



Auth. review necessary

COMMENTING on the authority review, Pharmacy Guild of Australia national president George Tambassis said authority required Pharmaceutical Benefits Listings was a major technical issue that hindered pharmacist work flow.

He said a review was "very necessary" and the Guild was delighted to be involved.

"Unlike your 'normal' prescription, this prescription or medicine needs to be written on the correct stationery with at least two different authority numbers on the prescription.

"The doctor needs to have made the correct phone call prior to writing or printing the prescription, and if that process is not handled correctly it means the prescription cannot be dispensed at the correct price."

He said some pharmacists had been left out of pocket, even though they had dispensed the correct medicine at the correct dose for the correct patient' because all the authority numbers did not match up.

Consultant Ph of the Year

BRISBANE-BASED accredited pharmacist Dr Chris Freeman has been named the winner of the 2014 AACP Consultant Pharmacist of the Year Award, presented at the Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy (AACP) annual seminar conference dinner on the weekend.

The ConPharm '14 national event is being held in Port Douglas from 01 to 03 June.

The award recognises an outstanding contribution by an accredited pharmacist to the practice of consultant pharmacy. It includes a medallion and certificate, plus a travel grant to the value of \$5,000 to attend a

SHPA future summit

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has announced a new educational event for "pharmacy leaders".

Called the SHPA Pharmacy Future Summit, it will be held on 04 to 05 Aug, the first of three annual events.

pharmacy conference of relevance to the practice of consultant pharmacy.

The award was presented by AACP Chair Paul Sinclair and CEO Grant Martin.

Freeman (pictured) was a young accredited pharmacist who was an acknowledged leading edge practitioner dedicated to advancing the profession of consultant pharmacy, the AACP said.

His skills and expertise were recognised by fellow pharmacists, general practitioners and policy makers as one who had contributed to the improved quality of care for patients and the community, the AACP said.



\$52m pall care upgrade

THE Australian Government will provide \$52 million over three years to improve palliative care services and training, the Assistant Minister for Health Fiona Nash announced on Friday.

Nash said the State and Territory Governments were responsible for delivering palliative care services, while the Australian Government supports projects that enhance the overall quality of services.

National Palliative Care Week, which runs until Saturday, also brings attention to the importance of advance care planning.

Expert panel sessions

Details of information sessions for tenderers for the Therapeutic Goods Assessment and Advisory Services panel have been released.

These sessions will be held in Brisbane on 10 Jun, Adelaide on 11 Jun, Melbourne and Sydney on 12 Jun and Canberra on 13 Jun.

CLICK HERE for more information.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER Todd Sampson



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Colourings in meds

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has released guidance on the colourings in medicines for topical and oral use that do not require evaluation of data by the organisation.

The guidance also refers to information required to evaluate a colouring not in one of two tables relating to use as excipients in medicines for topical use only and for oral and topical use.

CLICK HERE for more.

FDA ticks MGN test

THE U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has allowed marketing of the first test to determine if a type of kidney disease, called membranous glomerulonephritis (MGN), is due to the body's rejection of its own kidney tissue or another cause.



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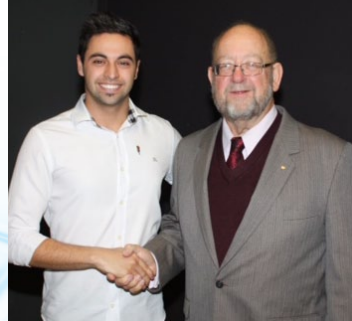
NSW Student of the Year

THE NSW Pharmacy Student of the Year has been awarded to George Addatini from the University of Sydney.

Addatini was presented the award at the reception for the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) Clinical and Practice Expo (CPEXpo) on Saturday and will now compete against other states' winners for the national title, to win a conference of the winner's choice.

PSA NSW president John Bronger said Addatini had worked for him since he was a first year student and was a "very competent young man" who had the traits needed to be a good pharmacist.

He said all five candidates for the title had been very good and Addatini's presentation had been "excellent".



The judging panel included a representative from Blackmores, a training officer from the PSA and a member of the NSW branch committee, Bronger said.

Pictured from left: NSW pharmacy student of the year George Addatini from University of Sydney with PSA NSW president John Bronger at the awards presentation on Saturday at CPEXpo.

PBS sustainable

THE Medicines Partnership of Australia said significant savings in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) have been made, representing a reduction in PBS costs as a percentage of GDP, slower PBS growth than other sectors and lower pharmaceutical expenditure growth than other household costs and CPI.

The partnership released its 'Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Scorecard (Budget edition)', which said savings from Expanded and Accelerated Price Disclosure and the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, which totalled \$2.5b over five years, were already factored in to the 2010 Budget, so the new savings were the result of Treasury having underestimated the impact of PBS reforms and overestimated demand.

The latest forward estimates showed that PBS expenditure as a percentage of GDP was expected to decline by approximately 1.5% across the next four years, it said.

"With those savings come significant - and growing - impacts on all parts of the pharmaceutical industry - manufacturers, the supply chain and community pharmacies."

CLICK HERE to read the report.

"Massive transition"

PRESENTING at CPEXpo last week, University of Technology Sydney graduate school of health head Professor Charles Benrimoj said a "massive transition" would occur in the pharmacy services business model in the next three to four years, a change that would accelerate in the next 18 months, as many players would enter the space.

Benrimoj said implementing just one service would not give the financial "grunt" needed to move forward; pharmacies needed to be thinking about the next service they could provide.

"You can't just be a provider of Medschecks."

Referring to work done by his PhD student Joanne Moullin, who developed a Framework for Implementation of Services in Pharmacy (FISpH), Benrimoj said the research had found people went through four phases to implement something: assessment, preparation, implementation and sustainability, which took on average nine to 18 months to work through.

