



HELP THEM BREAK FREE FROM THE SYMPTOMS OF MEDICALLY DIAGNOSED IBS

ETHICAL NUTRIENTS
PROFESSIONAL NATURAL MEDICINES

Always read the label. Use only as directed.

Student Biz semifinals

THE semi-finalists in the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's National Student Business Plan competition have been announced.

Eight teams from a former 10, from seven universities including University of Queensland, University of Canberra, La Trobe University and University of New England, will go through to the semi-finals based on their business plans and scores in the quarter final round.

The semi-final closes on 22 Aug with the top three teams heading on to the finals at the Pharmacy Business Network in Melbourne from 12 to 14 Sep.

The Guild said the competition aimed to encourage pharmacy students to consider how they would structure their own business and produce a business plan.

PBS hospital med charts

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is developing a national, standard medication chart for use in public and private hospitals which would provide for the prescribing, dispensing and claiming of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines directly from the chart, as appropriate.

Announced by the Department of Health (**PD** breaking news yesterday), the PBS Hospital Medication Chart Project aimed to improve the safety of medication management in hospitals through standardised medication charting and management practice, the

Commission said on its website.

This would improve work flow for health professionals in hospitals by permitting the supply and PBS claiming from the chart, it said.

Pilots in private hospitals were due to start next March and in public hospitals in May, with the charts due to be available nationally by May 2016.

The Chart would streamline PBS prescribing, dispensing and claiming in hospitals and community pharmacies and improve the work flow of healthcare providers, the Commission said.

Stakeholder consultations will be scheduled by the Department of Health along with the Commission and the Department of Human Services, to develop awareness of changes and seek advice about implementation success.

The Commission did not respond to requests for comment.

Business of health

PSA national president Grant Kardachi said at the Blackmores Institute Symposium that if pharmacies were to be health care destinations, it was important for pharmacists to investigate how to make them look like it.

"If we're going to get more involved in health care, our credibility's at stake, we've got to look like we're in the business of health care, we've got to deliver health care, but unfortunately we're always on the back foot a little bit because of the retail environment we work in."

It was a hard mix for pharmacy but the sector needed to be better at translating the true retail environment currently into an environment and a message which said the pharmacy was also in the business of health care, he said.

Competency review

THE Pharmacy Practitioner Development Committee (PPDC) has started its review of the pharmacy profession's competency standards (**PD** 23 Jul).

The 'National competency standards framework for pharmacists in Australia' issued in 2010 was formally reviewed on a regular basis and consultation forums would be conducted across the country as part of this, it said.

Expressions of interest were sought from individuals or groups to assist with the first stage, with the successful consultant able to undertake background research and literature review on competency standards development for pharmacists.

For more, email ppdc@psa.org.au.

Depression pre-term

RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin this week investigates the use of antidepressants in pregnancy; selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, tricyclic antidepressants and monoamine oxidase inhibitors are discussed.

CLICK HERE to access the bulletin.

Vit C and cancer risk

NEW analyses from Harvard researchers has indicated that long term use of vitamin C and E does not increase cancer risk.

In contrast with previous work such as the SELECT trial, the present analysis, which was a post trial follow-up of the Physicians' Health Study II (PHS II), revealed that vitamin E supplementation every other day and daily vitamin C supplementation had no effect on total cancers, the incidence of prostate cancer and other site-specific cancers.

PHS II ended in 2007 and the post trial follow-up period was 3.8 years beyond eight years of intervention.

The Harvard authors wrote in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* that the findings confirmed initial trial results and indicated that vitamin E and C supplement use had no immediate or long-term effects on cancer risk.

CLICK HERE to read the abstract.

FDA on ER oxycodone

THE U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Targiniq ER (oxycodone hydrochloride and naloxone hydrochloride extended-release tablets), an extended-release/long-acting (ER/LA) opioid analgesic to treat pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment.

It had properties which were expected to deter but not fully prevent abuse of drugs by snorting and injection, the FDA said.

CLICK HERE for more.

Connecting you to new business opportunities.

Introducing a new mobile health range for pharmacy. **CLICK HERE** for an appointment or call 1300 367 611.



APC Accreditation Colloquium

19 August 2014, Brisbane

Mysteries of Time and Space:

Preparing future practitioners for patient centred care

Registrations Open

Hepatitis education

HEPATITIS education is the focus of a one day Hepatitis NSW workshop for healthcare and community workers, and others who work with people affected by or at risk of viral hepatitis.

It is free to Pharmaceutical Society of Australia members and is on 15 Aug - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

NICE new CKD guide

UK'S National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has updated its clinical guideline on the diagnosis and classification of chronic kidney disease (CKD) and its relationship with acute kidney injury. [CLICK HERE](#) for the new guide.

