

Friday's Comp winner

FRIDAY'S winner of the MOR Essentials Hand & Body Wash and Lotion Set was **Yulia Onsman** from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Designer Brands** are giving readers the chance to win a four pack of Lavish Lip Gloss starting today with NSW and ACT readers. See **page two** for details.

Co-trimoxazole risk

CO-TRIMOXAZOLE (sulfamethoxazole combined with trimethoprim) has been shown to be associated with an increased risk of sudden death in older patients also taking angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors or angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs), according to new Canadian research published in the *BMJ*.

CLICK HERE to access the study.

250 Priceline pharmacies

PRICELINE Pharmacy has opened its 250th store in Gateways in Western Australia.

With 145 non-pharmacy Priceline stores, this brought the total to 395 stores in the country, API said.

It saw overall sales growth of 11.1% for its Priceline network in its annual report (**PD 23 Oct**).

It said store numbers were up by 27 to 390 in the year to August, with a further 20 expected this financial year.

New NHMRC website

THE National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) will release improvements to its website on 06 Nov, reflecting input from researchers and health professionals.

To give feedback, **CLICK HERE**.

Pharmacists support CSO

THE majority of pharmacists support keeping the Community Service Obligation (CSO) as part of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA).

The University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) Pharmacy Barometer found 60% of surveyed pharmacists believed the allocation of funding for the CSO should be kept in the next Agreement, with support most strong among pharmacy owners at 72%.

The fourth Barometer, released last week (**PD 31 Oct**) involved 268 pharmacists completing an online questionnaire from July to August, 18% of which were owners, 24% owner managers, 43% pharmacy managers or pharmacists in charge and 12% employed pharmacists.

The Barometer commentary said the support provided in the past by wholesalers continued to resonate.

"Interestingly this support is despite wholesalers toughening up their trading terms in the last couple of years."

National Pharmaceutical Services Association president Patrick Davies said the results showed pharmacists understood the benefits of the CSO and that pharmacists continued to put patient care first, despite increased margin pressure.

NZ pharmacy council ratifies standards

THE Pharmacy Council of New Zealand has ratified new competence standards for the pharmacy profession in the country.

The standards involve six domains including professionalism in pharmacy, health and medicine management and public healthcare.

CLICK HERE to access the standards.

The Barometer recorded a pessimistic outlook about the future of community pharmacy with a score of 68.9 out of 200, where a score of 100 represented a neutral confidence.

This compared with the third Barometer's score of 61.2, following a year of price disclosure waves, and the second Barometer's score of 86, the Barometer said.

In response to the Barometer's finding of 69% of pharmacists supported a variable dispensing fees (**PD 31 Oct**), Pharmacy Guild executive director David Quilty said dispensing was the foundation of community pharmacies, and if it became unviable, pharmacists' services, support and jobs would be at risk.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia ceo Dr Lance Emerson said the Barometer's finding supported the PSA's discussion paper proposing a variable fee, but that he was "deeply concerned" that two thirds of owners, managers and pharmacists-in-charge planned to replace lost revenue by cutting staff costs.

CLICK HERE to access the Barometer.

Chemist Warehouse Roy Morgan gong

CHEMIST Warehouse has taken out the Chemist Pharmacy of the Month Award in the Roy Morgan Customer Satisfaction Awards for September, wresting it from Guardian's stranglehold (**PD 17 Oct**).

Apart from June this year when Chemmart won its customers' hearts, Guardian Pharmacy has taken out every other customer satisfaction award on top of winning the Chemist/Pharmacy of the Year Award for 2013.

Ultibro Breezhaler PBS listed

NOVARTIS' once daily bronchodilator Ultibro Breezhaler 110/50 has been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Used for maintenance treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, it was approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in March (**PD 06 Aug**).

Complaints resolution

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration Complaints Resolution Panel has ruled on a series of breaches relating to advertising claims for therapeutic goods.

Body Ripped Products from Body Ripped Sports Nutrition, Chinese Medicine Shop from Ron Cox P/L, ENT Technologies, Qiara from Puremedic P/L and Fusion Health Website from Global Therapeutics P/L have all been found in breach of various sections of the Act and are required to withdraw the related advertisements and representations.

CLICK HERE for more detail.

PBAC rejects Bexsero

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) rejected the request to list Novartis' meningococcal group B vaccine Bexsero on the National Immunisation Program schedule for infants and adolescents.

In its July meeting, the PBAC said there was limited demonstration of, and multiple uncertainties in relation to the clinical effectiveness of the vaccine when delivered in a vaccination program, as well as an "unacceptably high and uncertain" incremental cost effectiveness ratio.

CLICK HERE for more.



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Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Gerald Quigley, Pharmacist, Master Herbalist and Consultant on behalf of Phytologic**



Turmeric – is it the new omega-3?

