

AMT version 3 release

THE National Clinical Terminology and Information Service has announced that the release of the Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT) in the v3 model format is now available.

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QPIP vax trial extended

THE Queensland Pharmacist Immunisation Pilot (QPPI) (PD 12 May) has been extended to cover vaccinations for measles and whooping cough for adults, as well as a second flu season in 2015.

The announcement was made by the Queensland government (PD breaking news yesterday), with the extension complemented by a state-wide marketing campaign to increase uptake of funded vaccines, Premier Campbell Newman said.

Health Minister Lawrence Springborg said the extension would be limited to adults with the same QPIP protections applied to influenza vaccinations.

The trial, jointly run by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), has seen more than 10,000 influenza immunisations since it started in April (PD 02 Apr), with a report expected in October 2014.

A report on the extension would likely be available in September or October 2015 and flu vaccinations for this year would likely tail off around early September, PSA Queensland president Professor

Lisa Nissen said.

Nissen said there was a projected start date of September for providing the new vaccinations.

No changes would need to be made to the training for pharmacists, who had been trained to give vaccinations broadly.

Roughly half of the vaccinations given in the pilot had been to people who had never been, or were not regularly, immunised against influenza, Nissen said.

Pharmacy Guild Queensland president Tim Logan said accessibility was a major factor in the high uptake during the pilot and had resulted in it capturing a cohort of the population who might not normally get vaccinated.

Australian Medical Association (AMA) Council of General Practice chair Dr Brian Morton said the AMA's concerns regarding the pilot were still present and that there needed to be better evidence about accessibility.

Half a day of training was not sufficient to reassure doctors that pharmacists could handle an adverse reaction such as anaphylaxis and there were concerns about communication of vaccination between pharmacy and GP, as well as privacy, such as of appointment booking, he said.

A GP knew a patient's history and could determine contra-indications and necessity of vaccination; patient and community safety needed to be concentrated on, he said.

Guild on ATSI inequities

IN HIS latest *forefront* editorial, Pharmacy Guild executive director David Quilty has highlighted the inequities facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) populations as negotiations around the next CPA draw closer, saying that they had a mortality rate around five times higher for adults aged 35 to 44 years but only 80% of the per capita PBS spend of the overall population.

Quilty said there was a strong case for a specifically tailored medicines review service for ATSI people, focusing on adherence issues and with an emphasis on patient education, reduction of adverse medicine events and collaboration with health professionals.

The service would be delivered in a flexible and culturally appropriate way by visiting pharmacists, in liaison with local Aboriginal Health Workers, Quilty said.

To read the article, **CLICK HERE**.

Aspirin cuts cancer risk

FOUR out of 13 studies investigating the relationship between aspirin use and pancreatic cancer have demonstrated a decreased incidence of the cancer where patients have taken aspirin for some time.

For each year of regular ingestion of aspirin there were corresponding incremental decreases of developing pancreatic cancer, the paper said, published in *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention*.

CLICK HERE to access the abstract.

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New global IIT guides

NOVARTIS Pharmaceuticals has released new global guidelines for Investigator Initiated Trials (IIT), tightening its internal processes and governance measures.

An IIT may be a clinical or non-clinical study and is conducted without the company's participation, where the sponsor asks Novartis to provide either funding, drug product or both.

The new guidelines were based on six principles including robust governance systems within Novartis, global training on the guidelines for Novartis associates, including the rules of independence of third party investigators or supporters, financial transparency on funding support and requirement for third party sponsors to publish findings and safety information, the company said.

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HIV tests risk false +ves

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has said it is alarmed by the Government's decision to allow companies to apply for approval to manufacture and supply HIV home test kits (**PD** 08 Jul), saying there is potential for unnecessary patient distress.

Vice president Adjunct Associate Professor Frank Jones said tests were sensitive and had the potential to lead to a false positive rate of about 1 to 2%, which patients could receive at home without support and information from a medical professional.

