

Medsafe hits illegals

NEW Zealand's Medsafe, the country's medicines and medical devices safety authority, joined Interpol's Operation Pangea VII campaign to stop illegal drug imports (*PD* yesterday).

This year 248 packages were held for further investigation, which is 50 less than last year.

Medsafe compliance management manager Derek Fitzgerald said prescription medicines purchased online are a quality and safety risk.

TGA illicit drug alerts

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued alerts for three illegal erectile dysfunction medications that have appeared in Australia without being evaluated.

'So Hard for Men', 'My Man His Enhancer' and 'The Rock' tablets and capsules contain sildenafil or analogues, are illegal to supply in Australia and have not been assessed by the TGA for safety.

The TGA is working with Australian Customs and Border Protection Services to help stop future shipments of these and other illegal products into Australia (*PD* yesterday).

New med shortage tool

THE Medicine Shortages Information initiative has launched to provide healthcare professionals with up to date information about current, projected and resolved medicine shortages and discontinued medicines.

The website was launched by Assistant Minister for Health Fiona Nash and has three components: a protocol for communication and management of shortages; the website; and the subscription alert service.

The website was developed through a partnership with Medicines Australia, the Generic Medicines Industry Association (GMiA) and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

TGA national manager Professor John Skerritt said projections were for 150 to 200 medicine shortage cases reported each year, not necessarily for obscure drugs.

"Until today, there has been no timely, consistent, coordinated communication channel for medicine shortages in Australia."

The initiative brought Australia in line with the USA, Canada, Europe and the UK, but with a non-regulatory, cooperative approach

with industry and running the website with a maximum of two staff, he said.

GMiA ceo Kate Lynch said the initiative had been executed in under a year due to TGA prioritisation.

GMiA and the TGA were collaborating on a number of high priority issues currently, including ways to improve efficiencies and reduce red tape burden for sponsors, she said.

Medicines Australia ceo Dr Brendan Shaw said there were multiple factors that contributed to unanticipated shortages in medicines supply such as manufacturing problems or unexpected disease outbreaks.

"This information initiative will provide the tools needed to communicate effectively to the regulator and companies ahead of time, reducing the possibility of patients not being able to access their prescribed medicine due to a supply shortage, and minimising the impact on patients."

To view the site, **CLICK HERE**.

Regulatory obligations

THE Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC) has announced its program and speaker line-up for the Regulatory Obligations Seminar on 16 Jun.

CHC ceo Carl Gibson said the conference was timely with the changes happening in the regulatory environment at the moment.

CLICK HERE to register.

New CPD courses

GRIFFITH University and Blackmores Institute have united to create a new online complementary medicines CPD-accredited short course.

Designed for pharmacists and other healthcare professionals, the course is free through the Blackmores Institute website.

The course is part of Griffith's Short Course in Integrative Medicine, developed by the School of Pharmacy's Associate Professor Evelin Tiralongo and Adjunct Associate Professor Greg Mapp.

MEANWHILE supporting Macular Degeneration Awareness Week, from 25 to 31 May, Blackmores Institute has launched a new online CPD accredited education module specifically for pharmacists with a focus on eye health and specifically macular degeneration.

CLICK HERE to source the courses.

Pfizer leaves AZ bid

FOLLOWING two rejected offers to buy AstraZeneca (AZ), Pfizer has given up its take over attempt.

In a statement, Pfizer said following its final proposal and AZ's rejection, it did not intend to make an offer for the company.

Chairman and ceo Ian Read said the company would continue to focus on the execution of its plans.

According to *Reuters*, UK rules now require a cool-off period of six months before another offer can be made, or AZ could re-open negotiations in three months time.

BlackRock, AZ's biggest shareholder, backed the rejections but supports future negotiations.

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AMA fights budget

THE newly elected president of the Australian Medical Association, Brian Owler, says he's determined to fight against the health measures in the federal budget, citing the co-payment as having an "alarming impact across the health system."

Contraceptives stay on script

THE New Zealand Medicines Classification Committee has recommended that selected oral contraceptives should not be reclassified from prescription to pharmacist only.

The proposed reclassification was for desogestrel, ethinylestradiol, norethisterone and levonorgestrel in certain circumstances (**PD** 24 Feb).

The Committee said 15 pre-meeting comments were received, including seven opposing the reclassification.

While the Committee agreed that women having the opportunity to get their oral contraceptive from a pharmacist would be more convenient and that there was potentially an unmet need for the supply of oral contraceptives without a prescription, the major

problem with the application was the lack of collaborative work with GPs, which likely caused gaps in the proposal, and that "the emphasis appeared to be entirely on offering opportunities to pharmacists rather than improving the availability of primary care."

The Committee also said several members had concerns that fragmentation of care could lead to poorer continuation of care.

"In conclusion, the Committee agree that the proposed reclassification could work with the appropriate degree of coproduction and collaboration, and would be a significant driver for integration.

"However the current application did not reach that target."

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

Industry appts

THE Australian Self Medication Industry has acknowledged the strong leadership and collaborative style of Dr Brendan Shaw.

MEANWHILE Victorian cardiologist Dr Jennifer Johns has been elected as president of the National Heart Foundation.

Johns was most recently medical director of specialty services CSU at Austin Hospital and has been president of the Victorian Heart Foundation Board since 2009.



PHARMACY PRACTICE INCENTIVES (PPI)

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5cpa.com.au



Funded by the Australian Department of Health as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Priceline awards

A RANGE of awards were presented at Priceline's 2014 annual conference held at the Grand Hyatt Melbourne last week.

The 2014 conference was the biggest the company has ever staged, with 400 delegates and 70% of stores represented.

API md and ceo Stephen Roche said the Franchise Awards recognised operational excellence against a range of criteria.

