

2013 CM cancellations

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has summarised the 2013 complementary medicines (CM) cancellations following its compliance review.

The cancellations have been due largely to unacceptable presentation and/or certifications, inappropriate labelling, non-compliant advertising or unsubstantiated claims as well as other failures to meet standards.

CLICK HERE to see the summary.

EMA 2014 program

THE European Medicines Agency has published its work programme for 2014.

Among the priority activities are the further development of methods for collecting best evidence, enhancement of functionalities of EudraVigilance, the European database on adverse drug reactions, the development of a repository for periodic safety update reports (PSURs) as well as a system for monitoring the scientific literature for signal detection.

EMA will also continue with the falsified medicines directive that came into force in 2013.

CLICK HERE for the full program.

Guild likes red tape cut

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has said it strongly supports the move by the Minister for Small Business, Bruce Billson, to relieve business of the requirement to act as the paymaster under the Paid Parental Leave (PPL) scheme.

The Government estimates the removal of the onerous paymaster requirement would save businesses \$44 million and the not-for-profit sector a further \$4 million.

Under the terms of the new bill, employers will still have the right to have a role in paying workers their government-funded parental leave entitlement if they choose to do so.

The Commonwealth Parliament

passed the Paid Parental Leave legislation on 17 June 2010 in an attempt to recognise the need to enhance the wellbeing of young children in infancy by providing better support for their parents to take time away from work.

The Guild was always disappointed with the legislation as it stood because it placed additional administrative burdens on the small business owner to manage the scheme along with all their other administrative requirements.

Guild members report that they have had to pay employees on PPL before they have received the funds from the Family Assistance Office.

They also say that they have had to employ additional staff in their payroll areas to deal with the interaction with FAO.

The pharmacy workforce is 87 per cent female so the instance of PPL is high in the pharmacy sector noted the Guild, now urging parliament to support the bill.

While in opposition, Billson made several unsuccessful attempts to have the paymaster function as an opt in for small business.

Bisphosphonates & AF

TWO new meta-analyses published respectively in the *American Journal of Cardiology* and *Chest* have drawn a link between therapeutic doses of both oral and intravenous bisphosphonates and increased risk of atrial fibrillation (AF).

Authors have challenged the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to re-evaluate the class of drugs normally used for bone remodelling.

Panadol combo - TGA

A RECENT NZ study published in respected and peer-reviewed *The New England Journal of Medicine* highlighted the drug-drug interaction between panadol ('acetaminophen' in the US) and other OTC products (**PD 21 Mar**).

A spokeswoman for the TGA said, "The TGA is aware of the claims from AFT Pharmaceuticals relating to phenylephrine and paracetamol combinations...and is currently reviewing the available information to determine whether any regulatory action is required."

ACEM co-pay unease

THE Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) has concerns around the Abbott government proposal to introduce GP co-payments, including for urgent care provided in Emergency Departments (EDs), saying that it is unlikely to provide an adequate solution to the growth in demand for, and cost of, health care.

ACEM President Anthony Cross said that co-payments will act as a disincentive to early diagnosis and preventative treatment.

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Roma Cecere, General Manager - Strategic Business Performance for GuildLink.**



Maximising your pharmacy through technology

Many pharmacies will feel a further squeeze in April when the effects from PBS reforms will become reality.

In light of recent changes, pharmacies will need to develop strategies to effectively counteract these adjustments. There are many untapped opportunities that community pharmacies have the potential to create by simply identifying, establishing and pursuing these goals. Identifying opportunities can be crucial as it can potentially provide pharmacies with additional revenue streams.

Through technology, pharmacies have the ability to gain a true perceptive of means underutilised in their pharmacy. Focusing on maximising avenues such as professional services strengthens pharmacies offering and by providing these beneficial services to patients, not only can this impact patient's health but also provide value to community pharmacies.

Technology is merely an enabler; it assists you in tasks that might be tedious otherwise. Utilising technology to its full potential is something that we all need to work on. Processes, KPI's along with establishing clear goals and procedures can assist with the implementation of technology in pharmacy.

