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Enbrel UK supply risk

THE UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has warned that Enbrel (etanercept) prefilled syringes and pens of differing strengths may shortly suffer disrupted supply.



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Utilise pharmacist skills

Using pharmacists' skills better could help assuage concerns over rising health costs, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) national president Grant Kardachi said.

The comments followed Health Minister Peter Dutton's comments in the *Sydney Morning Herald* that an overhaul of Medicare would be needed, due to spiralling costs, with figures quoted including an annual spend increase of 120% since 2002-03, and 79% growth in Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) spending.

Kardachi said the MedsChecks, Diabetes MedsChecks and Home Medicines Reviews, which the government had recently capped, were valuable in ensuring quality use of medicines and medication compliance.

"They are services which improve health outcomes and help to reduce the overall budgetary impact by helping to manage existing conditions and ensuring people are taking their medicines appropriately and as directed."

Kardachi said the PSA's Budget submission also went over ways pharmacists could reduce health costs, including better utilisation of pharmacists' skills to address unmet needs.

"The introduction of the caps reduces the very services which are part of the solution."

A Generic Medicines Industry Association (GMiA) spokesperson has said that health minister Peter Dutton's reference to the growing cost of the PBS could

be misinterpreted, given that "government expenditure on the PBS is in decline, according to the Government's own data."

Treasury's estimate for 2013-14 PBS will be \$526 million lower than budgeted in May 2013 and the Health Department's forecast for the next four years will be almost \$4 billion lower than original May budget estimates, GMiA said.

"No further reform of the PBS is warranted," it concluded.

Pfizer launches mag

PFIZER has launched *Pharmacy Business Insight*, a quarterly publication with a focus on the business of healthcare which will be distributed to more than 5000 pharmacies.

Wholly sponsored by Pfizer, *PBI's* topics would be chosen by an editorial committee, chaired by Peter Switzer.

Content would reflect the independent view of contributors, Pfizer said.

The publication would be launched at APP in March.

The committee includes Peter Waterman and Bruce Annabel.

GSK poppy security

GLAXOSMITHKLINE (GSK) has responded to concerns about poppy crop security, saying it takes this very seriously and has worked in partnership with poppy growers and the industry to make sure measures were in place such as fencing and regular monitoring.

"Any breach of security is of concern to GSK and we sympathise with anyone directly or indirectly impacted."

GSK advised those seeking information on security issues to contact the Tasmanian police.

New Aussie FIP editor

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has appointed Monash University associate professor Jennifer Marriott as the associate editor for *Pharmacy Education*.

The international journal publishes pharmaceutical education research and evaluation, and Marriott will begin this month, responsible for modernising the journal and introducing new technologies to enable more efficient manuscript processing.

The journal published about 60 peer reviewed manuscripts yearly.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Clinical Pharmacist** - Gold Coast, QLD (Job# 2010416)
F/time to start asap. Hospital exp essential - oncology exp ideally.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Eyre Peninsula, SA (Job# 2010357)
Get work/life balance with 5.5 days per week in a laid-back country town.
- **Pharmacist** - Riverina Region, NSW (Job# 2009912)
F/time career opportunity Clinical and Community work available.

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Fiona Wailes, Kofeds Pharmacy

Nesina Met on PBS

THE first fixed dose combination of a DPP-4 inhibitor and metformin has been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) under specific conditions. Takeda's alogliptin/metformin combination is named Nesina Met.

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](#).

Priceline's med disposal

PRICELINE Pharmacy is allowing customers to take expired or unwanted medication to one of its 225 pharmacies for safe, free disposal (**pictured**).

The company said on average each pharmacy had filled three 20 litre bins since the programme began in November.

Dispensary services manager



Regina Cowie said the program had been launched because customers needed to be able to dispose of expired medication in a secure and environmentally responsible way.

“The results also indicate that the offer to help customers dispose of their unwanted medicines for free has been effective in driving sales, as customers are purchasing new products to replenish their medicine cabinets at the same time.”

The Hong Kong Academy of Pharmacy had recommended previously that a system of disposal through pharmacies needed to be put in place in the country (**PD** 30 Jan).

Coloplast recall

COLOPLAST has issued a recall for its Peristeen anal irrigation system, with the product's instructions for use updated due to a review's finding of best practice for transanal irrigation for adults.

The recall is in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) who said there were no faults or changes to the device itself.

Actavis buys Forest

ACTAVIS has agreed to buy Forest Laboratories Inc, valued at about US\$25b.

The combined firm would offer generic, branded drugs, and was designed partly to help deal with the changing health landscape, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

WIN WITH PLUNKETTS

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving two lucky readers the chance to win a **Plunketts Superfade UV Day Shield SPF30+** - a daily facial moisturiser which helps prevent pigmentation and sun damage.

Are Age Spots Ageing You?

John Plunkett's Superfade is clinically proven, pharmacy strength, pigmentation correction and the only pharmacy medicine in Australia that contains the powerful fading ingredient that has been proven to help fade unwanted pigmentation.

See www.superfade.com.au for more information.

To win, be one of the first 2 people to send in the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Is Superfade available in supermarkets?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner **Felicia Woong** from **Pikes D&N Pharmacy**.



DISPENSARY CORNER

NEW business model?

Look, we're not encouraging licentious labels or anything but if the actions of one Utah mother are anything to go by, it could be a winning business strategy; Judy Cox was so upset about “indecent” t-shirts, featuring scantily dressed models she saw at the University Mall in Orem, that she bought the entire stock in store, the *Associated Press* reported.

Cox said she complained but was told the shirts couldn't be removed without corporate office approval - so she bought all 19 for a total of US\$597, the *AP* said.

Cox said she would return the shirts later, and had spoken with a lawyer about whether the images violated city code, the *AP* reported.

ENOUGH to curl your hair.

This is what happens when BBC Radio 1 manages to convince Sir David Attenborough to narrate the curling of Team Great Britain and Team USA at the Sochi Olympics.

Attenborough talks about the primal urges and the marking of the curlers' territory, saying the aim of the “ritual” was to land the “walnut” in the centre of the “nest,” the *Telegraph* reported.

“The frisking is frantic and often futile, making no difference to the net thrust, but it is playful and what makes this game the sliding curlers play so magical.”

The YouTube video with the narration is, alas, not available in Australia, but if the transcription is anything to go by, Attenborough should just narrate every event.

DRY clean only.

A cleaner in Southern Italy has thrown away two contemporary artworks that were meant to be part of an exhibition, the *Associated Press* reported.

The cleaning company would use its insurance to pay for the art works, estimated at €10,000.