Pharmacist of the Year went to Tony Golshani, Wetherill Park, NSW, while Store of the Year was awarded to franchisee of Priceline Pharmacy Beaumaris, Chetan Hegde.

PBS call for Kalydeco

CYSTIC Fibrosis Australia has used a *65 Roses Day* event in Parliament House Canberra to again lobby the manufacturer of the medicine Kalydeco, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, and government to fund the product on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (**PD** 11 Feb).

Cystic Fibrosis Australia ceo Michelle Skinner said Budget Papers had shown savings to the PBS during the 2014/15 financial year of \$2.07b.

"The PBAC has recommended Kalydeco on two occasions, but the Department and the company are haggling over price and patient numbers."

Without a subsidy, the annual cost of Kalydeco exceeds \$250,000.

WIN A PLUNKETTS PACK

Every day this week **PD & Plunketts**

is giving one reader the chance to win a Nutri-Synergy moisturiser pack.

Nutri-Synergy effectively moisturises dry, winter skin without petrochemicals, parabens, colours or fragrances - natural goodness and no nasties. This prize pack includes moisturisers for dry skin & rough skin as well as lip balm & hand products.

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

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Is Nutri-Synergy a sponsor of the Eczema Association Inc.?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner **Ngaira Thewlis** from **Choice Pharmacy**.



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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au



DISPENSARY CORNER

JUST-IN-TIME kidney transplant. Pharmacy deliveries often seem to be managed just in time, but hopefully not in life-threatening situations like this one.

After waiting 12 years on the transplant list, Robert Barbour, 48, received the long awaited call to Tampa General Hospital at 5.30am, so he and his girlfriend/carer hopped into their truck and headed off.

According to *Yahoo! News*, Murphy's Law struck them with a tyre blow-out a few kilometres from the hospital, but with time not on their side, they carried on driving on the rim until finally the police came to help them.

With only three minutes to get to the hospital, the police pulled all stops and with sirens blaring delivered the patient just in time, the publication reported.

NUCLEAR fitness.

Not just an active brain is needed for the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), apparently.

Australia's national nuclear research and development organisation, and the centre of Australian nuclear expertise, has put up a tender on the government tender website for the provision of a corporate health and fitness program.

ROYAL quandary.

In Australia, you don't have to worry too much about bumping into a royal descendant.

But one distant section of aristocracy in England has challenged the burial of Richard III's bones in Leicester's cathedral.

Stephen Nicolay is reportedly the king's 16th great nephew who, with a group called the Plantagenet Alliance, claimed the UK government did not consult widely enough the wishes of Richard or his living relatives, AP reported.

Britain's High Court, however, ruled there were no grounds to overturn the govt decision, it said.

Blackmores new and improved Pregnancy & Breast-Feeding Gold

To address the specific nutritional needs of Australian mums, new & improved **Blackmores Pregnancy & Breast-Feeding Gold** provides a daily dose of 20 important nutrients for mother and baby including folic acid, iodine, DHA and vitamin D3 as well as a low-constipation form of iron. This special type of iron, known as ferrous bisglycinate, is a bioavailable, low-constipation, low-nausea formula. In addition, Blackmores have included zinc, vitamin C and betacarotene for immune health support. It now comes in a smaller capsule and is Halal Certified.

Stockist: Major pharmaceutical wholesalers

RRP: \$28.95 for 60, \$47.95 for 120, \$63.95 for 180

Website: www.blackmores.com.au



Trilogy Rosehip Oil Antioxidant+ on the podium in UK

Trilogy Rosehip Oil Antioxidant+ was voted 'Best New Certified Organic Skincare Product' in the recently unveiled CEW (UK) 2014 Beauty Awards, taking its place among some of the world's most iconic beauty brands. Voted for by senior industry executives, these awards are considered the UK beauty industry's most prestigious and hard-won gongs. Influential author Jo Fairley (Green Beauty Bible, YOU, beautybible.co.uk) described them as 'the Beauty Oscars' in her coverage of the news for *MailOnline*. "The natural and organic sector is growing faster than any other beauty category and Trilogy gets a deserved A-star for this 'antioxidant plus' facial oil which protects, enhances elasticity and softens fine lines," she wrote. Launched just two years ago, Trilogy Rosehip Oil Antioxidant+ has picked up 13 international accolades to date, including Harper's Bazaar Beauty Hot 100.

Stockist: 03 9533 1336

RRP: \$29.95

Website: www.trilogyproducts.com



Nature's Own release new Superfoods range, blended by experts

Nature's Own has taken the best that nature has to offer and carefully selected and combined a variety of superfoods into a new expert range available now. The range includes **Nature's Own Superfood Blends Berry, Chia with Fibre and 2 Billion Probiotics, Cocoa, Blends 6 Supergreens** and in addition a berry flavoured Superfood Tonic 2-in-1 is included.

Stockist: 1800 732 273

RRP: \$24.95

Website: www.naturesown.com.au



Laura Mercier Full Blown Volume Supreme Mascara

Laura Mercier has taken 'full blown volume' to the next level. The new lightweight, nutrient-infused formula dramatically thickens, lengthens, curls and sculpts lashes with each stroke, leaving lashes super-shiny, soft and clump-free all day long. Ophthalmologist and dermatologist tested, **Laura Mercier Full Blown Volume Supreme Mascara** glides smoothly onto lashes with its glossy finish, is comfortable to wear and is water resistant, it is also designed to last all day (8 hours). It is non-drying, non-flaking and does not clump or smudge because of its thoroughly researched super lightweight, non-brittle formula. It is on counter 06 Jul.

Stockists: 02 9663 4277

RRP: \$39.00

Website: www.trimex.com.au

