



PPA nods wage hike

PROFESSIONAL Pharmacists Australia (PPA) said it welcomed the Fair Work Commission's decision to increase minimum wage by 3% but that more needed to be done.

President Dr Geoff March said the increase was good news for pharmacists working in discount pharmacy, who he said were often paid at the Award level and \$5.61 below the hourly rates of most community pharmacists, referring to a survey of 1,200 pharmacists released recently (**PD** 03 Jun).

In response to a media report, the PPA has also called on Guild president George Tambassis to reject comments from "an unnamed Guild spokesperson" that it could lead to job losses.

March said the only way the decision would impact an owner was if they were paying base award rates, and said the PPA did not believe anyone who cared about pharmacy would begrudge lifting the rate to \$24.23 an hour.

A spokesperson for the Pharmacy Guild said the organisation would be updating wage sheets and making sure they were available to all members through all branches in time for the application of the new wage levels in the first full pay period after 01 Jul.

The Guild made a submission to the Commission supporting that made by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) for an increase in the minimum wage and award wage of not more than 1.3%, or \$8.50 per week, for reasons including that the ACCI position took into account the final award transition - **CLICK HERE**.

Mixed compounding options

THE submissions for the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) consultation on options for reform of the regulatory framework for pharmacy compounding have identified a range of options supported by industry bodies.

The options proposed to address concerns that regulatory arrangements did not provide adequate public protection regarding compounded medicines.

They included maintaining the status quo (option A), enhancing co-regulation with pharmacy regulators by amendments to Commonwealth legislation (option B) and requiring that manufacturing activity in a pharmacy occur with a manufacturing licence from the TGA (option C).

The TGA said 69 submissions had been received in total which it was now considering.

The Pharmaceutical Society of

Australia (PSA) submission said reform should be undertaken in the context of compounding-related activities by all health practitioners with uniformity across all jurisdictions, as well as that reform should not compromise the work of the Pharmacy Board of Australia (PBA) Compounding Working Party.

It said option A was not supportable, option B seemed feasible but had weaknesses and option C would impose "significant cost burdens" and would not be sustainable by most pharmacists.

The PBA submission said its compounding guidelines would soon be published and include extemporaneous dispensing, referred to in the consultation.

Its working party had considered many of the issues and risks in the consultation paper, it said.

Option A did not provide for the risks of complex compounding and option C would likely result in increased costs to the consumer, with option B the most viable, the PBA said.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia said it was open to option A, that it offered "in-principle support" for option B and highlighted the likely increased costs to pharmacies of option C.

Medicines Australia said it "strongly" supported the manufacture of sterile dosage forms becoming licensable activities but had reservations about a sub-set of option C, referring to single use injections for immediate supply and use.

CLICK HERE to read more.

MHRA hosts GM forum

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has co-hosted with the British Generic Manufacturer Association (BGMA) the first forum focussing on the manufacturing quality of generic medicines.

Called the BGMA Quality Forum, it paved the way for broader future confidence in the industry, said the MHRA.

WIN A DESIGNER BRANDS PACK

This week **PD** is giving 5 lucky readers the chance to win a **Designer Brands** pack.

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

DB's Paw Paw products contain 8% paw paw extract. This pack includes an ointment, hand cream and lip balm.

With 48 colours, the Mineral Eye Shadow Palette is perfect for highlighting the eyes! The mineral formulation includes natural ingredients, ensuring a finish that doesn't cake.

To win, be first to send the correct answer to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What is the smallest product in the Paw Paw Plus Kit?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Jessica Sullivan** from **Health NSW**.

Wesley brain talk

FOCUS for the next Wesley Research Institute free health talk will be on keeping the brain healthy.

Guest speaker Dr Dan Blackmore will explain how physical activity is good for the ageing brain, reducing the risk of forgetfulness and dementias such as Alzheimer's disease.

The venue is the Wesley Research Institute, The Wesley Hospital, Auchenflower, Brisbane from 10.30am on 18 Jun.

Pre-registration is essential; email rsvp@wesleyresearch.com.au.

