

400th Priceline Pharmacy

THE 400th Priceline Pharmacy opened today in Elmore Vale, NSW.

API ceo Stephen Roche said it showed the strong connection the company had with its two key audiences, customers and franchise partners.

API said it looked to add a further 20 stores in the 2015 financial year.

It posted an underlying profit of \$31.7m for the year to August (PD 23 Oct).

RGH on prucalopride

THIS week's RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin discusses issues around the use of prucalopride for chronic constipation.

CLICK HERE to access the bulletin.

"Stop \$20 slug" - CHF

CONSUMERS Health Forum (CHF) ceo Adam Stankevicius has said that even though the increase in the PBS co-payment and a \$7 GP co-payment have been taken from the Senate Order of Business for pre-Christmas sessions, the government has expressed its determination to push ahead.

"The Government this week put on hold its plan for rises of up to \$5.80 in prescription medicine charges because it can't get the slug past the Senate.

"But that rise remains Government policy, and it has not abandoned its plans for a \$7 Medicare co-payment, or a variant impost."

Paperless trial at St Stephen's

THE Department of Health has given special authorisation to St Stephen's Private Hospital to undertake a paperless prescribing, dispensing and claiming trial.

All medication transactions would be done electronically, with the government committing \$21.2m to fit out the hospital with the latest eHealth technology, the Department said.

Minister for Health Peter Dutton said the St Stephen's trial would be used to refine the hospital electronic medication chart, soon to be in widespread use in Australian hospitals.

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is developing a standard medication chart for use in hospitals, with pilots in private hospitals due to start in March and in public hospitals in May, available nationally by May 2016 (PD 29 Jul).

Expressions of interest for

participation in the first phase of the trial are currently being sought by the Commission (PD 02 Dec).

A Department of Health spokeswoman said the St Stephen's trial was complementary to the Commission's.

St Stephen's would be the first hospital to participate in the final phase of the Commission's two phase trial, a transition to a completely paperless, fully digital prescribing, dispensing and claiming process, the spokeswoman said, due to be completed in 2017.

Both projects were part of the larger medcharts program managed by the Department.

They represented different components and stages in the trial, she said.

CLICK HERE for more information about St Stephen's opening.

NZ cancer patient risk

MORE than 750 New Zealanders who die of cancer each year would have survived if they lived in Australia, according to a report presented at the World Cancer Congress.

Auckland University Professor Mark Elwood said over time mortality rates had dropped significantly in both countries but the gap of about 10% in outcomes for New Zealand cancer patients compared with those in Australia had not moved since a study by Otago University 12 years ago, believed to be due to specific issues in primary care.

CLICK HERE for the congress site.

Compounding fail

A TENNESSEE pharmacy has pleaded guilty to a misdemeanour criminal violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

The offence related to shipment of methylprednisolone acetate (MPA) that was adulterated because it contained microbial contamination, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said.

The pharmacy recalled the batches and owner David Newbaker and company were ordered to pay a US\$25,000 fine, the FDA said.

CLICK HERE for more.

TGA ticks Vimizim

THE TGA has approved BioMarin's Vimizim (elosulfase alfa) for registration for the treatment of patients with the rare genetic condition mucopolysaccharidosis type IVA, also known as Morquio A syndrome, after the medication was reviewed under the orphan drug program, the company said.

Guild S3 training

THE Pharmacy Guild has launched an online training course to help pharmacists improve the way they recommend and sell pharmacist only medicines.

These could achieve better health outcomes for customers as well as yield higher gross profit, a spokesperson said.

The training course looked at perceived barriers to better utilisation of the category, such as managing a pharmacist's workload to allow more time with patients, and better referral to pharmacist procedures, the Guild said.

Executive director David Quilty said capitalising on the opportunities provided by S3 medicines was an "essential component" of business growth.

The Guild training is free to members and \$250 for non-members, available via myCPD.

CLICK HERE for more.

The training course follows the launch of the free Pharmacy Forward training course by Reckitt Benckiser, which taught the lessons of the Pain Smart Challenge, a year long case study of three pharmacies investing in and maximising the S3 category (PD 20 Jun).

