

New PBS meds listed

NEW medicines have been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

The medicines cover glaucoma, diabetes and advanced soft tissue sarcoma.

For diabetes, two combination medicines have been listed; linagliptin with metformin (Trajenta Duo) and saxagliptin with metformin (Kombiglyze), which Minister for Health Peter Dutton said would save patients up to \$36.90 every time they got a script filled.

Pazopanib (Votrient) had been approved for the treatment of advanced soft tissue sarcoma, with patients paying around \$21,000 per treatment cycle without subsidised access, Dutton said.

The PBS Growth Hormone Programme, which treats nearly 1,900 children and adolescents, would be extended to cover patients with hypothalamic-pituitary disease who had biochemical growth hormone deficiency, with higher doses of growth hormone accessible through the programme for patients where appropriate.

The changes would take effect on 01 Mar, the Department of Health said.

Pfizer renews with DHL

PFIZER has retained DHL as the logistics provider for its direct distribution model until the end of 2016.

The model had exceeded targets for supply of medicines to pharmacies, DHL Supply Chain Life Sciences and Healthcare APMEA vice president Saul Resnick said.

"Using this model, pharmacies can be guaranteed of a reliable, consistent and effective service."

DHL said it had processed more than 1.3m orders since 01 Feb 2011, with 99.5% of orders delivered in full and on time.

The controversial model caused dissatisfaction with some pharmacists upon its introduction in Feb 2011, with an online Pharmacy Guild of Australia survey to which 911 pharmacists contributed, saying 8,194 patients were adversely impacted by the model, with 88% saying it had increased patient waiting times (*PD* 03 Nov 2011).

The National Pharmaceutical Services Association also published research in Jan 2012 looking at traffic in more than 500 community pharmacies, which found that customers who lodged scripts after cut-off times had to wait at

least two days for delivery of Pfizer medicines not stocked by the pharmacist (*PD* 30 Jan 2012).

Pfizer Global Established Pharma ANZ lead Jenny Alltoft said pharmacists were placing an average of 36,000 orders with the company each month, and Pfizer was working with DHL to ensure pharmacists and patients were getting medicines in a timely and reliable manner.

"We are committed to keeping up this high standard, as an important way of working together with pharmacies to meet the health needs of patients."

EU bans menthol cigs

THE European Union has voted to introduce anti-smoking legislation to reduce the number of smokers by 2.4 million.

According to the *BBC News*, the EU Tobacco Products Ruling demands that all packaging must have health warnings covering at least 65% of the front and back area and flavoured cigarettes such as menthol cigs are to be banned.

In addition the EU will track distribution of cigarettes more tightly to combat illegal trade, *BBC News* reported.

Antibiotic input to EU

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) has been asked by the European Commission to provide scientific advice around the impact on public health and animal health from the use of antibiotics in animals.

To provide stakeholders with the opportunity to input information, the EMA is organising a consultation exercise as a part of the preparation of the advice.

To see details **CLICK HERE**.

Cenovis signs Cahill

CENOVIS has partnered with Socceroo player Tim Cahill, who will appear in television commercials and in-store point of sale from May.

He will also appear in digital campaigns and help with promotions later in the year.

Cenovis was the official vitamin for the Socceroos, and partnered with Cahill because of shared values of commitment to family, health and well-being, Sanofi Consumer Healthcare director Luke Fitzgerald said.

PCEHR avail 99.6%

THE Federal Department of Health has responded to suggestions the portal into the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR) system was experiencing major issues, saying the system had been available 99.6% of the time in recent months.

A spokeswoman for the department said it was important to note that providers would mainly access the PCEHR through clinical software and that the provider portal was designed to support those who did not use or have access to PCEHR compliant systems.

Internal testing had confirmed the portal remained operational all of yesterday, but that there had been reports of problems, one with non-supported browsers and another with loading new NASH certificates.

"When healthcare providers access the PCEHR through their clinical information systems, there are no issues related to the type of system or browser they have."

"The issue with the loading of new NASH certificates is being followed up with DHS and the specific user."

She said sometimes a combination of circumstances could make problems appear to have come from one part of a system.



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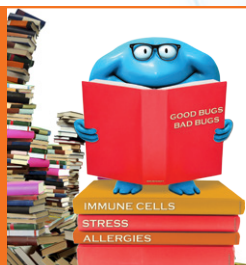
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Carnell appointment

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed the appointment of Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) ceo Kate Carnell.

The Guild said Carnell had a small business background as a community pharmacist of 20 years.

Guild executive director David Quilty said Carnell would bring a high level of understanding to the challenges facing community pharmacy.

“As a former office bearer of the Guild and more recently as CEO of beyondblue, the Guild has a strong relationship with Kate Carnell and we look forward to working with her in her new role.”

AusPARs additions

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has published new AusPARs additions, including Alemtuzumab (rch) (Lemtrada, Remniq), Levonorgestrel (Jaydess) and Ruxolitinib (Jakavi).

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

Possible e-S8 mandate

QUEENSLAND chief health officer Dr Jeannette Young said the Department of Health might mandate electronic transmission of Schedule 8 (S8) drug prescriptions in the “near future”.

The department advised Queensland pharmacies that it would not accept paper submissions of S8 prescriptions dispensed on or after 01 Feb (PD 26 Feb).

Young said the department had been receiving both paper and electronic formats, which caused an unnecessary administrative burden on pharmacies and the department.

The policy change phased out parallel submission of paper copies, as the department moved towards fully electronic record transmission and management systems, Young said.

