



Monday 08 Dec 2014

PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

Friday's comp winner

FRIDAY'S winners of the Hydralite prize pack were Katrina O'Brien, Mary Gotham, Rebecca Mazarire, Nigel Ng, John English, Geoff Lovell, Justin Withers, Michael Lendvai, Prabhay Nand and Jessica Sondergeld.

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Aromababy** are giving readers the chance to win a Hair and Body Kit, starting with NSW and ACT readers. See **page two** for details.

E-cig policy tender

THE Federal Department of Health has released a tender for the preparation of a discussion paper on options for Australian governments to minimise the risks associated with marketing of electronic nicotine delivery systems, or e-cigarettes.

The Department said no assessment of e-cigarettes had been undertaken by the TGA, and health authorities were concerned about their marketing and use, as the impact of wide scale use on tobacco consumption and health was not known.

The tender would provide a summary of the risks and benefits to the population of electronic nicotine and non-nicotine delivery systems, as well as analysis of existing regulatory framework and comparison with international examples, the tender said.

The successful tenderer would prepare a draft discussion paper for stakeholders.

The tender closes 09 Jan.

CLICK HERE for more.

Maltofer CMs added

THE Maltofer range of drops, syrup and tablets from Vifor Pharma has been added to the TGA list of evaluated registered complementary medicines (CMs).

Comp recs evidence queried

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have said the Competition Policy Review Panel's recommendations lack evidence.

In a 123 page submission made on the Panel's draft report, the Guild said the Panel had provided no evidence for its statement that location and ownership rules restricted competition and limited consumer choice (**PD** 22 Sep).

The Guild said its own analysis, including cost benefit and geo-spatial analysis (**PD** 19 Nov), showed these assertions were "deeply flawed".

The Guild said no economic analysis, consideration of alternative policies or cost-benefit test had been made available by the Panel and its draft recommendation should therefore be revoked.

The PSA said the report did not appear to contain "any clear evidence" to support the Panel's claim that removal of the rules was in the long term interest of consumers.

Such a recommendation would put it at odds with a European Court of Justice ruling in Italy and Germany, which concluded that such rules were justified to ensure provision of medical products was reliable, it said.

The PSA was also concerned that the Panel appeared to have

Diabetes resources

HEALTH Minister Peter Dutton has launched a new set of print and online resources for people suffering from diabetes targeting older Australians, people from culturally diverse backgrounds, pregnant women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

CLICK HERE for more.

placed "disproportionate weight" on a confidential submission by Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA), and Chemist Warehouse's submission, which contained claims contradicting existing evidence from Europe.

PPA ceo Chris Walton said the PPA was on record as saying location rules artificially increased the cost of pharmacies and stifled efficiency and innovation.

"Well-designed and properly enforced policy settings could create more opportunities for community pharmacists to get the recognition, reward and respect they deserve."

A Panel spokesperson said its views would be set out in its final report due before the end of March.

CLICK HERE for the submissions.

Health Star Rating

ASSISTANT Minister for Health Fiona Nash announced a Health Star Rating (HSR) system on the weekend which would help shoppers make informed choices about healthier food options.

The food industry has five years to implement the system.

CLICK HERE for details.

Hospira, GSK, CSL join

META, a government supported collaborative network of high potential manufacturing businesses and researchers, has announced a joint project between Hospira, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and CSL.

The three companies, working with the University of Melbourne, aimed to generate a 3% increase in productivity at their Australian manufacturing sites, amounting to an estimated return on investment of up to \$2.4m, META said.

Fab Iron

CARE Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd has highlighted its Fab Iron product, which the company says is easy on the stomach and contains 5mg of elemental iron per dose of 5mL.

See **page three** for more.

Bowel cancer screen reduces risk

PEOPLE diagnosed with bowel cancer as a result of participation in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) were less likely to have died of bowel cancer before 2012, according to a report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The study compared 4,327 people who participated in the NBCSP when they turned 50, 55 or 65 during 2006 to 08, and 17,724 people who did not participate.

Those not in the NBCSP were 15% more likely to have died from bowel cancer by the end of 2011, generally because their bowel cancers were detected at a more advanced stage, the authors said.

CLICK HERE for the report.

Esomeprazole entry

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has said a new entry for esomeprazole in medicines for oral use will be included in the Required Advisory Statements for Medicine Labels (RASML) when it is next updated.

The RASML class entry for proton pump inhibitors would be amended to include esomeprazole in the list of substances, the TGA said.

Three submissions were made on the consultation, with the Australian Self-Medication Industry and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia both supporting the proposed advisory statements.

CLICK HERE to read more.

