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ASMI: ref HCP re CMS

THE Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) has said it is "essential" all consumers, and particularly patients receiving treatment for a medical condition, discuss their use of complementary medicines (CMs) with their healthcare professionals to identify potential interactions.

Responding to new research regarding interactions between some CMs and cancer treatments (PD 03 Dec), ASMI executive director Dr Deon Schoombie said he welcomed new research that added to the knowledge base about medicines.

PHN operators sought

THE Department of Health is looking for those interested in operating 30 Primary Health Networks (PHNs) in Australia.

The PHNs come after a review of Medicare Locals, which found many patients experienced fragmented healthcare that negatively impacted health outcomes and increased costs.

There was a need for an organisation that could link up the parts of the health system, the review said, recommending replacing Medicare Locals with a smaller number of PHNs.

The Department said it was looking for efficient and innovative solutions to improve the effectiveness of the primary healthcare system, and PHNs would support delivery of medical services, particularly for patients at

risk of poor health outcomes, and improve coordination of healthcare across the sectors.

PHNs would work directly with GPs, primary and secondary healthcare providers and hospitals to achieve this, showing capacity to deliver health and medical related programs, the Department said.

Applications were sought from a "wide variety of entities", it said, including private and public organisations, and state and territory governments.

Industry briefings to outline policy intent will be held during December in Sydney, Perth, Melbourne and Brisbane, starting on 05 Dec.

CLICK HERE for more information.

EMA: No evidence Fluad caused deaths

THE Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has concluded there is no evidence that the Novartis flu vaccine Fluad caused serious adverse events, including deaths, in Italy (PD 02 Dec).

The Agency said the vaccine was used in older people, especially those with comorbidities and at increased risk of health complications, and after a review of the cases, PRAC concluded there was no evidence for a causal link between the events and administration of Fluad.

Expired Meningtec vax suspension

THE TGA has said some health professionals may not have received information about a recall of all unexpired doses of Meningitec meningococcal serogroup C conjugate vaccine suspension for injection, single dose syringe from Emerge Health.

CLICK HERE for more information.

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Diabetes Health Hub

ENDORSED by Diabetes Australia, a newly developed pilot 'Diabetes Health Hub', launched this week, which includes educational modules for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants.

Any pharmacists interested in joining the pilot program can go to www.sanofi.com.au.

Guild NSW Xmas drinks

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW branch held its Christmas drinks yesterday, despite torrential rain and lightning.



Attendees included newly appointed branch director Steven Waller, **pictured** above right with NSW



Shadow for Health Walt Secord, as well as branch president Paul Sinclair, **pictured** left, who reiterated the Guild's readiness to begin 6CPA negotiations.

CLICK HERE to see more photos.

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Pharmacist #s up

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has released its latest registration data for September, showing the number pharmacists is up to 28,403 from 28,282 in June.

This included 965 non-practising pharmacists compared with 964 in June.

Females again dominated the registrations, with 17,095 female pharmacists and 11,308 male.

CLICK HERE for the figures.

Travel Specials

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

Tempo's Taste of Ireland tour

Get a taste of Ireland on this six day coach package beginning with a tour of Dublin, where you will also enjoy a night of folklore and craic at The Merry Ploughboy Pub Dinner & Show.

You'll partake in a tankard or two at the Bunratty Castle Medieval Banquet, watch the sheepdog trials on the Ring of Kerry and enjoy tea and scones at Connemara Marble Factory.

You'll also visit Dublin Castle, get the gift of the gab kissing the stone at Blarney Castle and visit the Blarney Woollen Mills.

Enjoy the unique Skellig Experience and stunning Cliffs of Moher.

Starting from \$911 per person including transfers, go to www.tempoholidays.com for details.

Hep C inquiry launched

THE House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health has launched an inquiry into hepatitis C, a move welcomed by Hepatitis Australia.

The inquiry would look into the prevalence of the disease in Australia, early testing and treatment options available, and the costs associated with treating the short and long term impacts in the community, as well as methods for the prevention of new hepatitis infections, the Committee said.

Chair Steve Irons said the latest data indicated that 230,000 Australians lived with a chronic, long-lasting infection.

Roundtables with support groups and medical experts would be held on 21 Jan in Melbourne and 22 Jan in Sydney.

Written submissions are open until 27 Feb.

Hepatitis Australia ceo Helen Tyrrell said if breakthrough hepatitis C treatments were made available on the PBS, as well as an expansion of evidence-based hepatitis C prevention programs, this would provide an opportunity to make the disease rare in Australia.

Royal Melbourne Hospital Associate Professor Ben Cowie has previously called for hepatitis C treatments, once approved and funded, to be available from community pharmacies rather than patients having to go to hospital pharmacies to fill their script, which could be a barrier to treatment (PD 29 Jul).

CLICK HERE to make a submission.



DISPENSARY CORNER

REAL estate rollercoaster.

Selling your pharmacy in the near future? Have you considered installing a rollercoaster to entice prospective buyers?

Because that's apparently what one home owner did in Holland as a way to attract more viewers - a mini rollercoaster reportedly now surrounds the house in Ermelo, *Orange News* reported.

On sale for more than six months, the owners decided the property, or the sales pitch, needed some pizzaz, so naturally went for 'rollercoaster which surrounds home', the publication reported.

LO, oneth script for potions from yon apothecary!

If you've ever felt like waxing lyrical to your customers while dispensing, it may pay to take note of the fact that there is an award for gobbledygook.

This year's Foot in the Mouth Award from the Plain English Campaign went to comedian Russell Brand, perhaps best known for marrying an American popstar for half a second, with the campaign commenting that while they liked Brand's determination to open up debate about democracy, "we struggle to make sense of most of his comments", the *Telegraph* reported.

CLICK HERE for more winners.

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 to send the correct answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



True or false: Hydralyte treats dehydration by replacing fluid and electrolytes.

Hint: www.hydralyte.com.au/excessive-alcohol

Congratulations to yesterday's winners, **Amanda Seeto, Donna Delgado, Zoe Blandfort, Kathryn Law, Valeria Vaxelaire, Vanessa Gules, Maria Fenech, Jana Kolze, Paul Higgins and Simon Harper.**

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