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THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised that Turkmarket's Virility Pills VP-RX have been removed from the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

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 Pharmaceutical Society of Australia



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PBAC transparency hailed

MEDICINES Australia (MA) has welcomed the extended 10 week publication time for the agenda for Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee meetings that comes into effect today.

The agenda for each PBAC meeting will now be published 10 weeks prior to the meeting, as opposed to the six weeks that had been normal practice until today.

"Medicines Australia supports the longer time period of publication of the PBAC agenda prior to each meeting," said Medicines Australia chief executive, Dr Brendan Shaw.

"It means consumers, consumer groups, and members of the

general public will now have more time to prepare submissions and make comments to the PBAC on new medicines and vaccines seeking listing on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

"Industry has worked with government, technical experts and patient groups to secure this improvement to the PBAC system.

"This included having to manage important commercial-in-confidence issues.

"Some years ago," Shaw added, "industry worked with government and consumer groups to have the PBAC agenda published which was a real innovation at the time.

"Now we have agreed to publish the agenda earlier to give people more time to input into the PBAC process."

[CLICK HERE](#) for the March 2014 PBAC meeting agenda.

Phcy lung cancer test

PHARMACISTS in the UK are being targetted as the first option to test a device designed to detect lung cancer at an early stage.

Researchers at the University of Huddersfield are working on a breathalyser device that will be able to detect very early signs of the disease, making a cure much more likely.

Pharmacists have been identified as the best prospect to administer a test that has the potential to save hundreds of thousands of lives.

The scenario envisaged is that whenever a patient presents at their local pharmacy to receive counselling related to smoking cessation, they will be offered the quick & simple breath test.

The program will be part of the trend towards pharmacists increasing front-line healthcare role.

NPS update on statins

NPS MedicineWise has posted an FAQ page on their website focusing on the issues around statins and cardiovascular disease.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access.

APAC Scholarship

NPS MedicineWise has announced its Asia-Pacific Scholarship for an individual working in quality use of medicines in the Asia Pacific region (outside of Australia) to attend the eighth biennial National Medicines Symposium (NMS), promoted as Australia's pre-eminent quality use of medicines (QUM) forum.

Hosted by NPS MedicineWise every two years, the theme for the 2014 symposium is *Medicines in health: shaping our future*.

The scholarship winner will receive complementary registration to the NMS 2014 event in Brisbane, Australia from 21-23 May 2014 and up to \$5000 (AUD) to cover travel, accommodation and expenses.

The winner will provide a 10-minute oral presentation of their work as part of a concurrent session at the meeting.

Scholarship applications close on 19 February 2014 and the winner will be announced on 05 March 2014.

Applicants for the Asia-Pacific Quality Use of Medicines Scholarship should go to www.nps.org.au/nms for more information.

Shake It Up with IsoWhey® - WIN



This week **Pharmacy Daily** has teamed up with **IsoWhey** for a daily giveaway. Every day one lucky reader will have the chance to win a selected flavour from the IsoWhey range.

Scientifically formulated and recommended by practitioners, the IsoWhey range contains a balanced mix of vitamins, minerals, digestive enzymes, prebiotic fibre and probiotics. The range extends beyond weight management solutions as a comprehensive nutritional offering.

The IsoWhey range is available in five flavours: Madagascar Vanilla, Strawberry Smoothie, Ivory Coast Chocolate, Banana Smoothie & Classic Coffee. For more info, visit www.isowhey.com.au.

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

What raw superfood has now been added to the IsoWhey formula for additional benefits?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Sherree Walters** from **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia**.

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Guild Update

PPI Program

DOSE Administration Aids and/or Clinical Intervention Pharmacy Practice Incentive (PPI) periodic payment application **MUST** be lodged with The Department of Human Services (Medicare) by 14 January 2014. Pharmacists can start to claim as of January 1.

When lodging your claim with Medicare, it is not necessary for you to attach supporting documentation. All evidence to support your claim must be retained by your pharmacy as detailed in the PPI Program Specific Guidelines.

Applications received after 14 January 2014 will be rejected.

The PPI Program has been designed to ensure that patients receive the highest quality of care, information, advice and services through a robust quality framework.