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15 adverse event links

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said about 15 companies had shown interest in providing an integrated link to its adverse event reporting service, with GuildLink the first to do so (PD 05 Jun).

The company had been sent technical documentation, with some having submitted test data, and others were welcome to participate, a spokesperson said.

"The primary benefit of a company participating is providing their customers with easier and more efficient methods to report adverse events."

Translational research

THE NSW Government is investing in three new translational cancer research centres as part of a \$19.3m five year project.

Translational cancer research converts scientific research into practical treatment methods, creating new tools and applications for improving patient care.

To read more, [CLICK HERE](#).

Higher Oz vax report rate

THE Advisory Committee on the Safety of Vaccines (ACSOV) found the reporting rate of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) against influenza was much higher in Australia than in the Northern Hemisphere in 2013-14.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Office of Product Review's found that the overall reporting rate was about 81 cases per million doses distributed, higher than other countries.

This compared with 12 to 23 cases per million doses distributed for the Northern Hemisphere during 2013 to 2014, with additional data broken down by country showing that across different Northern Hemisphere countries reporting rates varied between 10 and 19 cases per million doses distributed.

This difference was likely due to more sensitive surveillance or lower threshold for reporting influenza vaccine AEFI rather than a higher adverse vaccine reaction rate, the TGA said.

The Committee looked at data from routine surveillance of adverse events in the Northern Hemisphere in 2013-2014 from five sponsors providing six influenza vaccines to Australian in 2014, including Fluarix (GlaxoSmithKline), Agrippal (Novartis) and Vaxigrip and Intanza (Sanofi Pasteur) as part of the influenza vaccine safety monitoring program.

For all vaccines there were 2,364 spontaneous adverse event reports from six months of age to 65 years.

The committee agreed there were no new safety issues in the data and the AEFI found were covered in product information documents.

FDA B-Perfect alert

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is advising consumers not to purchase or use B-Perfect, a product promoted for weight loss online and possibly sold in some retail stores.

To read more, [CLICK HERE](#).

Nutrients ticked

RECENT research into the role of nutrients and herbal supplements in managing mental health has generated some positive and some more cautious recommendations.

The work comes out of the Department of Psychiatry, The University of Melbourne Centre for Human Psychopharmacology and Swinburne University of Technology and was published in the June edition of *Australian Prescriber*.

Senior Research Fellow Dr Jerome Sarris said some nutrient supplements and herbal medicines had supportive evidence for efficacy in some mental health disorders while other products did not; for instance omega-3 fatty acids, St John's wort, S-adenosylmethionine and zinc might be beneficial in improving mood.

N-acetyl cysteine had shown some effects in bipolar depression.

Sarris concluded that patients needed to be asked what they were taking in order to minimise risks.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the paper.

June MIMS Monthly Medicine Update

NEW PRODUCTS

Betmiga (**mirabegron**) is a beta₂-adrenoreceptor agonist. It is indicated for the symptomatic treatment of urgency, increased micturition frequency and/or urgency incontinence in patients with overactive bladder (OAB) syndrome. Betmiga is available as 25 mg and 50 mg prolonged release tablets in packs of 30's.

Bretaris Genuair (**aclidinium bromide**) is a competitive muscarinic receptor antagonist (anticholinergic), with subnanomolar affinity for all five human muscarinic receptor subtypes (M₁-M₅) and a longer residence time at the M₃ receptors than the M₂ receptors. Nonclinical in vitro and in vivo studies showed rapid, dose dependent and long-lasting inhibition by aclidinium bromide of acetylcholine induced bronchoconstriction. Aclidinium bromide is quickly broken down in plasma, the level of systemic anticholinergic side effects is therefore low. Bretaris Genuair is indicated as a long-term maintenance bronchodilator treatment to relieve

symptoms in adult patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Bretaris Genuair is contraindicated in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to atropine or its derivatives, including ipratropium, oxitropium or tiotropium. It is also contraindicated in patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, severe lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption (lactose content). Bretaris Genuair is available as an inhaler (aclidinium 322 microgram/dose) containing 30 doses and 60 doses.

