

PBS scorecard strong

PRICE disclosure is not only delivering lower prices to the Australian consumer, but analysis of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) data also shows that prescription volumes are “well under control”, according to the Medicines Partnership of Australia PBS Scorecard.

The first lot of PBS price reductions under the further accelerated Simplified Price Disclosure, which commenced 01 Oct, had contributed more than \$400m in annual savings through reductions of between 10% and 62% for 442 forms and strengths of 82 drugs, the Partnership said.

The four sets of reductions over the last 12 months had saved approximately \$1b, the report said.

Now was the time to address the consequences of the price reductions with investment in cost effective new medicines, viable remuneration arrangements for pharmacist dispensing and professional services, and appropriate funding for wholesaling of PBS medicines, the report said.

To read more, go to www.medicinespartnership.com.au.

PBAC on gen oxy flagging

THE Department of Health has said it does not pre-empt or interfere with Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) decisions in relation to a Mundipharma application regarding Oxycodone Sandoz.

The application sought that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing of the non abuse-deterrent generic brand of extended release oxycodone be modified so that the generic tablets could not be substitutable with OxyContin by the dispensing pharmacist.

As first reported by *Auspharm*, the generic tablets would be listed on 01 Dec and would be ‘a’ flagged to allow such substitution.

A Department of Health spokesperson said this listing was not an indicator of the success of Mundipharma’s application, a decision on which would be published on 19 Dec.

“The Mundipharma product is an important initiative in the fight against deliberate misuse of oxycodone.

“However, it is only part of a solution to the problem and the

initiative requires some further evaluation to avoid unanticipated consequences.”

Caution was needed when potentially limiting the availability of therapeutic products approved for use, the spokesperson said.

“There is some evidence emerging from overseas, and reported in the medical literature, which indicates that Mundipharma’s abuse-deterrent OxyContin formulation has encouraged switching to other opioid medications, such as fentanyl, and also to heroin.

“While this may result in a reduction in injuries or deaths from oxycodone, it is potentially misleading as the abuse is shifted to an alternative drug.”

Sandoz did not reply to requests for comment.

EMA approvals

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use November meeting has approved 10 new medicines including two orphans.

CLICK HERE for details.

Pillar of community

PRIME Minister Abbott has said that he wants to work constructively with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, that he is a friend of community pharmacy and that he respects the place of community pharmacy in the economy and as a pillar of society.

Speaking at the Guild annual dinner in Parliament House Canberra on Monday (**PD** 25 Nov) Abbott also warned that while he and Health Minister Peter Dutton would work to ensure that they got the best possible deal for community pharmacy in the months and years ahead, he could not promise the government would not be looking for more savings.

Pharmacy Guild executive director David Quilty wrote in *forefront* that the speech augured well for the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement negotiation period, which is yet to begin.

CLICK HERE for more.

SHPA sets sights on three challenges

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has set its sights on three projects, including expanding the scope of practice of pharmacy support staff.

The organisation defined the projects at its Future Summit, with plans and time frames to be developed with stakeholders and members, president Professor Michael Dooley said.

These include the formation of a National Translational Research Collaborative, a network bringing pharmacy practitioners and researchers together, as well as a national medication management dashboard tool to present data on services of use to pharmacy managers.

Wooldridge retires

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries non-executive director Dr Michael Wooldridge has announced his retirement effective 31 Dec.

Chairman Peter Robinson extended the board’s gratitude for his contribution over the years.

Zytiga access relaxed

PHARMACEUTICAL Benefits Scheme access to Zytiga (abiraterone acetate) for advanced metastatic prostate cancer patients will no longer require patients to undergo prior chemotherapy treatment from 01 Dec.

Janssen-Cilag medical director Dr Leanne Wall said these changes would remove a significant barrier for patients to gain access to the therapy.

GPs and pharmacists are advised by the company to consult the prescribing physician with queries relating to patients receiving it.

CLICK HERE for more information.

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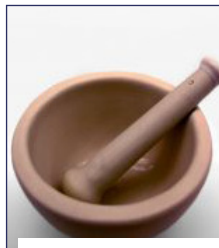
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CHF: year of change

CONSUMERS Health Forum (CHF) chair Tony Lawson said the past year had proved a time of significant change for Australia's health consumers and the organisation, including plans for increased PBS charges.

In its annual report, the organisation said it had provided more than 100 submissions and policy documents to health policy consultations.

CHF posted \$537,963 in profit for the year, compared with \$1.41m in 2013, on revenue of \$3.09m.