To be eligible to participate in the PPI Program a pharmacy must:

- be a Section 90 Pharmacy;
- be accredited by an approved Pharmacy Accreditation Program;
- agree to publicly display and comply with the Community Pharmacy Service Charter and Customer Service Statement; and
- register for one or more of the PPI priority areas online on this website under the registration tab to meet the above Eligibility Criteria while participating in any priority areas of the PPI Program.

Find out more about the PPI program [here](#).



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

NHMRC on comp group

THE National Health and Medical Research Council said its steering group, titled 'Claiming benefits for human health not based on evidence', was one of fourteen which would identify a significant gap between existing research evidence and healthcare policy or practice, and the action the NHMRC could take to address that gap (Cases for Action).

The Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC) took exception to the title of the group, saying that to date the contribution that complementary medicines can make to health in Australia has failed to be recognised (**PD 06/01**).

An NHMRC spokesperson said the titles of the steering groups were based on the relevant NHMRC Major Health Issue.

"This Major Health Issue highlights the importance of ensuring that health policies and practices are supported by sturdy evidence. This is a broad issue, which applies to all areas of the health system."

The spokesperson said that a range of stakeholders were recently consulted to assist in identifying the particular topic for the steering group, and that the specific topic had not yet been determined.

The steering group might consult again with relevant stakeholders, such as the CHC, in developing their proposal and once developed, the NHMRC would be reviewed and assessed, including scrutiny by the NHMRC Community and Consumer Advisory Group.

"Depending on the action that NHMRC then takes, there will be further consultation."

Vit E for dementia

NEW research indicates that people with dementia could benefit from a daily dose of vitamin E.

In a cooperative randomised trial studying 561 patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, vitamin E (alpha tocopherol) and or memantine were evaluated for slowing of functional decline.

2000 IU/d of alpha tocopherol compared with placebo was demonstrated to slow decline and reduce caregiver burden suggesting a role in mild to moderate AD.

There were no significant differences in the groups receiving memantine alone or memantine plus alpha tocopherol (vitamin E).

CLICK HERE to read the abstract.

Amcal launches new-look

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals has launched a new-look pharmacy at Amcal Stud Park with the help of Amcal Ambassador Georgie Parker.

The store is the first in a series of pilot stores which implements insights gained from an international study tour involving customers and suppliers which the company co-sponsored in 2013.

CEO and managing director Mark Hooper said the store identified more popular sales areas, such as beauty, vitamins and baby and featured a more efficient dispensary, with a "significant investment" made in a new robotic dispensary system.

The Stud Park store

features a beauty and nail bar so customers can try before they buy, and the health range includes health foods in addition to normally stocked items. **Pictured below** are Georgie Parker (**left**) and Amcal Stud Park pharmacist Terry Murphy (**right**).



DISPENSARY CORNER



ONESIE for the album.

A UK woman has said the black and white polka dot onesie she was wearing when she unexpectedly gave birth probably saved her infant's life.

Jessica Wynter gave birth while crossing the car park of King's College Hospital and thanks to her onesie, instead of falling to the ground, her son Kye slid down the leg of the garment, the *Telegraph* reported.

Wynter said had she worn some other kind of clothing, her son might not have survived the fall.

Both mother and son returned home the same day, possibly with the fortuitous garment in tow.

HIDE and sleek.

Olive oil is no longer just for cooking - apparently it also makes a good lubricant for anyone stuck in whiteware.

Police in Mooroopna, Victoria, used olive oil to free a naked man who had become trapped in a top-loading washing machine, the *Guardian* reported.

The cooking ingredient and apparent lubricant was used as part of a 20 minute rescue operation to pry the man out, after he hid in the machine to surprise his wife.

Shepparton police sergeant Michelle De Araujo was quoted as saying the gentleman was "very embarrassed" with the "game gone wrong".

This follows a woman in the United States who got stuck in a washing machine while playing hide and seek.

In her case, peanut butter and ice were used before firefighters managed to extract her, the publication said.

WIGGING out.

Two women hid 1.2 kg of cocaine under their wigs while flying from Brazil to Spain, the *Huffington Post* reported.

The suspects were arrested at Madrid-Barajas Airport.