RACGP called for the decision's reversal or, failing this, a requirement that suppliers provide information outlining the possibility of a false positive and a recommendation for GP follow up.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry.

BAILLIE LODGES SOLO TRAVELLER DEALS

Baillie Lodges has released a new round of its popular Sophisticated Solo packages at Capella Lodge and Southern Ocean Lodge.

Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island - stay four nights and pay for three at the island's spectacular cliff-top retreat, including exclusive guided excursions, a \$50 spa voucher, an epicurean hamper, all dining and airport transfers.

From \$3,150 per person solo for stays until 30 Sep 2014, you can save up to \$8,700 per solo traveller.

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From \$2,100 per person solo for stays until 30 Sep, you can save up to \$6,350 per solo traveller.

For details, conditions, inclusions and exclusions contact Baillie Lodges on 02 9918 4355.

API: CHF concerns invalid

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries (API) has said the concerns of the Consumer Health Forum (CHF) expressed in its submission to the Competition Policy Review were invalid due to incorrect assertions.

CHF said in its submission that it had concerns regarding the exacerbation of conflicts of interest under the Community Pharmacy Agreement (CPA) between wholesalers and retailers, saying API had links to Alphapharm and owned Priceline, Soul Pattinson, Chemworld and Pharmacist Advice.

"These ownership arrangements mean that full-line distributors and drug manufacturers are receiving payments under the CPA to review the medication regimes of patients, and that consumers are unknowingly providing personal and clinical information to pharmaceutical companies.

"Such ownership structures are akin to vertical integration and encourage profiteering at the expense of consumer outcomes."

API said it did not own the retail pharmacy outlets, that Chemworld had not operated since 2007 and API had no share in the profits made by pharmacists.

"API has a normal commercial arrangement as a distributor of Alphapharm products, as do other wholesalers.

"No other agreement or arrangement exists between API and Alphapharm."

MEANWHILE both the CHF and Chemist Warehouse submissions called for consideration of pharmacy location and ownership rules, with Chemist Warehouse's submission saying the restrictions on who could own pharmacies were "archaic", with such constraints creating financial instability that was "more likely to threaten than secure the ability of the industry to continue to provide equitable access to medicine over the medium term."

The submission said the conditions needed for new pharmacies to be established could be described as "bizarre" and taken together, represented a distortion of the market.

To read the CHF submission, **CLICK HERE** and **HERE** for the Chemist Warehouse submission.

Daffodil Day 22 Aug

CANCER Council Australia has urged all Australians to show they care about beating cancer this Daffodil Day (22 Aug) by wearing a Cancer Council pin.

To get involved and help make a difference this Daffodil Day, call the Council on 1300 65 65 85 or visit www.daffodilday.com.au.

Win a derma e® pack

This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five readers the chance to win a **derma e® Pack**.

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True or False: derma e® Psorzema products can help soothe irritated skin

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Rebecca Larcombe** from **Flinders Medical Centre**.



DISPENSARY CORNER

VARIOLA, verily.

Speaking of vaccinations, while smallpox has been eradicated, maybe we should keep a hold of the vaccine, given the news that six vials found in a storeroom in the United States have been confirmed to contain the disease.

Formerly, the only known samples of the disease had been kept in high security labs in Atlanta and Russia, but the vials were found on 01 Jul in a Food and Drug Administration lab in Bethesda, the *New York Times* reported.

The vials, which appeared to date from the 1950s, were set to be destroyed after additional tests to determine if the disease was viable, but the fact that they were found in a storeroom was termed "curious beyond belief" according to infectious disease specialist Dr William Schaffner, who said every research lab in the world was asked to submit all specimens for accounting and destruction following the disease's eradication, the publication reported.

FORGET the world cup.

Need a world cup cure? Forget Brazil's shame and revel in the fact that there's a new Harry Potter story out.

J.K.Rowling has released a short story in the form of an article by Rita Skeeter (journalism's unflattering magical avatar) detailing an older Potter and friends - but be warned, you need a fan account to read it **HERE**.

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