“Electronic transmission of this information has already been taken up by the majority of Queensland community pharmacies over the

last 10 years.”

Pharmacies which did not use electronic dispensing systems would still be able to submit paper prescription copies to meet regulatory obligations, she said.

“However, the Department may mandate electronic transmission of this information in the near future with the possibility of ‘real-time’ reporting of controlled drugs being considered.”

EU guidelines

THE TGA has said following internal and external consultation, it has adopted several European Union/International Conference on Harmonisation guidelines.

These include a guideline on quality aspects on the isolation of candidate influenza vaccine viruses in cell culture and questions and answers on the ‘Guideline on the limits of genotoxic impurities’.

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

APP mobile app

THE Australian Pharmacy Professional (APP) Conference has its improved mobile app available to download on Apple and Android phones.

Features include the ability to schedule sessions, detailed speaker information and photos, push notifications, with the ability to send out messages to delegates, and exhibitor mapping.

To download, search ‘Pharmacy Guild Conference 2014’ in the Apple or Play stores.

Hospira’s new team

HOSPIRA Australia/New Zealand has a new leadership team who will support vice president Mark Crotty.

These changes followed a 2013 restructuring, the company said.

The team includes corporate affairs manager Ken Griffin, commercial intelligence manager Simon Higgins, marketing director Mark Jagger and human resources head Tracey May, who join existing members of the ANZ team.

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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.

- 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
- 8-9 Mar:** ACNEM Training; Wellington, NZ; visit: www.acnem.org
- 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
- 4-6 Apr:** Australian Fitness & Health Expo; Melbourne; see: www.fitnessexpo.com.au
- 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**.
- 3-4 May:** 4th International Conference on the Science of Nutrition in Medicine and Healthcare Conference; Gold Coast; for more info see: www.nutritionmedicine.org.au
- 1-3 Jun:** ConPharm 2014; Port Douglas; for more info go to: www.conpharm14.com.au
- 1-3 Jun:** 20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014); Melbourne; see more at: www.aids2014.org

Blackmores profit down

BLACKMORES Limited has reported \$12.1m in net profit after tax for the first half of the 2014 financial year, down 10.7% on the year ago period.

In Australia, the company reported sales of \$106.8m, down 1%.

Blackmores said it did not report on net profit after tax by segment.

Second quarter sales were up 6%, with Earnings Before Interest and Tax (EBIT) for the half at \$17.1m, down 13%, which Blackmores said was due to increased raw material costs from the depreciating Australian dollar, and investment in brand building activities.

Blackmores said its second quarter had partially mitigated a "disappointing" first quarter result, with groups sales overall up 8% from October to December, and overall group sales up 3.2% to \$169.9m.

This first quarter saw Blackmores report profit after tax of \$5.4m, down 31% from the previous corresponding period.

Group sales overall were down 1% to \$84m and Australian retail sales were down 7%, with Blackmores saying pricing pressure

had intensified, there had been a slowdown in the category and major discount pharmacy continued to grow.

ASMI warns mothers

THE Australian Self-Medication Industry (ASMI) has reminded consumers that over-the-counter analgesics, like all other medicines, should only be used during pregnancy on advice of a doctor.

This was in response to a study reported in *JAMA Pediatrics* that suggested an association between the use of paracetamol in pregnancy and the development of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder in children (**PD** 26 Feb).

Both the authors of the paper and an editorial said that caution in interpreting results was needed and the study needed to be repeated.

In Australia NPS MedicineWise has added its voice agreeing that more research is needed before a definite association can be proven.

NPS also advised that pregnant women should talk to their health professional before stopping or making changes to treatments.

DISPENSARY CORNER

BAD for bus-iness.

If you're thinking of making a lengthy bus trip, take heed - Greyhound passengers headed to Montreal arrived 12 hours late when they had to wait eight hours for a replacement driver.

The bus stopped in Vermont at 2am, where the driver disembarked and at 10am, a new driver turned up, *WCAX Channel 3* reported.

At noon, they had to wait three more hours for yet another driver, with one student missing an exam due to the delay, the publication reported.

Greyhound told *WCAX* its computer system went down so the company couldn't track and schedule drivers.

BANKSY on it.

Before you wash off that graffiti on your pharmacy wall, you may want to look a little closer - a mural created by British street artist Banksy on the side of a building has sold for US\$575,000 at a Miami auction.

The mural, dubbed 'Kissing Coppers', originally appeared on the side of the Prince Albert Pub in Brighton in 2005, *Reuters* reported.

It wouldn't be the first time Banksy's work has been removed; Transport for London workers painted over the Pulp Fiction piece near Old Street tube station, estimated to be worth more than £300,000, saying graffiti removal teams were professional cleaners, not professional art critics.

PRECOCIOUS doesn't cover it.

A three year old Arizona girl has been accepted into Mensa, with an IQ above 160.

Alexis Martin reads at a fifth grade level and taught herself Spanish using her parents' iPad, *Reuters* reported.

Martin's father told *ABC15* that his daughter could recite her bedtime story exactly, from the night before, at one year old.

WIN A DESIGNER BRANDS PRIZE PACK

This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a **Designer Brands** prize pack, valued at \$31.

Each pack includes an Outrageous Volume Mascara, two nail polishes and a kohl pencil.

Outrageous Volume Mascara is a mega-impact volume mascara that will give you bold and dense lashes for a show stopping look.

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To win this exciting prize pack, simply be the first person to correctly answer the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.



What is the tube of the mascara like?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner **Adrian Sung** from **Pharmacy Online Discount Outlet**.