Elaprase (**idursulfase**) is a purified form of the lysosomal enzyme, iduronate-2-sulfatase. Idursulfase is produced by recombinant DNA technology in a human cell line providing a human glycosylation profile. Elaprase is indicated for the long-term treatment of patients with Hunter syndrome (mucopolysaccharidosis II, MPS II). Elaprase is available as a concentrate for infusion (6 mg/3 mL) in a single use vial.

Myozyme (**alglucosidase alfa (rch)**) is an 896 amino acid glycoprotein produced by recombinant DNA technology in a Chinese hamster ovary cell line. Myozyme is indicated for the long-term treatment of patients with a confirmed diagnosis of Pompe disease (acid alfa-glucosidase deficiency). Myozyme is available as a powder for infusion (50 mg) in a single use vial.

Striverdi Respimat (**olodaterol (as hydrochloride)**) is a long-acting beta₂-adrenergic agonist. Olodaterol has the preclinical profile of a long-acting selective beta₂-adrenoceptor agonist (LABA) with a fast onset of action and duration of action of at least 24 hours. Striverdi Respimat is indicated for once daily maintenance bronchodilator treatment of airflow obstruction in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Striverdi Respimat is available as a metered dose soft mist inhaler (olodaterol 2.5 microgram/dose) containing 60 actuations.

Veletri (**epoprostenol (as sodium)**) (prostacyclin) has two major pharmacological actions: (1) direct vasodilatation of pulmonary and systemic arterial vascular beds, and (2) inhibition of platelet aggregation. Veletri is indicated for the long-term treatment, via continuous intravenous infusion, in WHO functional class III or IV patients with: idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension; familial pulmonary arterial hypertension; and pulmonary arterial hypertension associated with the scleroderma spectrum of diseases. Veletri is contraindicated in patients with congestive heart failure arising from severe left ventricular dysfunction, because it was found to increase mortality in such patients. Veletri should not be used chronically in patients who develop pulmonary oedema during dose-ranging. Veletri powder for infusion (epoprostenol 500 mcg and 1.5 mg) is available as a single use vial.

SAFETY RELATED CHANGES

Aerrane (**isoflurane**) is now contraindicated in patients with isoflurane hypersensitivity, a history of confirmed hepatitis due to a halogenated inhalational anaesthetic, or in whom general anaesthesia is contraindicated. Aerrane is also contraindicated with concomitant nonselective MAOIs.

Gernevit (**parenteral multivitamin without vitamin K**) should not be administered to patients with hyperparathyroidism due to hypercalcaemic complications.

Daraprim (**pyrimethamine**) should not generally be used during the first trimester of pregnancy.

Prostin F₂ alpha (**dinoprost trometamol**) is now contraindicated in patients with active cardiac, pulmonary, renal or hepatic disease.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.

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.

14-15 Jun: NSW Pharmacy In Focus; Albury; details: www.psa.org.au

18 Jun: Psoriasis – The What, Why, How; Adelaide; details: www.psa.org.au

19-20 Jun: Medication Management Review Stage 1 Workshop; Melbourne; details: www.psa.org.au

20-22 Jun: National Convention & Exhibition; Sydney; details: www.nswpharmacy-nce.com.au

9 Jul: Pharmacy Live Webinar "Palliative Care In The Home"; Sydney; www.psa.org.au

19-21 Jul: Pharmacy Re-Entry Course "Refresher Training for Community Pharmacy"; Sydney; see: www.psa.org.au

22-23 Jul: Pharmacy "Essential Financial Skills"; Sydney; see: www.fmrbusdev.com.au

25-26 Jul: Blackmores Institute Symposium: Integrating Natural Medicine Into Community Pharmacy - An Evidence-Based Approach; Sydney; more at: www.blackmoresinstitute.com.au

26-27 Jul: Medication Review Skills in Primary Care; Sydney; more at: www.shpa.org.au

30 Jul: Advanced Clinical Education Cardiovascular Seminar; Sydney; more at: www.psa.org.au

30 Jul - 1 Aug: The Pharmacy Management Conference; Surfers Paradise; more at: www.pharmacyconference.com.au/

16 Aug: Pharmacy Snow Business Conference; Mount Buller; more at: www.medic.com.au/event/pharmacy-snow-business

Multiple medications hub

NPS MedicineWise has launched a new web resource designed to support people living with multiple medications.

