

## PBA audit reminder

**THE** Pharmacy Board of Australia (PBA) is reminding pharmacists that the audits of practitioners are continuing, and that they have been uncoupled from the registration renewal cycle, meaning that pharmacists can receive an audit notice at any time of the year.

Audits were important and helped to ensure practitioners were meeting the mandatory registrations standards, the PBA said.

If you receive a notice letting you know you have been selected for audit, make sure to respond to it by the deadline and include all the required supporting information.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## Indonesia Pharma up

**THE** Indonesian pharmaceutical market value will climb from approximately \$5b in 2013 to \$9.9b by 2020, at a compound annual growth rate of 10.2%, research and consulting firm GlobalData said.

Driven by increased government healthcare spending and an increase in life expectancy, the majority of the growth comes from patented drugs, according to the report.

However, GlobalData Healthcare Industry Dynamics director Joshua Owide said the country's regulatory system for Intellectual Property enforcement was problematic on a number of levels, due to inadequate observation and enforcement, and the lack of an effective customs record system to discourage infringement of IP rights.

## Major PBS reforms

**THE** Commission of Audit report released yesterday has called for major changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) (**PD** breaking news yesterday).

The report looks at actions that can be taken to ensure Commonwealth spending is sustainable in the long term.

In order to manage expenditure growth of the PBS, which had more than doubled in the last 10 years, the report said "major reform" of funding arrangements and management of the PBS was needed, as well as reforms to community pharmacy.

Recommendations for the latter included a proposal to deregulate pharmacy location and ownership rules to encourage greater competition.

The report said the sector was highly regulated and had limited retail choice and competition.

"Such reform would be expected to lead to more efficient delivery and the development of alternative retail models - such as pharmacists available to dispense medicines at supermarkets."

A number of issues would need to be considered to offset income impact from this reform, including giving pharmacists the chance to offer more services to customers, the report said.

It recommended changes to co-payments, with general patients who had costs both below and above the safety net seeing the co-payment rise by \$5, and the general safety net increasing to \$1,613.77.

Concession card holders would

see a co-contribution of \$2 once the \$360 threshold was exceeded.

The report also recommended a set funding envelope for the next seven years to reduce cost pressures on the PBS, with new medicines swapped out with existing drugs, with a provision for a listing in exceptional circumstances.

An independent authority would be set up, the 'PBS Entity', with a ceo answering to the Minister, that would manage access to subsidised medicines by negotiating directly with pharmaceutical companies and pharmacists about margins and dispensing fees.

"It is anticipated that this process would lead to further price falls for pharmaceuticals."

For industry reactions to the reforms, see **page two**.

To read the report, **CLICK HERE**.

## PBS website update

**THE** Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits (PBS) website was updated on 01 May.

Go to [www.pbs.gov.au/pbs/home](http://www.pbs.gov.au/pbs/home).

## NZ attacks flu in 2014

**THIS** is New Zealand's third year in a row in which over one million doses of seasonal flu vaccine have been distributed, according to Associate Health Minister Jo Goodhew.

"With three months still to go for the 2014 seasonal influenza programme, I'm confident we can match last year's total of 1.25 million doses."

The flu vaccination is free to those at greatest risk of serious influenza complications.

## EMA's Annual Report

**THE** European Medicines Agency has published its 2013 annual report highlighting the number of new medicines evaluated, especially advanced-therapy products and those for rare diseases.

The report also summarises projects, initiatives and 2013 achievements.

**CLICK HERE** to read the report.

## AMSA action smokin'

**THIS** Sunday, the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) is presenting the 'Youth Take Action on NCDs: A Focus on Tobacco Control' workshop.

It is set to coincide with the World Congress of Cardiology in Melbourne next week.



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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Far North Coast, QLD (Job# 2010535)  
Unique opportunity in outstanding coastal location - exp team and support.
- **Pharmacist** - Devonport & North West, TAS (Job# 2010492)  
Join a great team in a beautiful place offering career growth opportunities.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Sydney Northern suburbs (Job# 2010524)  
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## 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](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**3-4 May:** 4th International Conference on the Science of Nutrition in Medicine and Healthcare Conference; Gold Coast; for more info see: [www.nutritionmedicine.org.au](http://www.nutritionmedicine.org.au)

**3 May:** Clinical Update Seminar; Sydney; for more info see: [www.pharmeducation.org.au](http://www.pharmeducation.org.au)

**4 May:** "Complementary Medicines: an evidence-guided approach" Seminar; Sydney; for more info see: [www.pharmeducation.org.au](http://www.pharmeducation.org.au)

**5-6 May:** Pharmacy "Essential Financial Skills"; Perth; see: [www.fmrbusdev.com.au](http://www.fmrbusdev.com.au)

**17-18 May:** Early Career Leadership Seminar; Adelaide; for more info go to: [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au)