The key message was for pharmacists and pharmacies to think "a bit wider" than what they currently were, he said.

\$100m to rid polio

THE Australian government has committed \$100m over five years to eradicate polio and provide routine immunisations.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop said \$20m would be provided in the 2014/15 to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to provide immunisations to fight the re-emergence of polio.

The government said progress in eradication was at risk due to outbreaks in northern Africa and the Middle East.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared polio a public health emergency (**PD 07 May**).

"Australia has a proud history of support for polio eradication and is committed to helping finish the job."

The last wild polio virus case reported in Australia was in 1972.

 5th Community Pharmacy Agreement

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Pharmacy Agreement.

Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **David Shaw, Recruitment Consultant at Raven's Recruitment**



Who Trains Your Income-Generating Staff?

DO you know exactly what training is currently done? Previous experience, time in job and previous results aren't everything – isn't there always room for improvement? Maybe, but it is important that any training is welcomed by the individual staff members. This can be achieved by discussing the benefits to both the business and promoting team excellence.

How do you know it's being implemented? A common complaint about training is that it's wasted time and doesn't change anything.

This is often the case when there are just so many good ideas they don't know where to start and there is no accountability.

A recent learning of mine is for staff to select their top three items for implementation (any more and there is just too much resistance), share them with others and then agree to follow up in 28 days time to see how it's gone – it takes three to four weeks to be successful and consistent.

Who is the trainer? Have you assured yourself they are providing relevant, useful, implementable ideas, methods and strategies to your staff? Sure, sales is trainable, but if it's tailored to pharmacy with relevant examples then how much more effective is it going to be.

Add value for your staff, build your employer brand, increase your revenue and retain your staff!

QPIP update

THE Queensland Pharmacist Immunisation Pilot (QPPI) has hit its goal of 10,000 vaccinations performed, organisers have said.

Presenting at CPEXpo last week, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Queensland branch director Michelle Rosenthal outlined the requirements for pharmacies and pharmacists involved in the pilot, including that pharmacies needed to have had private facilities for vaccination and at least two pharmacists on duty at all times.

Pharmacists needed to have current First Aid and CPR training and appropriate training in regard to giving vaccinations, both of which the pharmacist paid for, she said, with training for the pilot cost \$295 and 157 pharmacists had been trained across 80 pharmacies.

There was particular emphasis on anaphylaxis training, she said, including role playing and Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) training.

Branch president Dr Lisa Nissen said she thought the QPIP results would likely tally with a UK study which found 22% of those vaccinated by a pharmacist had been eligible for free vaccinations but had opted to pay anyway, and that this was primarily due to convenience.

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PBS updates posted

THE PBS has updated some information on its website.

Formulary Allocations, effective 01 Jun 2014, are listed, with new or changed product references in bold italics, as are new ex-manufacturer price spreadsheets set out the approved ex-manufacturer price (AEMP) for the pricing quantity of each PBS-listed brand of pharmaceutical item, and if applicable the proportional ex-manufacturer price (PEMP) and claimed price for pack quantities.

In addition the PBAC meeting agenda is included.

CLICK HERE for the new data.

Gender equality report

UNDER the requirements of the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has lodged its annual compliance report with the Workplace Gender Equality Agency.

If your business is an employee organisation with members in this workplace, the Act provides for your organisation to comment on the report either to the PSA by emailing Pauline Hugler at Pauline.hugler@psa.org.au or to the Agency directly.

The guidelines on this process are on the PSA website.

CLICK HERE to read the report.

DISPENSARY CORNER

DNA on the go.

Always wanted to check a few DNA sequences on your way to or from the pharmacy?

Now it is all possible thanks to researchers from A*STAR's Bioinformatics Institute (BII) in Singapore who have created a mobile app for iOS and Android devices that analyses ab1(1) DNA sequencing files, which enables scientific analysis on the go, from the convenience of your mobile phones.

More seriously, the newly created 'DNAApp' has increased efficiency both on the go and within the lab for scientists working on DNA by performing commonly used functions of DNA sequencing analysis, such as reverse complementation, translation, and the ability to search for specific sequences that may be relevant to their research.

CHEMISTRY in the coffee.

Computational chemist Chris Hendon, who pitched in to help a British barista create the perfect cup of coffee, told *Yahoo! News* the challenge was a natural one for him considering that, "Brewing coffee might be the most practiced chemical extraction in the world."

Without ignoring the obvious issues of bean quality, roast time and temperature, grindings size etc, Hendon believed it was the quality of the water that powerfully influences the result.

National Coffee Association agrees with the chemist saying, "The water you use is very important to the quality of your coffee. Use filtered or bottled water if your tap water is not good or imparts a strong odor or taste, such as chlorine."

"If you are using tap water let it run a few seconds before filling your coffee pot."

"Be sure to use cold water. Do not use distilled or softened water."

Now, about that coffee making machine in your pharmacy ...

WIN A DESIGNER BRANDS PACK

This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a **Designer Brands** prize pack.

Each pack includes a Mineral Eye Shadow Palette and a Paw Paw Plus Kit.

DB's Paw Paw products contain 8% paw paw extract – the highest of any paw paw product on the market. This pack includes an ointment, hand cream and lip balm.

With 48 colours, created for staying power, the Mineral Eye Shadow Palette is perfect for highlighting and accentuating the eyes! The mineral formulation includes natural ingredients, ensuring a finish that doesn't cake or feel heavy.

To win, be first to correctly answer the question below to: **comp@pharmacydaily.com.au**.



What Vitamin is contained in the 48 Mineral Eye Shadow Palette?