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Friday's comp winner

FRIDAY'S winner of Designer Brands Lavish Lip Gloss four pack was **Louisa Daly-Whittington** from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and Key Sun are giving five readers the chance to win a two pack of Clear Zinke, starting today with NSW & ACT readers.

See **page two** for details.

Antimicrobial risk data consult

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has put its interim guideline on microbial resistance risk data up for consultation.

Sponsors of antibacterial medicines were required to include data such as resistance safety data and human antibiotic-resistance prevalence data, the TGA said.

The guideline states that, among other actions, sponsors should monitor information about the prevalence of resistance in Australia and provide this to the TGA.

The consultation closes on 19 Dec.

CLICK HERE for more.

15 mill opioid addicts

AN ESTIMATED 15m people worldwide suffer from opioid dependence and around 69,000 die from opioid overdose each year, according to a new fact sheet released by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

While the majority of these people used illicitly cultivated and manufactured heroin, an increasing proportion used prescription opioids, the report said.

It said only 10% of addicts received treatment.

CLICK HERE for more.

Pharmacy Alliance members up

PHARMACY Alliance said it had 27 new members since July, making 477 in total in October.

A new strategy was launched at the meetings to "win the hearts and minds of consumers".

Pharmacy notifications up 20%

NOTIFICATIONS received by the Pharmacy Board of Australia (PBA) in 2013/14 were up 20% year on year to 514.

In its annual report, the PBA said the rate of notifications per registrant nationally was 1.7%, compared with 4.9% for medical practitioners and 0.5% for nurses.

There were 464 closed this year, with 55% closed after assessment, 14 after a panel hearing, 12 after a tribunal hearing, 90 after an investigation and 13 after a health or performance assessment.

Immediate action was initiated for 19 practitioners this year (excluding NSW which is a co-regulatory jurisdiction).

Of these 19, 10 were in Queensland, the report found.

This compared with 18 practitioners in 2013.

While in the majority of closed cases no further action was deemed required, in three cases, the practitioner's registration was suspended, in two the practitioner surrendered their registration and in one, the registration was cancelled altogether, the PBA said.

Just over 100 cautions were issued, with six reprimands, 19 conditions imposed and nine undertakings accepted, the Board said.

The pharmacy profession had the second highest mandatory notification rate, at 17 per 10,000 practitioners, after the medical profession at 27.2, the PBA said.

Just under 300 notifications (286) were lodged outside NSW, the state with the largest number of registered pharmacists at 8,769.

Pseudoephedrine e-monitoring call

BY MAKING the electronic recording of pseudoephedrine-based medication sales mandatory, there is increased uptake and use of the recording system ProjectSTOP and improved data access for the identification of trends and patterns of activity, according to a new study published in the *International Journal of Pharmacy Practice*.

CLICK HERE to access the abstract.

The Northern Territory had the highest rate of notifications at 4.7% and the ACT posted the lowest at 0.6%.

MEANWHILE in a series of pilot audits, it was estimated that 92.2% of all pharmacists currently registered would be compliant with the four registration standards, compared with 90.5% of optometrists and 84.5% of nurses and midwives.

CLICK HERE to read the report.

Reflux conversations

RECKITT Benckiser has created an educational video showing pharmacists how to start a conversation with patients about gastro-oesophageal reflux disease and break-through acid reflux.

CLICK HERE to see the video.

Chemists save devils

CAPITAL Chemist Tasmania's eight stores are supporting the iconic Tassie devil and the threat it faces due to the deadly Devil Facial Tumour Disease.

The Tasmanian chain will donate 10c from the sale of every Pharmacy Choice-branded sinus and allergy product during October and November.

To learn more, **CLICK HERE**.

Ca++ binding drugs inhibit cancer spread

CALCIUM-BINDING drugs commonly used to treat people with osteoporosis or with late-stage cancers that have spread to bone may also benefit patients with tumours outside the skeleton, including breast cancer, Garvan Institute researchers published in *Cancer Discovery* have said.

Using real-time intravital two-photon microscopy and fluorescent bisphosphonate, researchers were able to observe "compelling in vivo evidence that bisphosphonates can target cells in tumours outside the skeleton and that their anti-tumour activity is likely to be mediated via tumour-associated macrophages".

CLICK HERE to access the abstract.

FDA warns Hospira on "adulterated" meds

THE US Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has issued a warning letter to Hospira over violations identified at its Mulgrave manufacturing site.

A letter sent in September, and reported recently by *The Australian*, said "significant violations" of manufacturing practice regulations for pharmaceuticals had been observed, causing the products to be "adulterated" within the meaning of US law.

The FDA said Hospira had not taken adequate corrective action related to the presence of particles in an injection drug, and said having received notification that visible particles were detected in an injection finished product in 2012, it was not until March this year that a "Dear Healthcare Provider" letter was issued.