Guild Update

Help Evaluate 5CPA Programs

PWC are undertaking a Combined Review of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (5CPA) Medication Management Programs before the expiry of the Agreement. The reviewed services include:

- Home Medicines Review (HMR)
- Residential Medication Management Review (RMMR)
- MedsCheck/Diabetes MedsCheck
- Clinical Interventions
- Dose Administration Aids
- Staged Supply

As part of this Review, PwC are undertaking a practitioner survey to understand health practitioners' views on these programs and services to inform how medication management programs and services contribute to improving the health of consumers, and how they can be more appropriately targeted. In particular, they are seeking the views of pharmacists (accredited, consultant, community, hospital and pharmacy owners).

Please complete this 15-20 minute online survey. All responses will be de-identified. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the survey.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Hep B community dispensing

AN expert has called for legislation regarding dispensing of hepatitis B treatment to be amended to allow dispensing at community pharmacies, regardless of where it was prescribed.

Recent research showed that a quarter of a million Australians have entered the 'liver danger zone', where middle age accelerated the impact of viral hepatitis, Hepatitis Australia said.

The research found that hepatitis-related liver disease resulted in almost 1,000 deaths this year and that 5% of people with hepatitis B and 1% of those with hepatitis C were receiving treatment.

Royal Melbourne Hospital Associate Professor Ben Cowie said it was vital for people with hepatitis B and C to have regular liver check ups and that they received appropriate treatment to prevent progress to liver cirrhosis, liver failure or liver cancer.

He said a real barrier to treatment, particularly with hepatitis B, was that most patients had to go to hospital pharmacies to fill their script as part of an ongoing treatment.

Hepatitis B should see the same change in legislation that PBS subsidised HIV antiretroviral therapies had, where from July next year, these could be dispensed

through a pharmacy of the patient's choice, regardless of where they were prescribed, he said.

There were new, highly effective and well tolerated treatments coming through for hepatitis C, and once regulatory approval and funding were secured, these should also be available from community pharmacies, he said.

Hepatitis Australia said low awareness among healthcare practitioners, low community awareness of the need for regular follow ups and lack of service provision were barriers to regular liver check ups.

Hepatitis Australia had presented the research to state, territory and federal politicians to urge investment in health services, equipment and training needed to ensure regular liver check ups became the standard of care for people with hepatitis, it said.

Read the research [HERE](#).

Pandemic update

AN INDUSTRY briefing via teleconference will be held prior to the release of the Department of Health's tender for the provision of uniquely Australian antivenoms, Q fever and/or pandemic influenza vaccine (PD 21 May) on 28 Aug.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.



DISPENSARY CORNER

PHARMACISTS to advise on bedroom lighting - yes really.

Even low levels of light in bedrooms may reduce the effectiveness of breast cancer therapy tamoxifen, US researchers at Tulane University School of Medicine have warned.

The study, published in *Cancer Research*, showed that bedroom lighting from sources such as night lamps, cell phones/tablets or from adjacent rooms or windows affected sleep hormones, which in turn altered cancer cell function.

Tamoxifen's role in treating breast cancer is to stop the female hormone oestrogen from feeding the growth of tumour cells, but they can become resistant.

The research showed that the sleep promoting product melatonin could be an effective solution where light can't be controlled.

LESS than circumspect surgeons.

There is no known drug to reverse this blunder, when a 56 year-old Alabama man who was hospitalised for a simple circumcision awoke to find that the surgeons had excised a little more than he had expected.

Finding himself without a penis, according to *Stuff.co.nz*, no one at the Princeton Baptist Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama could tell the married man why his penis had been amputated.

The matter is to be dealt with in court with the clinic named as defendant along with two allegedly knife-happy doctors involved.

DOWNLOAD the FREE *Pharmacy Daily* iOS App, [CLICK BELOW](#).



WIN A PLUNKETTS PACK

This week **Pharmacy Daily & Plunketts** are giving five readers the chance to win a Plunketts moisturiser pack.

John Plunkett Multi Vitamin Moisturiser has been reformulated with natural emollients and an improved odour profile. The formulation is free from parabens, mineral oil, colour and perfume and its therapeutic levels of the five vital vitamins help fight early signs of ageing. It is suitable for normal and sensitive skin. Plunketts are pharmacy quality cosmeceuticals at a realistic price and Australian made & owned.

Visit: www.johnplunkett.com.au

To win, be first to send the correct answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

How many vitamins are in John Plunkett Multi Vitamin Moisturiser?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Joss Beare from Blooms the Chemist.

