** Labor has it will tackle skin cancer and fund a \$5m public education campaign and \$10m in grants to increase shade in public areas.

### NICE approves Soliris

**THE** UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has approved Soliris (eculizumab) from Alexion for all patients with atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome in England, the company said.

Soliris has been funded in Australia to the value of \$63m over four years with the average cost at \$500,000 per patient per year (**PD** 27 Oct).



### DISPENSARY CORNER

**AH**, yeah, that's mine.

If you find a backpack in your pharmacy randomly, it might be best to keep it in the safe, as opposed to the back room, given the news that a San Jose Burger King assistant manager found US\$100,000 in a backpack in one of the chain's booths.

Apparently, no one has come forward to claim the bag, which also contained some candy, a bank deposit slip and a "small amount of marijuana", *Associated Press* reported, which may perhaps be why the small fortune hasn't been claimed as yet.

**MAKE** them feel sheepish.

If you're a rural pharmacy, make sure you either really like farm animals or you don't annoy your agriculturally employed customers - they could have their animals pay your pharmacy a visit as a form of protest.

The *Associated Press* reported that disgruntled farmers brought their sheep to the Eiffel Tower to protest wolf attacks and what they perceive to be the government's anti-farmer environmental policies.

The sheep had a really quite sophisticated munchfest beneath the Tower while the farmers called on the government to bring in tougher measures for the attacks, the publication reported.

**THAT'S** ruff.

If you're looking for a dedicated new pharmacist, maybe don't look at Cash, the dog fired from Cannon Beach, Oregon's police force for "poor performance".

Apparently, the dog was meant to be the ninth member of the force but was let go after behaviour such as barking aggressively instead of leading police to contraband in drugs searches, *AP* reported.

## WIN with Hydralyte

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and **Hydralyte** are giving readers the chance to win a Hydralyte prize pack.

Hydrate with Hydralyte this festive season. Did you know that alcohol acts as a diuretic? For each standard drink you consume, you are likely to urinate 100mL more than you drink, which can lead to dehydration. Remember to drink Hydralyte before bed and feel the difference in the morning.

To win, be one the first 10 people from **NSW** or **ACT** to send the correct answer to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

A diuretic increases urine output. True or false?

Hint: [www.hydralyte.com.au/excessive-alcohol](http://www.hydralyte.com.au/excessive-alcohol)



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