Take this opportunity to evaluate your pharmacy's needs and talk to us if you would like to know how technology can assist you. Visit www.guildsmart.com.au or contact us on support@guildsmart.com.au.

Nurses 'Revive' war with pharmacists

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) have together slammed what they call "false and misleading statements" made by the Revive Clinic Group representing some practice nurses over the trial of pharmacist-delivered immunisations in Queensland.

Revive placed an inflammatory advertisement (pictured) in the *Queensland Sunday Mail*, claiming pharmacists are not legally approved to vaccinate anywhere in Australia because they do not have the medical training.

However, national president of the Guild, George Tambassis, said that this statement was factually incorrect and reflected the misleading basis of the arguments raised by the Revive Clinic Group.

"Pharmacists are legally able to administer vaccinations under the trial in Queensland and the

Northern Territory has introduced legislation to this effect as well," Tambassis said.

"Vaccinations are conducted by pharmacists safely and professionally in countries around the world, including the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States.

"The Pharmacy Board of Australia has confirmed that vaccination is within pharmacists' current scope of practice."

"Importantly, and this is something the Revive Group has not mentioned, the trial has been developed within a robust research framework to ensure the health outcomes are measured."

The national president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Grant Kardachi,

said that this is about increased community access to programs delivered by highly trained health professionals who have completed additional training.

SAFE FLU VACCINATIONS

Support highly trained Nurse Practitioners and only get your flu vaccination at a pharmacy that cares about your safety.

Book at reviveclinic.com.au to be safe in the knowledge that only Medicare funded Nurse Practitioners provide flu vaccinations. We ensure you and your family are in safe hands.

reviveclinic

The Pharmacy lobby are running a research trial that allows pharmacists to vaccinate after one day of training. Don't risk being part of a trial at the following pharmacy locations:

Archie Spence Arcade	Calabride	Manly	Revive Bay
Calabride	Calabride	Manly	Spring Hill
Calabride	Calabride	Manly	Spring Hill
Calabride	Calabride	Manly	Spring Hill
Calabride	Calabride	Manly	Spring Hill
Calabride	Calabride	Manly	Spring Hill
Calabride	Calabride	Manly	Spring Hill
Calabride	Calabride	Manly	Spring Hill
Calabride	Calabride	Manly	Spring Hill
Calabride	Calabride	Manly	Spring Hill

What they don't want you to know: DON'T BE FOOLED

- Pharmacists are not legally approved to vaccinate anywhere in Australia due to not having the required medical training.
- Highly trained Nurse Practitioners provided flu vaccinations at these exact locations in previous years.

MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHO IS VACCINATING YOU.

GMiA supports review

MEMBERS of the Generic Medicines Industry Association (GMiA) has welcomed the release by IP Australia of the Pharmaceutical Patent Review.

First released in draft form in March 2013 and subsequently pushed by the GMiA for full release, the draft report foreshadowed that the Review will provide a series of recommendations to redress the intellectual property system for pharmaceuticals (**PD** 24 Jun 13).

As the document became an 'interim report' it was posted on the IP website but then removed when the government of the day moved into caretaker mode during the election.

GMiA has stressed that it supports a well balanced pharmaceutical patent system that adequately addresses the rights of originator and generic pharmaceutical companies adding that patents are effective and necessary tools for promoting innovation.

GMiA members are not anti-patent said the Association but argues that the current Australian system for pharmaceutical patents

is not effectively balancing the objectives of "securing timely access to competitively priced pharmaceuticals, fostering innovation and supporting employment in research and industry," stated aims of the Pharmaceutical Patents Review.

The Pharmaceutical Patent Review has performed a full review of this issue and the findings of this Panel are welcomed by GMiA.

SHPA journal partner

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) Federal Council has engaged Wiley as publishing partner for the *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research* (JPPR).

