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Mozobil PBS listed

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) has listed Sanofi Australia's Mozobil (plerixafor injection) for lymphoma and multiple myeloma patients.

CHD death rates fall

THE Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has released a report showing that coronary heart disease death rates fell overall by more than 70% between 1979 and 2010 for people over 25 years old, from 31,000 to 21,700.

However, the fall in rates was starting to slow for people from their mid to late 20s to their late 60s, with the average annual fall in CHD death rates for men aged 40 to 54 slowing from 6.6% to 3.2% from 2000 to 2010.

For women, the annual decline fell from 7.4% from 1997 to 2.7% to 2010.

This was thought to be due to trends in key risk factors such as obesity, diet and lack of exercise, AIHW spokesperson Sushma Mathur said.

Guild 5CPA claim build up

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia said there is a backlog of 5CPA program payment claims (**PD** breaking news yesterday) and it has hired more staff to deal with this.

A Guild spokesman said this arose through the complexity of moving from the Department of Human Services (DoHS) paper-based system to online processing.

The Guild took over administration of registration and payment claims from the DoHS from 01 Mar (**PD** 13 Feb).

This required the electronic registration of about 7,500 pharmacist providers, he said, and

from 14 to 28 Feb no claims could be lodged.

"The Guild has tried to do our best to assist registrants, including by manually transferring paper claims lodged after the deadline for transition to online claiming.

"We have applied all available internal staff resources at dealing with this backlog, as well as hiring additional temporary staff to deal with the immediate work on hand.

"Our hope is that this will normalise the flow of claims and payments within a couple of weeks."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) national president Grant Kardachi said the situation was unfortunate and the PSA understood the difficulty it might cause but it was pleasing to see the Guild apply extra resources for minimal impact on pharmacists.

"Transitional periods may present unexpected problems and the Guild's timely response in recognising and dealing with this is appropriate."

Emerson appt acclaim

PHARMACY groups have welcomed Dr Lance Emerson on his role as the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's new chief executive officer.

Australian College of Pharmacy national president Trent Twomey said Emerson had a distinguished career in pharmacy.

Australian Self Medication Industry executive director Deon Schoombie said Emerson brought a wealth of experience to the role.

Pharmacy Guild executive director David Quilty said the Guild was committed to working closely with Emerson and the PSA team.

Diabetes type II app

SANOFI ANZ has launched a new titration guidance app, designed to give healthcare professionals (HCPs) quick and easy access to all information required to start and titrate type II diabetes mellitus (T2DM) patients on Lantus (insulin glargine) and Apidra (insulin glulisine).

TGA ticks Alprolix

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved the marketing of Biogen Idec's Alprolix (efirenacog alfa) (rhu), a long-acting, fully recombinant fusion protein for the treatment of Australian patients with Haemophilia B, which is produced by recombinant DNA technology.



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Small, rural country town - 5.5 days - all levels of experience considered.
- **Pharmacist** - Limestone Coast, SA (Job# 2010550)
Join a friendly team where you can engage with a varied customer base.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Capricorn Coast, QLD (Job# 2010012)
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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.

17-18 May: Early Career Leadership Seminar; Adelaide; for more info go to: www.shpa.org.au

18 May: "Complementary Medicines: an evidence-guided approach" Seminar; Brisbane; for more info see: www.pharmeducation.com.au

25-31 May: Macular Degeneration Awareness Week; for more info see: www.mdfoundation.com.au

30 May - 1 Jun: Clinical and Practice Expo 2014, Sydney; see: www.psa.org.au/cpexpo or email cpexpo@psa.org.au

1-3 Jun: ConPharm 2014; Port Douglas; for more info go to: www.conpharm14.com.au

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

3-4 Jun: Pharmacy "Essential Financial Skills"; Melbourne; see: www.fmrbusdev.com.au

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

22-23 Jul: Pharmacy "Essential Financial Skills"; Sydney; see: www.fmrbusdev.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/events/nsw-education-calendar

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

PHARMAC on competition

NEW Zealand's Pharmaceutical Management Agency (PHARMAC) has said it intends to try out a contestable fund and bidding process for high cost medicines for rare disorders, which could see it seek proposals from pharmaceutical companies by the end of the year.

Up to NZ\$5m a year could be made available through already budgeted funding, PHARMAC said, and such a process, where suppliers bid for a capped fund, could show that PHARMAC wanted to improve access to high cost treatments, and could encourage suppliers to propose more competitive pricing.

Ceo Steffan Crausaz said promoting competition could be the key to improving access.

The proposed funding approach was the result of listening to patient concerns in recent forums and consultations, which led PHARMAC

to the view that the main problem was a lack of competition, he said.

"We know competition leads to lower prices, and that's an area where PHARMAC has an established track record.

"Our activities in promoting competition enable New Zealand to achieve some of the lowest prices for medicines in the world.

"We think that by promoting competition among suppliers, prices will reduce and as a result, patients will get funded access to them."

Medicines NZ general manager Kevin Sheehy said in principal the organisation supported a ring fenced budget for medicines for rare disorders but the proposed budget was inadequate if compared with the figures developed by the NZ Organisation for Rare Disorders.

The NZORD has estimated the budget needed to be in the order of NZ\$20m to NZ\$25m.

PHARMAC published a discussion paper last month on its website and is inviting comments.

To view it, **CLICK HERE**.

College headache call

IN Vivo Academy, an education provider of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, is conducting a needs assessment survey for a continuing professional development (CPD) activity on chronic headaches.

The results of this survey will be used in the planning of a CPD activity for general practitioners and pharmacists.

Eligible pharmacists who would like to participate in the survey and have worked in a community pharmacy for at least 12 months can contribute by **CLICKING HERE**.

MHRA herb warning


THE Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a safety warning around the use of Ayurvedic herbal medicine for treatment of asthmatic symptoms

The herb has been found to contain dexamethasone, a prescription only medicine which has not been declared on the packaging.



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DISPENSARY CORNER

BLOOD fountain of youth.

Very few mice have a role in pharmacy, but here's a few with whom we may all want to become more closely acquainted.

Harvard and Stanford universities have published three studies demonstrating that substances in the blood of young mice rejuvenate the muscles and brains of older mice, while an earlier study showed the same effect on their hearts.

According to *US Today*, there is no evidence to suggest that this will work with humans, but researchers believe it is worthy of further research.

WIN LA CLINICA BABY PRODUCTS

Every day this week **PD** is giving one reader the chance to win a set of



La Clinica's Organic Baby Range Products.

Formulated with Silica Spring Water, certified organic plant ingredients of Chamomile and Calendula, LA CLINICA's Baby Soothing Lotion will leave your baby's skin feeling smooth and soothed.

This lotion is suitable for use on irritated, inflamed and sensitive skin on any part of the baby's body. The inclusion of the natural ingredient Boswellia is ideal in the skin's soothing and healing regime.

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Kelly Gourlay, from **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia**.