

Friday's comp winner

FRIDAY'S winner of the Key Sun two pack of Clear Zinke was **Kathryn Law** from ADS Pharmacy. This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Airsential** are giving five readers the chance to win a Vitalic Perio-TENS Pain Management device, starting with NSW and ACT readers today - see **page two** for details.

Pharma manu boost

GLAXOSMITHKLINE (GSK) has confirmed it will invest \$31m into new manufacturing technology in its Boronia, Melbourne site. This would include introducing the latest, high speed 'Blow-Fill-Seal' machinery for aseptic packing of sterile pharmaceutical liquids, which GSK said would be dedicated to manufacturing Ventolin (salbutamol sulfate) nebulisers. This would allow the site to meet increased demands from markets such as China and Brazil, GSK said, with the machine expected to be online in January 2016.

Medicines Australia ceo Tim James said the global market for medicines and vaccines was set to double over the next 10 years, and Australia was well placed to capitalise on this.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

HIV mode of action

THE progress of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is dependent on where in the human DNA the virus inserts itself, according to new research published in *Cell Host & Microbe*.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the abstract.

VIC commits to RT monitoring

THE Victorian Coalition government has committed to a real time prescription monitoring system, should it be re-elected. The government said it would invest \$6.98m over five years to develop the monitoring system, meaning prescriptions for Schedule 8 medications were recorded centrally, to identify cases of potential misuse, Minister for Health David Davis said. This follows the roll out of a system in Tasmania, and calls from

MBS vit D testing restricted

IN A review of Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) vitamin D testing, the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) said it accepted that testing should be limited to high risk populations. There had been a jump of 4,600% over the last 10 years in claims and benefits paid for MBS items relating to vitamin D testing and concerns that some patient groups could be tested unnecessarily.

'At risk' groups included those with osteoporosis or chronic kidney disease being treated pharmaceutically, the MSAC said. Complementary Medicines Australia ceo Carl Gibson said he was disappointed with the changes. He said a responsible approach would be to acknowledge the prevalence of vitamin D deficiency in the population, and not just those at high risk.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) (**PD** 17 Jul) and the NSW deputy state coroner Carmel Forbes (**PD** 07 Jul) for real time prescription reporting in all states and territories.

The Federal government made the Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs (ERRCD) system available on a secure host server for state and territory use with complimentary software license agreements. A WA Department of Health spokesperson said a law was passed in July that allowed for the legal collection and sharing of information on controlled drugs to medical practitioners. A licence agreement had been signed, a review of the ERRCD system completed and the department had been working to examine modifications required to meet local needs.

The governance structure required was being considered and implementation could start later in 2015, the spokesperson said. A spokesperson for the SA Department of Health said it supported the ERRCD initiative and was currently assessing and planning the support needed for the program's implementation. The NSW Health Department repeated its statements from July that the ERRCD would be implemented in stages, and that stage one, where the current system to administer drug of addition authorisations to prescribe S8 drugs was being replaced, was currently being implemented.

No further time frame was given for stage two, where the Ministry was provided with real time access to prescription dispensing records, or stage three, prescriber access. The Queensland Department of Health was not able to respond due to a public holiday. The NT and ACT Departments of Health had not responded at time of publication to requests for comment. The Victorian commitment has been welcomed by the Guild, the PSA and the Australian Medical Association.

Free interpreting service avail for HMRs

THE Department of Social Services (DSS) has said its free interpreting service (**PD** 12 Nov) is available to pharmacies dispensing PBS medications under the Home Medicines Review (HMR), provided they had an eligible PBS number and were registered for the service. A reader told **PD** access during an HMR was needed, particularly in rural areas.

A DSS spokesperson said this included the free telephone interpreting, should a pharmacist need to discuss PBS products and services. "If the pharmacist meets these criteria, they can use free telephone interpreting services through TIS National while conducting house visits under the HMR (first and any subsequent visits). "Independent pharmacists without a PBS number are not eligible for the free interpreting service."

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

TGA form problems

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration said it did not receive some online forms submitted between 29 Oct and 12 Nov, including forms for consumer reports of a medicine or vaccine side effect, and medicine deficiency or defect reports. It asked for forms to be resubmitted online and said the fault was due to new security measures - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Medications cost MS

MEDICATIONS for treatment of multiple sclerosis (MS) are identified as major contributors to the ongoing financial burden associated with the disease, according to a report commissioned by MS Research Australia, celebrating 10 years of MS research. The data also showed that public opinion was focused on research for a cure (47% of people surveyed) with new medicines to ease symptoms down at 5% as a priority. [CLICK HERE](#) for the report.