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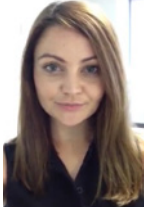
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Weekly Comment

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



Professional Services: Implementing the Plan

IT TAKES prior preparation and planning before you can execute your professional services plan.

Setting SMART goals is not the only step along the way. It is deciding how you will go about achieving those goals and sticking with your plan.

What are the daily, weekly and monthly steps that need to be taken to achieve your goals? Identify any barriers that exist and put a plan into place to help reduce/remove these barriers.

Ensure your team is on board. It is important that staff are committed and are clear about what is expected of them. Start by looking at position descriptions; ensure tasks and job responsibilities are clear. This makes it possible to measure goals and easier to evaluate individual performance.

Implementation needs to occur from the top down. The owner of the business should not be removing themselves from the process during execution, now is a crucial time to be present and to ensure all key staff members are being supported and guided through the process.

Have a goal tracker than can be easily accessed/viewed by all staff and keep at it. If something isn't working, assess why and make change. The road to success is always under construction.

Rare disease strategy call

A MCKELL Institute report has recommended Australia adopt a National Strategy for Rare Diseases that provides an holistic approach to rare disease management, as well as being more mindful of international practice when developing policy frameworks.

The report, which received financial assistance from the Medicines Australia Rare Disease Issues Group, included a research review and pharma company consultation, and said Australia's system for funding new therapies for rare diseases needed reform.

It said in the last four years only two therapies had been approved under Australia's current program of rare disease therapies and that Australians generally waited from two to four years longer for access to therapies available in comparable countries such as the UK.

The report said there was no common definition of a rare disease in the Australian health system and the Therapeutic Goods Act's limit for orphan drug registration captured fewer rare diseases than in comparable countries.

The report would be submitted to the government review of the funding rare diseases program.

Medicines Australia (MA) ceo Tim James said there was a clear need to develop a national strategy for rare diseases, including policies to foster more R&D of new therapies.

"Australia lacks an holistic and coordinated approach to providing access to treatments for patients with a rare disease.

"In Australia, the small number of patients with these conditions means they can often be difficult to diagnose, and fall through the gaps of our healthcare system."

MA had also submitted to the Life Saving Drugs Program review.

CLICK HERE to access the report.

Pharmacist sentenced

A PHARMACIST working in a Melbourne pharmacy has been found guilty of digital rape of a 22 year old customer seeking advice for a rash, as reported in Melbourne's *Herald Sun*.

The offender was arrested trying to leave Australia and his subsequent arraignment resulted in a six month jail sentence.

CLICK HERE for the sentencing.

Clopidogrel or aspirin

A NEW study published in *BMJ Open* has demonstrated that among patients with an ischaemic stroke while taking aspirin, clopidogrel initiation was associated with fewer recurrent vascular events than aspirin reinitiation.

CLICK HERE for the study.



DISPENSARY CORNER

CREATIVE communicator.

If you are wanting to communicate with your customers in a highly creative way, you would do well to check out a new podcast titled *The Life Apotheque*.

Kirstin Kooda, a pharmacy resident, has created the podcast as a combination of pharmacology, music and poetry, *Pharmacy Times* reported.

Her episode on paracetamol (acetaminophen in the US), alerts listeners to the positive and potential negative effects of the drug, followed by some Ellen Birath Band music and a reading of the poem 'The Painter Rearranges the Mirrors' by Cole Swensen, the report said.

Other topics tackled include Ebola, hepatitis C, measles vaccine and acetazolamide.

So you wouldn't be out there if you had some Stravinsky and Wordsworth to accompany the next script dispensed.

CLICK HERE for the podcast.

AT HOME on Lego wheels.

Tortoises tend to be one of those animals that come in for a bit of a ribbing at the best of times, but no-one with a bit of medical interest could help but feel positive about this story.

Hardly a 'runner', this tortoise, named Blade by its owner Iris Peste, had the unhappy experience of losing the use of his legs through a series of health-related issues including worms and a growth disorder, according to *Orange News*.

Although the diminutive reptile will regain full function in his legs, his owner has come up with an ingenious Leg-o solution.

He now moves around supported by Lego wheels on a Lego frame.

Win with AROMABABY

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and *Aromababy* are giving readers the chance to win an Aromababy Hair and Body Kit.

Aromababy's Pure Hair Cleanse has been soothing scalps and cradle cap for almost two decades. As the first sulphate free and low-foam baby shampoo enriched with natural oils, this mild shampoo substitute is like all Aromababy products, based on research, the company says. It is suitable for anyone with dry scalp concerns.

To win, be the first person from **NSW** or **ACT** to send the correct answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



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