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INNER HEALTH PLUS

CSL profits up

CSL Ltd announced its half year results to December, with net profit after tax up 3% on the year before period to US\$646m.

This was on revenue of US\$2.69b, up 5% on the previous period.

Its immunoglobulin product sales grew 7% to US\$1.09b in a global market which remained "robust", the company said.

CSL ceo Paul Perreault said a new drug the company was developing to stop recurring heart attacks had the potential to "transform our business", *News.com.au* reported.

The company was starting a Phase IIb global clinical trial this year for the drug, it said.

More statins - NICE

THE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has updated guidelines on lipid modification, proposing that the threshold for offering statins to people to prevent cardiovascular disease (CVD) be halved.

Currently, people with a 20% or more 10 year risk of developing CVD are offered statins, but the draft guidance recommends offering statins to people with a 10% or greater risk.

NICE Centre for Clinical Practice director Professor Mark Baker said people should be encouraged to address lifestyle factors, and statins should be offered to many more people, as their effectiveness was well proven and cost had fallen.

NICE was calling for views on the draft guidance and registered stakeholders had until 26 Mar to comment.

ACCC takes Pfizer action

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has started proceedings in the Federal Court against Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd for alleged misuse of market power and exclusive dealing.

The proceedings relate to Pfizer's supply of atorvastatin, used to lower cholesterol, to pharmacies.

The ACCC alleged that in early 2012, Pfizer offered discounts and the payment of rebates accrued on sales of Pfizer's originator brand of atorvastatin, Lipitor, conditional upon pharmacies acquiring a minimum of up to 12 months' supply of Pfizer's generic product.

Lipitor was the highest selling prescription medicine under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for a number of years and prior to May 2012, annual sales exceeded \$700 million, the ACCC said.

These offers were first made prior to the expiration of Pfizer's patent protection for the atorvastatin molecule in May 2012, the ACCC said.

ACCC chairman and ceo Rod

Sims said the commission alleged that Pfizer engaged in the conduct with the purpose of deterring or preventing competitors in the market for atorvastatin from engaging in competitive conduct, as well as for the purpose of substantially lessening competition.

"Deterring anti-competitive conduct is an ACCC enforcement priority because of the harm that it can cause to the competitive process and ultimately to consumers, particularly with such a widely used product.

"This case also raises an important public interest issue regarding the conduct of a patent holder nearing the expiry of that patent and what constitutes permissible competitive conduct."

Pfizer said it believed strongly that the offers referred to by the ACCC were competitive.

"We will vigorously defend the proceedings.

"As the matter is before the court, it is inappropriate for us to comment further."

The ACCC is seeking pecuniary penalties, declarations and costs.

A directions hearing is set for 18 Mar in the Federal Court in Sydney.

Oze pharmacies sold

OZE-PHARMACY has sold four pharmacies to Good Price Pharmacy franchise operators.

Oze owner Warren Turner said the pharmacies in Castle Hill and Penrith would be rolled into the Good Price brand at some stage this year, with the pharmacies in Hornsby and Mona Vale continuing under Turner's ownership and the Oze brand until they were incorporated into the Good Price group as franchise operations, towards the end of the year or early next year.

Another Oze pharmacy in Belconnen had been sold to a local operator, Turner said.

The Blacktown pharmacy would also be sold, Turner said.

Staff would remain with the stores in the employ of the new owner but there had been three redundancies in the head office since Good Price had its own management team.

Turner owned two further pharmacies and would focus more on their activities and less on corporate development of a group.

He said he was happy with the move as Good Price was a good fit with Oze-Pharmacy's values of fairness, integrity and respect.

FDA expands Imbruvica

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has expanded the use of Imbruvica (ibrutinib) for chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) patients who have had at least one previous therapy.

This provided an important new treatment option for CLL patients whose cancer progressed despite previous therapy, FDA Office of Hematology and Oncology director Richard Pazdur said.

Win [A'kin] Purely Revitalising Lifting Eye Creme

Every day this week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an [A'kin] Purely Revitalising Lifting Eye Creme.

Only the [A'kin] by Purist Purely Revitalising Range harnesses the pure power of naturally potent antioxidants & omega oils to brighten, firm & lift skin for a more youthful looking, radiant you.

This new eye crème naturally combats the signs of ageing by lifting and revitalising the fine skin around your eyes & brightening the delicate eye area.

For more information visit: www.purist.com.

To win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Name two of the three benefits of the [A'kin] Purely Revitalising Night Creme?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Hayley Fejer** from **Actegy**.



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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Southern Highlands, NSW (Job# 2010401)
2.5 hrs from Sydney - long w/nd every 2nd week. Accommodation assistance.
- **Senior Clinical Pharmacist** - Eyre Peninsula, SA (Job# 2010381)
This truly is an exciting opportunity with specialised Clinical services.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Capricornia Region, QLD (Job# 2010226)
Build your pharmacy career with professional services and customer focus.

Share your career vision with us and we'll help get you there!

“eRx Express creates loyalty with customers helping them return to us rather than have scripts dispensed elsewhere”

Steve Speirs – Exhibition Pharmacy

TGA updates ARGB

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has updated Appendix 4 of the Australian Regulatory Guidelines for Biologicals (ARGB) to improve guidance and remove duplication. To view it, [CLICK HERE](#).

Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

- 21-23 Feb:** CPD by the SEA - NSW Convention; Novotel Sydney Manly Pacific www.cpdbythesea.com.au
- 21-23 Feb:** Foundation Clinical Pharmacy Practice Seminar; InterContinental Adelaide - see more at: www.shpa.org.au
- 23 Feb:** Complementary Medicines: an evidence-guided approach; Melbourne, www.pharmeducation.com.au
- 28 Feb - 1 Mar:** Blackmores Institute Symposium; Australian Technology Park, Sydney, more info at: <http://wired.ivvy.com/event/BIS13/>
- 1-2 Mar:** Cardiology Seminar; Sofitel Gold Coast Broadbeach - visit: www.shpa.org.au
- 7-9 March:** PSA Annual Therapeutic Update; Crown Plaza Terrigal; see www.psa.org.au/conferences
- 13-16 Mar:** Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual National Conference APP 2014, Gold Coast - see www.appconference.com
- 22-23 Mar:** The Goodfellow Symposium, Auckland - see www.goodfellowsymposium.org
- 11-12 Apr:** 2nd BioCeuticals Research Symposium; Sofitel Sydney Wentworth; see: www.bioceuticals.com.au
- 12-14 Apr:** FIP Fifth Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress, Melbourne - for details [CLICK HERE](#).

HMR change 'slap in face'

PROFESSIONAL Pharmacists Australia (PPA) has said the changes to the Community Pharmacy Agreement (CPA) programs are a "slap in the face" to pharmacists who did not own a pharmacy.

The changes struck between the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the federal government (**PD** 12 Feb) include a cap on Home Medicines Reviews (HMRs) to 20 per month per service provider, which PPA president Geoff March said significantly limited the ability of an accredited pharmacist to operate in a manner allowing a fair level of remuneration.

"With these changes, an independent HMR pharmacist can only perform 20 HMRs a month, earning approximately \$46,576 a year. This equates to \$23.57 per hour – essentially the base award rate for a pharmacist."

March said the limiting of the MedsCheck/Diabetes MedsCheck to 10 per month per pharmacy showed the Guild did not value the role of professional services in community pharmacy.

A Guild spokesman said it had had to work within the existing budget and where there was not enough funding to meet demand, the Guild had tried to find as fair a solution as possible.

"While we understand that pharmacies and pharmacists will be impacted, we have ensured these programs will continue throughout the remainder of the Agreement; that they will be focussed more on patients in greatest need; and

50 years of medicine

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has published 'Fifty years of independent expert advice on prescription medicines', which highlights a number of achievements of the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee (ADEC) and its successor, the Advisory Committee on Prescription Medicines, as well as looking at the tragedy which prompted the foundation of the ADEC in 1963, the prescribing of thalidomide to pregnant women.

To read the report, [CLICK HERE](#).

that other areas of the Agreement will not be adversely affected by overruns in these programs."

MEANWHILE the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) said it was unacceptable to reduce access to services that improved medication use as it would result in adverse outcomes for patients.

"SHPA has grave concerns that the proposed cap of 20 per month will compromise both patient safety and the profession's ability to provide comprehensive medication review services outside the acute care setting."

The Consumers Health Forum (CHF) spokesman Mark Metherell said consumers valued the home review programs which resulted in a reduction in medication misadventure.

"CHF is concerned that the Government has made a 'closed shop' agreement on this issue with the Guild without consulting consumers."

Guild's new 5CPA FAQ

TO address queries, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (PGA) has released a Frequently Asked Questions document outlining the changes to the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (5CPA) (**PD** yesterday) and detailing the implications.

The document contains links to further documentation and to sources for advice and a help line.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the FAQs.

PHARMAC 'vibrant'

PHARMAC said more companies bid to be suppliers through its tender than ever before.

The tender asked for pricing proposals for off-patent medicines listed on the Schedule and the round had closed with almost 2500 offers from 54 companies, 1000 times more than the previous year.

This was the largest number of offers and companies ever involved, showing NZ had a "vibrant and healthy" pharmaceutical supply market, PHARMAC director of operations Sarah Fitt said.

DISPENSARY CORNER



THIS news is hot.

Now this is the kind of newspaper man you want on your route - a man known only as 'Taz' saw a couples' home on fire in North Phoenix and knocked frantically on the door.

Owners Bob and Marcia Collier had been asleep and thought someone was breaking in so Bob grabbed his gun, as you do, only to find the newspaper delivery man was trying to alert them to the fact that their home was on fire, *KPHO CBS 5* reported.

The couple escaped injury from the kitchen fire and met up with Taz on an early morning route to thank him, *KPHO CBS 5* said.

EXCUSE me officer.

This has got to be one of the more interesting police excuses - a 10 year old Norwegian boy crashed his parents' car into a ditch and told local police he was a dwarf who had forgotten his driving license.

Around 6am near a town some 110km north of Oslo, the boy loaded the car up with his 18 month old sister and started out for his grandparents' house, getting about 10km before veering off the road and being found by a snowplow driver, *Stuff.co.nz* reported.

The children were not injured but will probably be under fairly strict supervision from their very upset parents from now on.

DISPOSE of this thoughtfully.

You've got to be careful with your work refuse, as a Papa John's pizzeria worker found out in Edinburgh.

Passer-by Ailsa Burn-Murdoch took a photo of pizza dough expanding in mountainous, glutinous heaps out of a recycling bin and tweeted it, where it quickly went viral, *Orange News* reported.

The company responded, saying it was currently investigating the issue further.