SHPA's in-house managing editor Benafsha Khariwala would no longer be needed, SHPA said, but the editor-in-chief, the editorial advisory board, associate editors and section editors would remain, while day to day management of manuscripts and production would be outsourced to Wiley, starting in June.

DISPENSARY CORNER

VATICAN imports cocaine.

Perhaps the reality is not as dodgy as this sounds but a haul of cocaine was picked up by police when it arrived at the Vatican post office inside 14 condoms, weekly *Bild am Sonntag* reported Sunday.

A sting operation to nab the guilty recipient was unsuccessful when nobody arrived to claim delivery of the package worth many thousands of Euros.

GOLFERS score big.

Irish author Maeve Binchy has left a significant proportion of her £8.3m fortune to friends, charities and other organisations close to her heart including her local golf club.

The *Sunday Times* reported that she left just under 10,000 Euros to a number of individuals and groups including the Foxrock Golf Club near Dublin.

The novelist, who died at the age of 72 years, had sold more than 40 million copies of her books.

I'll be back...to help

GRIFFITH University is holding a free Robotic Symposium on Wednesday at the Nathan campus.

Also in appearance will be the Paro seal, a robotic plush seal which will be the focus of an National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funded trial in April looking at emotional states in dementia patients and whether it could help reduce pharmacological costs.

The University is inviting the public and health care professionals to view a range of robots being trialled in aged care facilities both in Australia and overseas.

Griffith Health Institute Centre for Health Practice Innovation Professor Wendy Moyle (pictured below) will talk about her work with the robotic seal, as well as

telepresence robots connecting a person with dementia and their family and a prototype teddy bear which looks at reducing symptoms of agitation, the University said.

Moyle will conduct the Paro study, which received more than \$1m from the NHMRC, with 380 participants across approximately 30 long term care facilities.

Moyle said in November that the study would look at whether the interactive robotic features of the seal reduced emotional, behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia.

"We will conduct a cost analysis of Paro and/or plush toy as non-pharmacological methods to reduce agitation and improve mood states in people with dementia.

"The Paro has some fantastic benefits for the treatment of dementia patients but so far we do not have a large-scale quantitative evaluation that examines the effect of the Paro on an individual's emotional state and its cost benefit in reducing pharmacological costs.

"The statistical evidence that we collect will be used to examine the cost effectiveness of the Paro within care facilities versus the costs of pharmaceutical treatment for people with dementia."

For more information on the symposium, **CLICK HERE**.



WIN AN ORGANIC DETOX

Everyday this week **Pharmacy Daily** will be giving you the chance to win a 4.3.2.1 Organic Detox from **Key Sun**, valued at \$39.95.



4.3.2.1 Organic Detox provides 14, one-a-day, liquid herbal doses to supplement your detox program. Combine 4.3.2.1 Organic Detox with your healthy eating plan to enjoy the organic goodness of 4.3.2.1's certified organic herbal detox formula.

For your chance to win this great prize pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: **comp@pharmacydaily.com.au**.

Is 4.3.2.1 Organic Detox 100% certified organic?

Pharmacy's happy babies!

WE had such a huge response to last week's **Pharmacy Daily** MooGoo competition that we just had to share some of the entries with you.

MooGoo offered five prize packs to **PD** readers who sent in photos of happy babies, and scores of images of very cute kids quickly filled our inbox!

It was very hard to pick the winners but the prize packs went to these entries.



ABOVE: Suzy MacRae from Bathurst Hospital Pharmacy sent in a selection of happy snaps including this particularly cheerful chap.

LEFT: This cute character was sent in by Rebecca Segrott from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.



RIGHT: Matt Harris from Pharmacor sent in this picture of water-loving Jackson.



LEFT: Trine Nielsen from Manly Vale Pharmacy sent in this funny-face photo of Lewis.



RIGHT: Veronica Nou from Colyton Centre Pharmacy sent in this photo of Logan, a young man "so cheerful he laughs at his own laughing".

Thanks to everyone who sent in entries for the competition - they really brightened our week!



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