

Sigma on coeliac test

IN RESPONSE to a *Sydney Morning Herald* article by Australian Medical Association NSW president Saxon Smith about testing for coeliac disease being offered at pharmacies, Sigma has said it is "disappointed" with the comments made.

Smith wrote that research had shown the test had low sensitivity and needed more testing in larger populations, and said the test fragmented medical care, when patients should be seeing a doctor.

Sigma launched the test last month (**PD** 19 Sep) and coo Gary Dunne has said the test was designed to help identify those at risk, and streamline the process for diagnostic testing by a GP.

He said it was a screening, not diagnostic, test with 96.8% sensitivity and 93.1% specificity and pharmacists were encouraging people to see a GP not encroaching.

To read the article, [CLICK HERE](#).

Tweet-a-thon today

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is joining 36 international pharmacist organisations for the [#Pharmacist](#) tweet-a-thon today (**PD** 09 Sep) and will be one of the first to start tweeting about the positive impact pharmacists have.

It was also intended to engage more pharmacists in that medium, creating a global communication channel, an SHPA spokesperson told **PD**.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Guild: \$14b in PBS savings

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has been flagging the impact of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme reforms and the resultant expected savings as simplified price disclosure kicked in this week.

Writing in *forefront*, executive director David Quilty said extrapolations had shown the government would save nearly \$14b from Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) reforms over the period of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

The Guild's estimates could be conservative, given the Final Budget Outcome, which showed the government spent \$168m less on pharmaceutical benefits and services than estimated (**PD** 26 Sep), he said.

"Under the current trajectory, dispensing remuneration will fall in real terms every year between 2010 and 2020, making it imperative that a fair and reasonable proportion of the savings from PBS reforms is reinvested in pharmacies in the next Community Pharmacy Agreement."

Vax tenders invited

THE tender for the supply of uniquely Australian antivenoms, Q fever and/or pandemic influenza vaccine is now available on the government tenders website.

Prospective tenderers have until 17 Nov to submit a proposal.

[CLICK HERE](#) for full details.

However, writing in *Australian Prescriber*, University of Melbourne Professor of Health Economics Philip Clarke asked whether the government, if compensating pharmacists for declining generic prices, should not also compensate firms that sold computers and also faced declining profit margins from falling prices.

"Do Australian pharmacists have a special entitlement to taxpayer funds to ensure their profitability without having to adapt to changing circumstances?"

To read the *forefront* article, [CLICK HERE](#).

To read Clark's article, [CLICK HERE](#).

To read Quilty's *Australian Prescriber* article, [CLICK HERE](#).

Toothpastes on S6

TOOTHPASTES containing more than 2.5% zinc lactate should be included in Schedule 6, is the interim decision on scheduling proposals referred to expert advisory committees.

The Advisory Committee on Chemicals Scheduling and the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling confirmed the need to restrict its use in toothpastes for children under 12, including a warning label statement.

The Medicines and Poisons Scheduling Secretariat accepted the Committees' recommendations, with a proposed implementation date of 01 Feb 2016.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

PBS website update

THE Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits was updated on 01 Oct and the Summary of Changes can be found on the New, Amended and Deleted Items page.

Other updates to the website are also specified - [CLICK HERE](#).



PHARMACY PRACTICE INCENTIVES (PPI)

DAA AND CLINICAL INTERVENTION CLAIM DUE

Claiming for PPI will only be available on the 5CPA portal from 1 - 14 October 2014

5cpa.com.au



Australian Government
Department of Health



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Funded by the Australian Department of Health as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Pharmacies For Sale

#1613 North of Canberra

- Excellent opportunity for owner/operator
- Great start up pharmacy
- One pharmacy town
- Solid town in an attractive area to live and work
- Growing sales, potential to increase business
- Many community attractions
- Nominal Stock: \$10,000
- Fixtures, fittings & chattels: \$30,000

Goodwill: Offers (All offers will be considered)

#1627 North-Western Suburb of Adelaide

- This pharmacy has recently been established in a developing area, there is potential for new owner to take the business to the next level.
- Attractive sized turnover
 - Excellent location
 - Projected Turnover: \$1,350,000
 - Projected Net: \$123,737
 - Nominal Stock: \$20,000
 - Fixtures, fittings & chattels: \$20,000

Goodwill: Offers

#1620 Northwest New South Wales

- This pharmacy is located in the heart of the town in the main street.
- One pharmacy town
 - 15 supporting shops
 - Rent \$9,100 per annum
 - Large shop 200 sqm
 - Average scripts 31 & growing
 - Part-time doctor in town
 - RPMA \$34,447 every year
 - Great steady growth
 - Comfortable working hours
- Price \$328,000 (All reasonable offers will be considered)

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55% breast screen rate

ONLY 55% of women in the target age group for the free breast screen program had a mammogram in 2011-2012, the same rate as the last five years, according to a new Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report.