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ACCC assesses Warehouse complaint

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is assessing whether Chemist Warehouse's alleged conduct contravenes Australian Consumer Law, after Pharmacy Guild Victoria president Anthony Tassone wrote to the Commission regarding the use of a 'normal price' and claimed savings on receipts (**PD** 18 Nov).

Guild Update

Pharmacist Employers must check registrations of staff

PHARMACISTS must have renewed their registration by 30 November. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), on behalf of the Pharmacy Board of Australia, is sending registered practitioners a series of email and hard copy reminders to renew. Anyone who hasn't received a reminder to renew should phone AHPRA on 1300 419 495. Pharmacists whose application is received on time, or during the following one month late period, can continue practising while their application is processed. Pharmacists who do not apply to renew their registration by 31 December 2014 will have lapsed registration. They will be removed from the Register of Pharmacists and will not be able to practise their profession in Australia. As part of QCPP requirements, all QCPP accredited pharmacies must ensure each pharmacist who is employed or contracted by the pharmacy maintains registration with the Pharmacy Board of Australia. All pharmacist employers should check that your employee pharmacists have current professional registration.

PDSA boosts MM

A COLLABORATIVE quality-improvement approach based on plan-do-study-act (PDSA) cycles can improve medication management (MM), a French teaching hospital-based study said.

With medication errors as the third leading cause of serious adverse events in France, the study, published in the *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy*, demonstrated that this approach improved MM, medication reconciliation and hence reduced medication errors also, the study said.

CLICK HERE for the study.

Reliability concerns

SOME EU member states have decided to suspend the marketing authorisations of medicines that have been authorised on the basis of studies conducted at the GVK Biosciences site in Hyderabad, India, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has said.

The EMA said it was currently reviewing findings of non compliance with good clinical practice at the site, following an inspection by the French medicines agency which "raised concerns about the reliability of studies conducted at the site between 2008 and 2014".

CLICK HERE for more.

NZ Ebola response

EIGHTY two New Zealanders have registered interest in joining the mission to Sierra Leone to operate a 100-bed Ebola treatment centre, towards which the Australian government is contributing \$20m and the staff of which would include Australian volunteers (**PD** 06 Nov).

Pharmacy Today reported that this included four pharmacists.

NZ Health Minister Dr Jonathan Coleman said 24 Kiwis would be deployed, with Aspen Medical contracted to select, train and deploy the volunteers by the Australian government.

The first deployment would take place next year, he said.

Industry action - MA

MEDICINES Australia (MA) ceo Tim James has affirmed the pharmaceutical industry's commitment to the WHO Global Action plan on non-communicable diseases and access to cancer medicines.

James was presenting to the World Cancer Congress on behalf of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) and championing the Association's new publication *Enhancing Access To Cancer Care*.

CLICK HERE for more detail.

DISPENSARY CORNER

WALKING frame of doom.

As a pharmacist, you most likely deal with elderly people every day, so how about ones that are packing heat?

Sixty eight year old Joseph Sapienza in Gastonia, North Carolina, scared off two men in ski masks trying to break into his home by using a gun affixed to his walking frame, or 'walker', *Associated Press* reported.

Sapienza then reportedly taped a note to the front door of his house saying if the would-be thieves returned, he'd be waiting for them, the publication reported.

At the risk of sounding obsessed, North Carolina is but one state over from Georgia, and **walkers** are generally known for bringing pain, not protecting people from it...

SOMETHING'S not right.

If your pharmacy looks a little different this morning, it's entirely possible someone's swapped all your furniture while you were away.

We know, because a US man has been accused of doing just this to his neighbours while they were away on holiday, the *Associated Press* reported.

Apparently, the couple returned to their home to find a love seat, matching chair and other possessions gone, replaced by a recliner and TV stand, the publication reported, with information on a pizza receipt leading police to the culprit.

BRAIN breaking news.

In an update to our braintacular story in Friday's **PD**, the roughly 100 brains thought to be stolen from the University of Texas were actually destroyed in 2002, *Reuters* reported.

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



Can adults use Aromababy's Pure Hair Cleanse?

Hint: www.aromababy.com

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Melanie Sykes-Bridge** from the **Pharmacy Guild of Australia**.

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