**18 May:** "Complementary Medicines: an evidence-guided approach" Seminar; Brisbane; for more info see: [www.pharmeducation.org.au](http://www.pharmeducation.org.au)

**25-31 May:** Macular Degeneration Awareness Week; for more info see: [www.mdfoundation.com.au](http://www.mdfoundation.com.au)

**30 May - 1 Jun:** Clinical and Practice Expo 2014, Sydney; see: [www.psa.org.au/cpxpo](http://www.psa.org.au/cpxpo) or email [cpxpo@psa.org.au](mailto:cpxpo@psa.org.au)

**1-3 Jun:** ConPharm 2014; Port Douglas; for more info go to: [www.conpharm14.com.au](http://www.conpharm14.com.au)

**1-3 Jun:** 20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014); Melbourne; see more at: [www.aids2014.org](http://www.aids2014.org)

**3-4 Jun:** Pharmacy "Essential Financial Skills"; Melbourne; see: [www.fmrbusdev.com.au](http://www.fmrbusdev.com.au)

**20-22 Jun:** National Convention & Exhibition; Sydney; details: [www.nswpharmacy-nce.com.au](http://www.nswpharmacy-nce.com.au)

## PBS reforms slammed

**THE** reforms proposed by the Commission of Audit report (**page one**) have been slammed by health care industry organisations.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia said it rejected the recommendations, saying some were "glaringly bad" policy proposals.

The support for pharmacies in supermarkets showed "gross ignorance" of community pharmacies' role as primary health care hubs, citing Minister for Health Peter Dutton's affirmation at APP this year that retail giants would not be allowed into the sector.

Deregulation would destroy a system supported by consumers, the Guild said.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia national president Grant Kardachi said this deregulation showed a lack of understanding of the system and pharmacists' role.

"Deregulating community pharmacy would only serve to narrow service provision by pharmacists and ensure that price rather than patient health outcomes are the short-term drivers of health service delivery."

Medicines Australia called the report "flawed" with ceo Dr Brendan Shaw saying there was no need for further savings measures.

Many of the Commission's recommendations show an ignorance of the reality of the medicines industry in Australia, he said, and would see loss of investment and jobs.

"Access to life-saving medicines

means Australian patients can afford and receive new medicines coming into the country, but these new medicines may not even make it to Australia if some of the recommendations in the Commission's report are implemented.

"Some of the recommendations on the PBS suggest the Commission of Audit has been drinking the Kool-Aid."

The Australian Medical Association has said the report recommended the health system be run by bean counters, with president Dr Steve Hambleton saying the recommendations would put health, medical and pharmaceutical care out of reach for families.

## Actavis restructures

**ACTAVIS** Pty Ltd intends to restructure its commercial business into four separate units, as well as combining its Australian commercial operations into a single location in Sydney, from the two current locations in Melbourne and Sydney.

Actavis Australia and New Zealand vice president Ron van der Pluijm said part of this consideration was cost saving, but it was more about making the company more efficient.

Positions in Melbourne would be relocated to Sydney, with an equivalent number open to application for employees who wished to relocate, he said.

The four business units would comprise generics, OTC, hospital and specialty, van der Pluijm said, with the move made to strengthen the company's ability to expand product offerings and serve its customers better.

This expansion would include in OTC and specialty, the latter of which would be a major part of the business, he said.

A final decision following staff consultation would be made around the end of May, he said.

This follows the merger of the Australia and NZ businesses last year (**PD 27 Nov**).

## Unlicensed herbs out

**THE** UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has announced the end of the sell-through period for unlicensed manufactured herbal medicines without a traditional herbal registration (THR) or product licence (PL).

MHRA Licensing Division's Dr Linda Anderson said people should only buy herbal medicines that they knew met standards, identified by the THR or PL number on the product.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**URUGUAY** doped up.

In what is a global first experiment, Uruguayans are about to be given legal rights to be able to buy up to 10g of pot per week.

In an attempt to undermine drug trafficking, according to *Reuters*, President Jose Mujica will shortly sign off on the landmark legislation making Uruguay the first country to legalise the growth and sale of marijuana.

Medical marijuana has now been made available in around 20 hospitals in New York city as well as some other states for patients suffering from cancer and for some neurological conditions.

## WIN A LAPURETE OKURU PACK

Every day this week **PD** is giving 1 reader the chance to win a **Lapurete Okuru Pack**.

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To win, be first to send in the correct answer to the question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**What is the size of the Okuru Triple Effects Eye Crème in the Okuru Value Pack?**

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner **Maddison Gartner** from **Pharmacor**.