A Therapeutic Goods Administration spokeswoman said it inspected the facility in 2012 and deficiencies cited by the FDA were seen and the company notified.

Its responses were considered adequate to continue manufacturing pending ongoing corrective actions, the spokeswoman said.

"TGA notes the FDA has not placed import bans on products from the site, nor enforced recalls of already distributed stock."

A Hospira spokesman said two of the three main issues outlined had been addressed while the third should be resolved shortly.

The spokesman said no restrictions on production or shipment of products to the US had been placed on the site.

The company had responded to the FDA in March and May, which the FDA's letter acknowledged.

CLICK HERE to read the letter in full.



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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**



Vitamin D – do we get enough?

I'M fascinated by this nutrient that seems to be able to facilitate so many body functions.

Additionally, insufficient levels of vitamin D are associated with a wide range of health challenges.

In theory, we synthesise vitamin D by the action of sunshine on our skin. Dietary sources of vitamin D include fish liver oils like cod, halibut, herring and tuna, as well as butter, egg yolk, milk and sprouted seeds. Many diseases such as cancer, intestinal disorders, insulin dependent diabetes, liver disease, multiple sclerosis, and ulcerative colitis increase the demand for vitamin D. Some conditions we commonly see are slow to respond to the usual solutions. For example, burning in the mouth, cramps, insomnia, and muscular pain are conditions that make life miserable for some individuals.

However, the addition of vitamin D can often hasten improvement. Certain drugs deplete vitamin D levels. They include anticonvulsants like phenytoin and valproic acid, corticosteroids like prednisolone and fluticasone, cimetidine, bile acid sequestrants and leflunomide.

Get involved in discussions about vitamin D supplements with your patients. Our patients read lots, and are well informed about the importance of vitamin D. Our patients expect us to be up-to-date with our knowledge as well.

Vax training accreditation fin

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has finalised the accreditation standards for pharmacists' vaccination training courses.

The Council said the standards defined the measurable parameters that vaccination programs needed to demonstrate, against which training could be assessed.

The best process to follow was that of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) accreditation, it said.

"These standards will be provided to the CPD accrediting organisations for their use in the CPD activity accreditation process."

The standards include that pharmacists participating in the program complete a minimum of 20 vaccinations under supervision.

Any program supporting pharmacist administration of vaccines would be reviewed every two years, the standards said.

Participants would need to have a cardiopulmonary resuscitation certificate and have completed online anaphylaxis training.

CLICK HERE for the standards.

\$50,000 diabetes achievement award

DIABETES Australia (DA) has announced a new national award for Outstanding Achievement in Diabetes Research.

The award was presented to Professor Stephen Colagiuri, Professor of Metabolic Health at the Boden Institute, University of Sydney at the Research Australia Annual Awards dinner in Sydney.

DA ceo Professor Greg Johnson said the award was to honour an Australian who had made an outstanding contribution to diabetes-related research.

CLICK HERE for more.

AH staffing variations

ACROSS all included Queensland healthcare services, there was significant variance in allied health (AH) staffing levels and diversity in skill mix for inpatient general rehabilitation services including hospital pharmacy staffing levels based on a Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) 2011 report.

The purpose of the report was to assist in planning and reviewing standards throughout the state.

CLICK HERE to access the study.

DISPENSARY CORNER



ASLEEP on the job.

Regular customer of the Jobstown Pharmacy in Dublin, Ireland, Luke Curry, helped a masked accomplice rob his local pharmacy, only to fall asleep moments later and be easily apprehended, according to *Independent.ie*.

In a classic case of being a little too obvious, the local gardai (Irish police) were given a tip off to check a specific house to find that simply looking through the window revealed the kipping criminals.

The apprehension was firstly a matter of waking the dozy pair, the report said.

Perhaps they should have stolen some caffeine or other stimulant instead of the €400, most of which was found under the sleepers upon arrest.

HEMLINE health in Queensland.

If you're giving advice to a customer about suncare, you could consider telling them to lengthen their hemlines.

A James Cook University study investigating 100 North Queensland schools has demonstrated that lengthening student uniforms to the knees and elbows or wearing loose-fitting clothing increases sun protection by more than 9%, according to a report in the *New Zealand Herald*.

The study supervisor Dr Simone Harrison said she hoped that the data would impact on Australian and New Zealand school uniform policies.

While one school has already changed its policy in accordance with the study guidelines, Harrison was also trialing a "SunSmart" rating system in Townsville schools, the publication reported.

WIN with KEY SUN

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and *Key Sun* are giving five readers the chance to win a two pack of Clear Zinke.

Key Sun Clear Zinke SPF 50+ is Australian owned and made, and offers all the benefits of extra Zinke protection in an invisible clear formula. Key Sun Clear Zinke offers broad spectrum protection, is four hours water resistant, fast absorbing, sweat resistant and non-greasy.

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



What SPF protection does Key Sun Clear Zinke offer?

Hint: <http://www.clearzinke.com.au/>

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