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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**



Tired? Isn't everybody?

FATIGUE in our patients is something we can't measure easily. Fatigue usually presents with an audible sigh as some script forms are being signed, a quiet nap within the waiting area, or a longing look within your complementary medicines category for a magic pill.

We don't offer magic, but we can certainly be actively involved in trying to understand the effects of fatigue on vitality, positivity and overall quality of life.

Fatigue can be caused by malnutrition (and that's not just eating too little, but also from overall poor food choices), by an individual response to a prescribed medicine, the overall debilitating effects of stress, or poor sleep hygiene.

Being proactive in helping a patient overcome any of these reasons can make an enormous difference to every single person with whom you engage. Try and be as positive and engaging as you can, every day, every time.

That's the fundamental difference between making a sale, and offering a solution to an issue you have identified, because you are interested in the wellbeing of your patients.

That's what primary care is all about, and that's why we continue to do what we do.

Psychs slam co-pays

THE Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) has used a new report to lobby non-government senators to continue to oppose the \$7 co-payment for GP visits and pathology as well as the PBS \$5 co-payment rise to \$40 a script.

The report argued that people with mental illness already struggled to afford appropriate care and these measures would add to their burden.

A single safety net for all healthcare costs, including Medicare, PBS and allied health was called for along with consultation with the Pharmacy Guild and consumer groups.

Additional measures recommended included optional deferment of co-payments to minimise barriers to care and a comprehensive audit on healthcare

costs.

Consumers Health Forum ceo Adam Stankevicius said the report was the latest in a number that showed the counter-productive impact of the proposed PBS co-payment rise, as well as the Medicare co-payment.

Those with mental illness would be hit with a rise in their drug bills, tougher barriers to disability support and more, he said.

CLICK HERE for the RANZCP report.

Cultural influences on medication adherence

SENIOR pharmacists have an active role in screening, evaluating, and counselling elderly, ethnically diverse patients, a study published in *The Consultant Pharmacist* has said.

With different communication styles, degrees of family involvement, time orientation and some distrust of Western healthcare, variations in approaches to medication adherence needed to be explored in different ethnic groups, the article said.

CLICK HERE to access the abstract.

Umpire honours

PHARMACIST Graham Reed, a long time member of Pharmacy Cricket, will be inducted as the 'Vintage Umpire of the Year' by the Lord's Taverners this Friday at the Sydney Cricket Ground, MC'd by Alan Jones.

WIN with Airssential

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and *Airssential* are giving five readers the chance to win a Vitality Perio-TENS Pain Management device (RRP \$34.95).

Transcutaneous (through the skin) Electrical Nerve Stimulation, known as TENS, is a non-invasive therapy used to relieve pain. The Perio-TENS device can relieve a variety of painful complaints including sciatica, period pain, migraine, nocturnal leg cramps, muscular pain and stiffness due to sport or daily activities, Airssential says. The Perio-TENS is a powerful but miniature device which discreetly affixes to the skin at the site of pain, ensuring it can be used under clothing without attracting unwanted attention.

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



What does TENS stand for?

Hint: www.airssential.com.au

DISPENSARY CORNER

IMAGINE the cut and paste note.

A lesson in making sure your pharmacy software has adequate security in place, the Dickson County Sheriff's Office in Tennessee has paid a ransom to get its case files back after malware on the computer blocked access.

The case files included autopsy reports and crime scene photos, and the malware left the files untouched but blocked access until a ransom was paid, *Associated Press* reported.

And the ransom requested? \$500 in Bitcoins.

UH, sir?

You may have had to deal with furtive shop lifters in your pharmacy career (we hope you haven't had to deal with any, furtive or otherwise), but we bet they didn't have anything on the man who tried to steal a chainsaw by stuffing it down his pants.

Anthony Ballard was caught on camera trying to secrete the chainsaw in his trousers at a store in Florida, and actually managed to walk out and hop on his bike while being chased by employees, the *Telegraph* reported.

Apparently, a change of heart led him to return the saw, but we're not sure if he'll get any missing skin back from the attempt...

PAINT me holding a glass of wine.

If you've ever felt like you needed an extra pair of hands around the pharmacy, did you try painting yourself one?

Japanese artist Hikaru Cho specialises in realistic body paint, and has added an extra pair of eyes to one model, an ear to another's hand and removed skin from someone else, *iol news* reported.

CLICK HERE to view a photo.

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