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FIP Ebola resources

A **SUITE** of resources relating to Ebola virus disease designed for those who work in community pharmacy has been developed by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

The resources are intended to support pharmacists who can inform, advise and educate their communities, promote disease prevention and infection control, screen those with symptoms and refer suspect cases.

Go to www.fip.org/ebola.

Warehouse accused

THE Pharmacy Guild and National Pharmacies have written to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to investigate allegations of Chemist Warehouse misleading customers with relation to pricing discounts displayed on receipts.

The *ABC* reported that Guild Victoria branch president Anthony Tassone identified two examples in his letter to the ACCC where he believed Chemist Warehouse misled consumers, where a "normal price" and then the amount the customer had saved was printed on receipts.

This created an expectation that a 'normal price' could be what other pharmacies charged or a price that Chemist Warehouse was previously selling the item at, and as there was no set or benchmark price for pharmacies, publishing a "normal price" could create confusion, he said.

Chemist Warehouse group commercial manager Damien Gance said in an email to the *ABC* that "normal price" was the price normally charged at other pharmacy retailers and told the publication the practice was above board - **CLICK HERE** to read more.

NHS: Phmcy to ease GP pressure

A **CAMPAIGN** encouraging UK citizens to visit pharmacies for minor ailments to relieve pressure on GPs and A&E departments has been backed by the Secretary of Health and the NHS England managing director Sir Bruce Keogh.

The Department of Health announced on Friday an extra £300m to help the NHS deal with winter pressures.

Tassie pharmacists honoured

PROFESSOR Gregory Peterson (pictured right) has been awarded the Tasmanian pharmacy Lifetime Achievement Award while Luciana Torrents of City Capital Chemist in Launceston has picked up the Tasmanian Pharmacist of the Year.



The awards were jointly developed for the first time jointly by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), the Pharmacy Guild, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) and University of Tasmania's Pharmacy Department, PSA Tasmania branch president Dr Shane Jackson said.

The Lifetime Achievement award comes with Guild superannuation.

Guild Tasmania branch president John Dowling (pictured left) said Peterson's research had changed the way community pharmacy provided care to patients through many projects.

Torrents' contribution to vitamin D formulation for specialist-required dosages was collaborative and filled a need in community practice, SHPA Tasmania chair Duncan McKenzie said.

Jackson said the organisations believed in a small state such as Tasmania, working together to achieve common goals was a way to foster a positive environment.

As part of the announcement, the Department detailed a campaign launched last month, 'feeling under the weather', which encouraged people with non-urgent medical problems, particularly the elderly and those with respiratory conditions, to seek early advice from their pharmacist.

Over winter, A&E departments and GPs were under increased pressure due to more people with complex and long term conditions, particularly respiratory, needing urgent care, the Department said.

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt said the NHS was under unprecedented demand, with A&E departments handling more than 3,000 extra attendances every day than in 2010.

Keogh told the *Guardian* GPs during the winter felt the strain of people coming in with coughs and colds, much of which could be relieved if people used pharmacies more.

The campaign follows a group of 23 UK health groups, including the Royal College of GPs, calling for people to see pharmacists for minor ailments before their GP or A&E department (*PD* 23 Jan).

CLICK HERE for more.

Flu vaccines safe

INACTIVATED influenza vaccines currently licensed for use in Australian children have been shown to be "reassuringly safe", according to a study in the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

In a sample of 893 children aged six months to less than 10 years, the risk of fever was about 6% within 72 hours of the first or second dose, but higher if another vaccine was given concomitantly.

In 2010, bioCSL vaccines caused high rates of fever and even febrile convulsions following administration resulting in these being limited to use and then only with caution in children aged five to nine years, the study said.

The authors recommended ongoing evaluation of safety and effectiveness of vaccines, especially live attenuated vaccines.

QLD on RT monitoring

A **QUEENSLAND** Health spokesperson said the department was assessing its regulatory obligations and its current monitoring system against the Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs system to determine the most appropriate prescription drug monitoring system that would meet the needs of the Queensland community (*PD* 17 Nov).

An ACT Health spokeswoman said the Drugs and Poisons Information system had been implemented in September to support monitoring activities and included the capability to report controlled medicine events in real time, although currently pharmacies reported on a monthly basis until software vendors could modify their software for real time, expected next year.