A higher participation was seen in the older segment with almost 60% of women over 60 years engaging.

Indigenous women (38%) and those in remote (59%) and very remote areas (46%) had lower rates.

CLICK HERE to access the report.

Travel Specials

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

Travel marvel free flights:

Vietnam and Cambodia

Book any Travelmarvel Vietnam and Cambodia cruise holiday of 12 days or longer in any suite category, and as well as paying this year's prices, you'll also receive free return international flights, including taxes.

The deal represents a saving of up to \$4,060 per couple and applies to all holidays departing June 2015 to April 2016.

For example, book the 12 day Essential Vietnam and Cambodia cruise, and you'll pay from just \$3,695 per person, twin share.

The trip commences with two nights at the **Shinta Mani Resort** in Siem Reap, where you will explore the World Heritage-listed Angkor Archaeological Park and also visit a local school.

From Siem Reap, guests then embark on an eight day cruise of the Mekong River aboard the *RV La Marguerite*, taking in Phnom Penh, floating villages, local temples, a Buddhist blessing and also the infamous Killing Fields.

On arrival in Vietnam, guests spend two nights at the **Grand Saigon Hotel**, the base from which they explore Saigon and the nearby Cu Chi Tunnels.

Conditions apply; go to www.travelmarvel.com.au.

Parliament health checks

HEALTH checks performed by pharmacists for members of NSW Parliament on 10 Sep have been hailed as an "enormous success".

Member for Macquarie Fields Dr Andrew McDonald and the Pharmacy Guild NSW branch, with Optometry NSW/ACT, organised the Parliament Health Check program, with checks performed by pharmacists including blood pressure, BMI and total cholesterol.

McDonald said preventative health care should be available to



everyone and MPs were a relatively high risk group for ill health, given the long working hours and time spent away from home.

He said parliamentarians who had taken part were very grateful and the checks should become annual affairs, extended to include parliament staff.

It had been an important initiative in that it showed MPs what pharmacists could do, he said.

NSW branch committee member Mark Douglass said it was important to let people know the wide range of services pharmacists performed, which they were often surprised by, as the parliamentarians had been.

The branch would like to repeat the day and see it roll out Federally, he said.

Pictured from left is Rick Samimi Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW, Andrew McKinnon, Optometry NSW/ACT and McDonald.

Rx drug advertising

ALTHOUGH direct to consumer advertising of prescription products is illegal in Australia, such advertisements are used with doctors and with great effect, according to new research published in *Australian Prescriber*.

The research found content used to persuade, but which could not be judged true or false (non propositional content) was effective, so it was "unsurprising" that positive imagery dominated many drug advertisements.

The author called for doctors to be aware and analytical.

CLICK HERE for the article.

WIN A NAD'S PACK

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Nad's** are giving five readers the chance to win a Nad's wax pack.

World First DIY nose wax is a specially formulated sensitive hard wax and comes with a unique SAFETIP applicator designed to comfortably remove nose hairs. Facial Wand Eyebrow Shaper gives you salon finish eyebrows. This precision applicator makes ease of eyebrow shaping, giving you complete control and confidence. Body wax strips are a quick and easy way to remove hair in minutes. Made with natural beeswax, the soft fabric conforms to the body's curves. Visit: www.nads.com



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

The original gel formula is completely water rinsable. True or false?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner,
Julie Berwick from **API**.

DISPENSARY CORNER

THREE dimensional radiology.

Coming soon to a lab near you is new technology based on videogaming approaches, says the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

While 3D images are already available on 2D screens, new technology will enable viewing of images in a true three dimensional space.

This will be especially helpful for radiologists, surgeons and other doctors in their diagnoses and accurate location of tumours.

The new approach is focusing on breast imaging with breast cancer techniques moving from 2D screening, such a mammography to 3D tomosynthesis, 3D ultrasound and breast computerised tomography (CT scan).

Although the FDA has now approved two such systems, it warns that these are still a few years away from commonplace.

WHISPERING implants.

No, don't expect any stocked medical devices to start whispering to you - the aforementioned 'whispering implants' actually refers to a technology developed by an international team, including Dr Wojciech Chrzanowski of the University of Sydney's Faculty of Pharmacy, which uses a Braille-like method to allow medical implants to communicate with a patient's cells, the University has said.

The technology effectively covered a foreign implant, such as in a hip or knee, with "special messenger molecules", which "talked" to the cells of nearby tissues, integrating the implant and reducing the number of rejections, the University said.

SHORT 'n' sweet.

Looking for ideas for your graduation portrait? Check out Draven Rodriguez's high school portrait which involved his cat, and lasers, *AP* reported.