

EMA adjusted fees

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) is reminding relevant organisations that adjusted fees will come into effect on 01 Apr, expected to be an increase of around 1.5%.

The EMA said it would publish full details at the end of this month.



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APC p'grad credentialed

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has been endorsed by the member organisations of the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Framework Steering Committee (APPF SC) to be the nominated independent assessment entity for the credentialing of advanced pharmacy practitioners.

The APC is calling for expressions of interest for a further five positions on the new standing

committee, comprising three additional pharmacist members, one community member and one member from another health profession.

In addition, the Council is seeking an international pharmacist member with experience and expertise in advanced practice credentialing.

For full details or to nominate, **CLICK HERE.**

Copayment analysis

THE Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF), the peak national not-for-profit body representing two million health consumers nationwide, has released a new report on co-payments in the health system.

The analysis of research into co-payments commissioned by the CHF concludes new co-payments will simply result in decreased access to health care and will mean more people will delay treatments, with more financial hardship.

The analysis, by health researcher Jennifer Doggett, shows there is a significant body of international evidence that reveals co-payments create barriers to access to health care and create further financial disadvantage.

17% of all total health care expenditure in Australia is already being funded by individuals' payments, CHF said.

In an on-line survey by CHF of 400 respondents, 75% said they had stopped or delayed seeing a health professional - mainly because of cost.

eMIMSDesktop avail

MIMS Australia has launched eMIMSDesktop, following its 2013 launch of eMIMSCloud.

The software will be available with a DVD for users to install on their hard drive, as opposed to accessing the drug information online, for \$295 for one user.

The content would be updated monthly via an email link or pop up upon launch.

The software is Windows compatible, with Windows for MAC required on Apple computers.

Osteoarthritis therapy

GLUCOSAMINE and chondroitin sulphate have been examined in combination for their effect on joint space narrowing in the knees of osteoarthritis sufferers in a study from the University of Sydney.

The two year randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial was conducted in people with symptomatic knee osteoarthritis, a condition that continues to be a leading cause of 'years lived with disability' around the globe.

"Many Australians purchase glucosamine and/or chondroitin supplements to relieve joint pain, and in the hope that this will slow the rate of joint destruction and cartilage loss," said ceo of the Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia, Carl Gibson.

The results of the study indicated that daily doses of 1500mg of glucosamine sulphate (Sanofi-Aventis) and 800mg of chondroitin sulphate (Pureflex, TSI) resulted in a statistically significant decrease of joint space narrowing, when compared with placebo.

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Blood thinners battle

A RECENT analysis of US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) novel anticoagulant (NOAC) adverse events suggested that Bristol-Myer Squibb & Pfizer's Eliquis (apixaban) was safer than its rivals, Johnson & Johnson and Bayer's Xarelto (rivaroxaban) and Boehringer Ingelheim's Pradaxa (dabigatran).

The rivals argue it's too early to compare adverse-event reports on the newest drug in the class with those that have been on the market years longer and have been used by millions more patients.

Both Xarelto and Pradaxa have multiple indications and extensive use while Janssen (subsidiary of J&J) has told *FiercePharma*, "Apixaban was approved recently for one clinical use."

"In just over one year, it has been prescribed to far fewer patients and may not yet have an established pattern in reported adverse events."

TGA keeps an eye out

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has responded to submissions made in relation to the consultation regarding proposed advisory statements for chloramphenicol, propamidine, dibromopropamidine and sulfacetamide for ophthalmic use.

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists in Australia's (SHPA) submission proposed that the advisory statements should read 'Contact lens wearers should not use this product except on the advice of a doctor, optometrist or pharmacist'.

However the TGA did not support the addition of the words '...or pharmacist', saying it was important that contact wearers with eye infections be referred to a doctor or optometrist for diagnosis and treatment promptly.

"The use of antibacterial

ophthalmic preparations while wearing contact lenses can result in delayed diagnosis of potentially sight-threatening eye conditions."

The TGA said the statement was in line with Australian Pharmacist Guidelines requiring pharmacists to refer lens wearers with eye infections to a GP or optometrist.

To read the submissions and the TGA's responses, [CLICK HERE](#).

Curcumin absorption

WHILST the inflammatory action of curcumin has been shown in over 4000 scientific articles, a significant hurdle for scientists has been formulating a way for curcumin to be readily absorbed by the body.

In an Australian first, a new patented method has been discovered where curcumin is absorbed at 27 times the normal rate, increasing anti-inflammatory activity, BioCeuticals has said.

The new curcumin preparation is the clinically trialled practitioner-only Theracurmin BioActive 300mg, by BioCeuticals, shown to help down-regulate inflammatory mediators and reduce joint inflammation.

A meta-analysis published in *Phototherapy Research* in June 2013, comprising 172 subjects, showed that curcuminoids were associated with a significant reduction in circulating inflammatory (C-reactive protein CRP) levels.

Prof Marc Cohen from the School of Health Sciences at RMIT University said, "Curcumin is one of the most profound anti-inflammatory agents we know of today and has been shown to inhibit almost all inflammatory mediators in the body."

Doribax recall

THE Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said Janssen-Cilag Ltd is recalling Doribax (doripenem) 500mg powder for solution for infusion.

The recall was based on the company's portfolio review and followed from the decision to return the licence to Shionogi & Co Ltd, MHRA said.

There were no known quality of safety issues with the recall, it said.

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Everyday this week **PD** are giving two lucky readers the chance to win a **DermaSukin** prize pack.

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DISPENSARY CORNER



EAT, sleep, live 116 years.

Forget the wonder drugs - apparently eating sushi at least once a month, along with getting plenty of sleep and taking a nap as needed helped the world's oldest person, Misao Okawa, reach 116 years.

Okawa was born on 05 Mar 1898, is a great great grandmother to six and has two surviving children, aged 94 and 92, the *Telegraph* reported.

Okawa talked about her marriage to her husband and the birth of her three children when the publication asked her for her happiest moments in life.

POPED off.

If you've ever been less than polite at work in a moment of stress, don't worry - even God's representative on Earth slips up from time to time.

Pope Francis accidentally mispronounced 'caso', Italian for example or case, while urging a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine crisis, instead saying 'cazzo', which can be translated as an impolite word rhyming with 'duck', *News.com.au* reported.

Naturally, the incident went viral, making its way to YouTube, and into the hearts of sub-editors composing newspaper headlines everywhere.

JUST another day in Oz.

In another 'only in Australia' news story, a snake has fought and eaten an entire crocodile at Lake Moondarra, Queensland.

Thought to be a python, the roughly three metre snake coiled itself around the crocodile, which was about a metre in length, and fought it out, the *Sapa AFP* reported.

After several hours, witness Travis Corlis said the snake pulled the dead crocodile onto the banks of the lake and released it, only to eat it whole, ridges and all, "about 10 minutes later," the publication reported.