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Psych and CV drugs can induce falls

INCREASED fall risk in community-dwelling elderly patients can be associated with the use of anti-arrhythmics, non-selective beta-blockers, benzodiazepines, and antidepressant medications, according to a recent study published in *Drugs and Aging*.

CLICK HERE to access the abstract.

Guild Update

Antibiotic Awareness Week 2014

COMMUNITY pharmacists well understand the threat of antimicrobial resistance. Antibiotic Awareness Week runs from 17-23 November 2014 and is a national initiative with many partners from across the health and agriculture sector. The week is an opportunity to think about the threats we face if we lose the power of antibiotics, reflect on your own practice and join the fight against antibiotic resistance. All pharmacies in Australia have received a pack from NPS MedicineWise. This pack contains resources you can display within your pharmacy and an information sheet to copy and give to customers to help them understand antibiotic resistance. There will be lots of activity during the week across many health and community settings, including schools, pharmacies and hospitals. Keep an eye out for initiatives encouraging Australians to join the fight against antibiotic resistance. You can also take a pledge at www.nps.org.au/join-the-fight and print off a certificate to display in your pharmacy.

S3 call for OCs

A PROPOSAL to reschedule contraceptives including oral forms has been put to the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling (ACMS).

The proponent has recommended that pharmacists should supply only up to six months supply and use a "minor questionnaire" relating to a family history of heart problems, hypertension and stroke along with an in-pharmacy blood pressure test or recent BP results.

Another proposal to ACMS seeks to reschedule aciclovir in muco-adhesive tablets from S4 to S2.

CLICK HERE for more detail.

CMA welcomes FTA

COMPLEMENTARY Medicines Australia (CMA) has said it welcomes the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Australia and China, expected to deliver \$18b in benefit over the next 10 years.

CMA ceo Carl Gibson said the organisation supported recognition of regulatory standards, as testing and licensing requirements in China inhibited market access for complementary medicine products.

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Green snot ≠ bacteria

COLOURED mucous or phlegm isn't always a sign of a bacterial infection and can be a sign that your immune system is fighting your infection, NPS MedicineWise has said in its communiqué supporting international Antibiotic Awareness Week.

Ceo Dr Lynn Weekes said a world without antibiotics was a real prospect unless we all joined the fight to prevent antibiotic resistance.

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare chief medical officer Professor Chris Baggoley said it was a global public health issue and that without new antibiotics in the development pipeline, some infections would be impossible to treat.

CLICK HERE for more on the awareness week.

RGH on asthma drugs

THE RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin summarises approaches to take with children's asthma preventative treatments, both long acting and short acting.

CLICK HERE to access.

DISPENSARY CORNER



COME in from the cold.

If you sometimes think the airconditioning in your pharmacy is a little under or overpowered, spare a thought for this Polish lady who found herself well and truly out in the cold.

Having been found without an apparent pulse or breath, Janina Kolkiewicz, 91, was declared dead after an examination by the family doctor at her home in Otrów Lubelski, *Orange News* reported.

When the morgue bag moved, staff were quick to release the poor lady who complained of being "very cold" after her 11 hours in cold storage.

At least her wake would have been a literal, and much more joyous, occasion!

GOT anything for cooties?

You may need to sell more mouthwash given the results of a recent study, which found the average total bacterial transfer per "intimate kiss" of 10 seconds duration was 80m.

While an intimate kiss did not lead to significant additional increase of the average similarity of oral microbiota between partners, correlations occurred between the similarity of salivary microbiota of couples and reported kiss frequencies, and the reported time passed after the latest kiss, the study found.

Published in *Microbiome*, the study appears to have answered the question, do cooties really exist?

KEEP those shelves straight!

If your pharmacy is well laid out, you won't have the problem a US family did when they became so lost in the world's largest maze, the 63 acre Cool Patch Pumpkins corn maze, they had to ring the police at sunset, *Orange News* reported.

WIN with Airssential

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Airssential are giving five readers the chance to win a Vitalic 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 QLD to send the correct answer to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

How many uses would you expect from a single electrode pad?

Hint: www.airssential.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's winner,
Justine Bassel from the **Australian College of Pharmacy**.



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Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

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Travel Daily CRUISE WEEKLY

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Pharmacy DAILY

Travel Daily

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