MUCH is being written about the benefits of turmeric, and it continues to be one of the most thoroughly researched plants in existence today. Its medicinal properties and components have been the subject of more than 5,600 peer-reviewed and published biomedical studies. Given the sheer density of research performed on this remarkable spice, it's no wonder that a growing number of studies have concluded that it compares favourably to a variety of conventional medications.

In my patients, I see rapid improvements in joint pain, especially in those who have restricted options. Patients with hypertension, asthma and gut issues now have the benefit of better pain relief.

Exciting research is also being conducted on the role of turmeric in memory loss and concentration, as reported in the recent press from experts within the Swinburne University of Technology's Department of Human Psychopharmacology.

Once again, it's an opportunity for us to be proactive in reducing levels of inflammation and improving quality of life, in patients who are in pain all day, go to bed in pain and wake up in pain. Put yourself in their position, speak to them in an understanding way and they will be fans of yours forever!

EBOS: 80% revenue Oz

EBOS Group Limited has said about 80% of its revenue and EBITDA is generated from Australia.

At the company's annual meeting, it said this major shift of revenues and earnings to Australia had occurred following the acquisition of Symbion (*PD* 29 May).

Chairman Rick Christie said this shift was "all good", allowing the company to better identify growth opportunities in Australia and Asia.

"Our management team in Australia has considerable experience in the market and regulatory conditions there, but in addition sees how some of our key New Zealand competencies eg with third party logistics, can be leveraged into Australia to the overall benefit of the Group, and shareholders."

Ceo Patrick Davies said there had been "much commentary" on the impact of Australian government healthcare reforms on the business, which had managed to expand in an environment of successive Australian governments adjusting healthcare funding.

MEANWHILE the group also

announced that it has acquired BlackHawk Premium Pet Care P/L for NZ\$57.8m (AUD\$51.3m).

The acquisition was strategically important for the Group's animal care division, Davies said.

The acquisition was immediately earnings per share accretive and had been funded from the Group's existing debt facilities, he said.

"It represents a significant direct investment in the premium per food category in Australia, which we estimate to have a market size of approximately NZ\$720m (AU\$650m)."

CLICK HERE for more.

New FIP e-learning

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has released a new e-learning module to help healthcare workers in armed conflict and emergency situations.

The course helps participants understand the effects of violence on healthcare, their own rights and responsibilities and ethical dilemmas they may face.

CLICK HERE for more.



DISPENSARY CORNER

HARRY P.Dog.

Did you get any Harry Potters wandering into your pharmacy over the Halloween weekend?

If yes, the (\$110) million question is, were they rapping Blackalicious' 'Alphabet Aerobics'?

The reason for any marvellously mouthy magic men in your store is that Harry Potter actor Daniel Radcliffe was challenged, and successfully stepped up, to rap on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*.

Radcliffe managed to nail the song, which gets progressively faster, and got a standing ovation from the studio audience, and the video has of course gone viral, with 12.75m views so far.

THAT'S the spirit.

Keeping with the ghostly theme, ever fancied running the pharmacy in a ghost town?

You could be in luck, provided you've got US\$800,000 to buy Johnsonville in Connecticut.

The 62 acre village built in the 19th century has been closed for 20 years, having been turned into a tourist attraction in the 1960s by millionaire Raymond Schmitt, *Bloomberg* reported.

The reason for closure was apparently zoning disputes but since we've just passed Halloween, *PD* likes to think it's because it's haunted by the ghosts of prescriptions unfilled.

It's up for auction online, should you be tempted, *Bloomberg* reported.

CLICK HERE for more.

MAN'S best friend - yeah right.

An overfriendly dog has proven the downfall of a suspected drug dealer in Alabama, who was found by police hiding in tall grass after his canine 'friend' happily led officers to him, *Reuters* reported.

WIN Lavish Lip Gloss

Every day this week *Pharmacy Daily* and **Designer Brands** are giving readers the chance to win a four pack of Lavish Lip Gloss.

Lip colour is the most used colour cosmetic among Australian women and as a result Designer Brands is updating its lip category. And it all starts with Designer Brands Lavish Lip Gloss. This new and improved formula is highly pigmented for intense colour. The gloss is ultra-shiny, yet doesn't leave lips feeling sticky or tacky. The paraben-free formula of Designer Brands Lavish Lip Gloss also contains vitamin E and beeswax for soft and supple lips. It's available in 12 on-trend shades, including seven new shades (**pictured**) and five classic best-sellers from the previous range.

To win, be the first from NSW or ACT to send the correct answer to:
comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



What is the clear shade in the range?

Hint: www.dbcosmetics.com.au

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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Publisher: Bruce Piper

Editor: Alex Walls info@pharmacydaily.com.au

Reporter: Mal Smith

Advertising and Marketing: Katrina Ford advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

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