Ethicor signs Eutick

PHEBRA ceo Dr Mal Eutick has been appointed to the board of directors for specialty products UK pharmaceutical company Ethicor, Phebra has said.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry.

Save up to 40% at Accor

Accor's famous Global Super Sale, touted as the best online hotel sale in the world, is back, with discounts of up to 30% plus free breakfast at more than 100 participating hotels and resorts across Australia and over 2,700 worldwide.

Loyal members of Accor Advantage Plus or Le Club Accorhotels can enjoy an even more generous discount of up to 40% plus free breakfast.

Plan your next holiday at Accor's Pullman, MGallery, Novotel, Mercure and ibis brands with rates starting from as low as A\$83 per room per night.

The sale applies to bookings made online at www.accorhotels.com between 24 and 28 Nov for stays from 15 Dec to 08 Feb 2015.

Bio-Oil apps dismissed

THE applications of respondents in a case involving alleged counterfeit Bio-Oil to have orders discharged and proceedings dismissed have themselves been dismissed by the Federal Court.

Geneva Laboratories claimed to have discovered counterfeit Bio-Oil products for sale by some of the respondents, allegedly owners and operators of pharmacies in Sydney including Oze-Pharmacy stores, Justice Gleeson said.

The discoveries followed seizure by Customs of a quantity of counterfeit Bio-Oil and proceedings against the importer, United Prestige, the Justice said.

The Court was informed in June that the seized goods were agreed to be counterfeit and would be destroyed, he said.

Orders were given in July, including for respondents to deliver up all bottles using 'Bio-Oil' or relevant trade marks, with various quantities delivered or seized.

The respondents sought to have these and subsequent orders discharged and proceedings dismissed, the Justice said.

CLICK HERE for the judgement.

Student competition

THE ninth Pharmacy Guild of Australia National Student Business Plan Competition is to include New Zealand students for the first time, a move welcomed by the Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand.

Sponsored jointly by Blackmores, Gold Cross and PDL, the competition aimed to develop business leadership and skills supplementing business management subjects within Bachelor or Master of Pharmacy courses, the Guild said.

CLICK HERE for details.

TGA tubing alerts

THREE safety advisory alerts have been issued by the TGA relating to an increased number of reports of tubing disconnections for insulin infusion sets with the potential to result in incorrect insulin dosing.

Medtronic Australasia (MiniMed Silhouette or MiniMed Sure-T), Roche Diagnostics (Accu-Chek) and Australasian Medical and Scientific Ltd (Comfort, Comfort Short and Contact Detach) have notified consumers.

CLICK HERE for details.



DISPENSARY CORNER

OH yeah, 'course...a cowpuncher.

You know your job is either unusual or just plain made up when people have to ask you to repeat, and then explain, your job title, something pharmacists will never have to worry about.

So the *Telegraph* has come up with a quiz for the weirdest jobs it could find, including 'professional grandma' (grandmas who babysit), 'wrinkle chaser' (someone who irons wrinkles from shoes as they are made) and 'cowpuncher' (someone who herds, castrates and brands cattle on farms).

To see what bizarre, cattle-abusing career path life outside of pharmacy could have taken you down, **CLICK HERE**.

THAT'S one way to do it.

If you're looking for coverage of your pharmacy, here's an idea of what not to do.

Thailand's military leader has been making media waves recently for petting a journalist on the head during a press conference, *stuff.co.nz* reported.

General Prayut Chan-o-Cha can also be seen scratching the journalist behind the ear, gestures which the military has apparently said showed personal affection, the publication reported.

You can view the video by **CLICKING HERE** but we wouldn't recommend trying this method on the *PD* team without buying us dinner first.

HAPPY Thursday!

If you're looking for something to start your day off on the right note, check out this video of a golden retriever puppy failing miserably at a dog obedience course by **CLICKING HERE**.

WIN with CHILLAX

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and *Vitality Brands* are giving five readers the chance to win an 800mL bottle of Chillax Natural Sleep Support Drink.

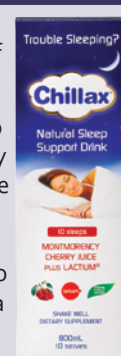
Chillax Natural Sleep Support Drink is the natural way to help you get a better sleep. It's made with Montmorency cherry juice, which is high in natural melatonin (the same hormone produced within the human body to regulate the sleep-wake cycle). Chillax also contains lactium, a milk protein derivative, scientifically proven according to *Vitality Brands* to help calm and relax you at the end of a busy day.

To win, be the first from **SA & NT** to send the correct answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Does Chillax contain added sugar?

Hint: chillax.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's winner,
Muthi Ahmmed Mohammed from Capella Pharmacy.



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