The 'Living with multiple medicines hub' investigates the lives of people who take multiple medications, providing some 300 videos, audio clips and quotes of people's own experiences.

NPS MedicineWise spokesperson and manager of NPS Medicines Line Sarah Spagnardi said the videos and content would allow consumers to relate to others in similar situations and engage in decision making about their medicines and health.

"We also encourage health professionals to explore the new web resource to help them get a better understanding of the experience of living with multiple medicines."

Presenting on the project methodology at the recent National Medicines Symposium 2014, Dr Lorraine Smith from the University of Sydney said that people with health problems wanted high quality information and support to provide answers to their questions.

"It's important for people to be able to tap into the lived experience, to relate to others' experiences, make decisions about their health management and communicate effectively with health professionals."

This is the first project using the DIPEx method to look at medicines independent of a particular medical condition and was undertaken in conjunction with the University of Sydney, La Trobe University and

Monash University.

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care pharmaceutical advisor Margaret Duguid said the website was very useful for people taking multiple medications and quite innovative.

Using patients' stories was an excellent way to get messages across, she said, and people who knew more about their health and medication were less likely to suffer from adverse events.

About 20 to 30% of hospital admissions for people aged 65 and over were thought to be medication related, she said.

The website could help people most at risk using multiple medications, she said.

CLICK HERE to access it.

1920's inspired dinner

THE University of Sydney Faculty of Pharmacy Foundation is hosting a 1920s-inspired dinner in support of diabetes research on 15 Aug.

Titled 'Under the scope: Dinner for Diabetes Research', the promoters say that you will be transported to indulge in a range of culinary delights and toe-tapping music inspired by this golden era of jazz, prosperity and ... the discovery of insulin.

The latest diabetes research from Australia and the Sydney Pharmacy School will be presented while guest speaker Professor Don Chisholm AO discusses how researchers are pushing the frontiers of diabetes knowledge.

CLICK HERE to register.



DISPENSARY CORNER

BRITISH feet bigger.

Do you stock therapeutic footwear in your pharmacy?

You are probably unaware that you are stocking larger sizes than you would have in the '70s.

According to The College of Podiatry poll, and reported by *BBC News*, the average British male has nine pairs of shoes while women have 17, but more interestingly, the average male now wears a UK size 10 compared to a size eight 40 years ago.

The college has said that it believes that the increased size is due to the increased load as the population has grown taller and heavier.

BORDERING on bizarre.

You gotta hand it to drug smugglers; they can get creative.

The US Border Patrol found a Fish and Wildlife Service truck which looked legitimate but was actually filled with about 1,451 kg of marijuana, worth an estimated US\$1.6m, *AP* reported.

Agents spotted the truck along a boundary fence in Arizona this week and when they tried to contact those inside, the occupants stopped the vehicle and fled to Mexico, the publication reported.

Other smuggling attempts have included two women stashing 1.2 kg of cocaine under their wigs when flying from Brazil to Spain (*PD* 07 Jan) and what police described as a "logistical error" when containers of bananas delivered to five supermarkets were found to have 140 kg of cocaine in them (*PD* 09 Jan).

OHMYGOSH OHMYGOSH.

With things like automatic medication dispensers such as MedVend, the future is surely upon us.

But perhaps the most exciting development is the news that smartphones will have 3D holographic projectors such as those featured in the (good) *Star Wars* films within two years, the *Telegraph* reports.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Gold Coast, QLD (Job# 2010614)
Experienced pharmacy manager for private hospital pharmacy.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Yorke Peninsula, SA (Job# 2010578)
Single pharmacy town in a popular tourist area < 2 hours from Adelaide.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Riverina Region, NSW (Job# 2010582)
Friendly location that has loads of infrastructure for families - foodies haven

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