

# Pharmacy DAILY

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## Med safety update

A NEW Medicines Safety Update has been issued by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

Updates relate to CV effects with bupropion, priapism with methylphenidate, and fetal exposure to valproate.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the updates.

MEANWHILE the TGA has added Lumacaftor from Vertex Pharmaceuticals and Selexipag from Actelion Pharmaceuticals to the Orphan Drugs listing.

## NPS fatigue case study

NPS MedicineWise has a new interactive case study called 'Fatigue: a diagnostic approach'.

NPS MedicineWise clinical adviser Dr Andrew Boyden said the study focused on clinical decision making matters when a patient presented with fatigue.

"Understanding what a patient means by the term fatigue is a challenge in itself.

"People lead busy lives and it can be difficult to identify what is normal and what is indicative of a significant disorder."

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the study.

## Halaven funded for BC

HALAVEN (eribulin mesilate) from Eisai Australia has been granted PBS reimbursement in Australia for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer (BC) who have progressed after at least two chemotherapeutic regimens for advanced disease.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full PI.

## US\$3.5b pharma payments

PAYMENTS made by pharmaceutical and device companies to US physicians and teaching hospitals totalled nearly US\$3.5b (A\$3.4b) in the last five months of 2013.

This is according to the first round of data from the Open Payments program, released by the Centres for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which listed payments including research grants and travel reimbursements, finding 4.4m were made to 546,000 physicians and 1,360 teaching hospitals.

This first raft of data excluded payments of less than US\$10, however there was no minimum threshold, CMS said.

The program did not identify which financial relationships were beneficial and which could cause conflicts of interest, CMS Centre for Program Integrity director Dr Shantanu Agrawal said.

The data shows the names of physicians, amount and originating companies of payments, including one doctor who received \$155,772 for "travel and lodging" from Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmac

GmbH & Co. KG.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the data.

MEANWHILE in Australia, submissions on Medicines Australia's 18th Code of Conduct, which deals with payments to healthcare professionals (PD 28 Jul, 01 Oct), continue, with Monash University School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Associate Professor Ken Harvey challenging the "business to business" deals to encourage preferential stocking or substitution of a company's generic product, saying such transactions were excluded from "disclosed transfers of value", referring to the Transparency Working Group document.

Harvey also challenged the independence of industry sponsored "education", saying that this approach had been shown to preferentially highlight the sponsor's drug compared with independent education.

## Anticholinergic meds cognitive loss links

CARDIAC heart failure (CHF) patients have a high exposure to anticholinergic agents which in turn are contributing to some cognitive impairment (CI), according to new work out of Indianapolis and published in *Drugs & Aging*.

The authors concluded that CHF patients had a substantial exposure to anticholinergic medications which could be an important contributor to CI.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read.

## PPA nominations open

NOMINATIONS for the Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA) elections are now open.

Offices up for election include president, vice president, treasurer and committee member, with one of the latter reserved for a student member.

Nominations close 15 Oct.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more details.

## Labour Day Monday

MONDAY is a public holiday celebrating Labour Day for ACT, NSW, SA and Qld so there will be no *Pharmacy Daily* edition on 06 Oct.

We'll be back one hour earlier on Tuesday and we wish all our readers a happy and safe long weekend.

## A not so slippery deal

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has said it will not oppose the Reckitt Benckiser (RB) brands' purchase of the K-Y brand from Johnson and Johnson, in spite of the overlap in the supply of personal lubricant products (PD 13 Jun), with RB owning Durex.

The ACCC considered that the deal would not raise competition concerns in other RB markets either.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

## Health destination call

MARKETING your pharmacy as a health destination is going to be vital for pharmacies to survive healthcare reforms, according to director of policy and practice at the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Dr Alison Roberts, who will be a keynote speaker at the Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) Conference on 18 Nov.

Roberts will discuss results of the PSA funded 'Health Destination Pharmacy Trial'.

## Bayer buys Merck

BAYER Australia has completed its purchase of Merck & Co Inc's consumer care business, with the companies coming to a global arrangement for the US\$14.2b deal in May.

This would give Australian pharmacists access to an expanded portfolio of over the counter and consumer health products under the one Bayer brand, the company said.

This portfolio would now include products in the allergy and cough and colds category such as Clarityne and Demazin, it said.

The acquisition was approved by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, a spokesperson for Bayer said.

### Ravens Pharmacy Sales

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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - Limestone Coast, SA (Job# 2010863)  
Join a friendly team where you can engage with a varied customer base.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Newcastle, NSW (Job# 2010831)  
Experienced Manager for forward dispensing community pharmacy.
- **Aged Care Pharmacist** - Sunshine Coast, QLD (Job# 2010871)  
Part-time 3.5 days/wk - neg roster, all exp levels, training provided.

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## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

- 7 Oct: Brisbane Webinar - Travelling Safe: A Pharmacists Guide; visit [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 9 Oct: Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy Forum at PAC 2014 National Convention; Canberra; more at: [www.psa.org.au/pac/aacp-forum](http://www.psa.org.au/pac/aacp-forum)
- 10-12 Oct: Pharmacy Australia Congress 2014; Canberra; more at: [www.psa.org.au/pac](http://www.psa.org.au/pac)
- 15 Oct: Better Living with Lung Cancer Forum; Brisbane; for more details see: [www.lungfoundation.com.au](http://www.lungfoundation.com.au)
- 16-18 Oct: Pharmacy Assistant Conference 2014; Gold Coast; see: [www.pharmacyassistants.com/](http://www.pharmacyassistants.com/)
- 18-19 Oct: Medication Management Review Stage 1 Workshop; Subiaco; visit: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 21 Oct: Keeping It Going QCPP Maintenance; Sydney; for more details see: [www.guild.org.au](http://www.guild.org.au)
- 22 Oct: Diabetes and NDSS Information Night; Subiaco; go to: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 24 Oct: Lung Health Education Day; Melbourne; for more details see: [www.lungfoundation.com.au](http://www.lungfoundation.com.au)
- 25 Oct: Mental Health First Aid Workshop; Newcastle; details at: [www.guild.org.au](http://www.guild.org.au)
- 25 Oct: Lung Health Education Day; Campbell Town, Tasmania; for more details see: [www.lungfoundation.com.au](http://www.lungfoundation.com.au)
- 26 Oct: Managing the side effects of chemotherapy and cancer treatments in the community; James Cook University, Townsville; [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

## CSIRO v Gordagen

**THE** Federal Court has dismissed an application for discovery by Gordagen Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd from CSIRO.

Justice Middleton said Gordagen had concerns that confidential information disclosed to CSIRO had been misused, with the discovery intended to allow the company to ascertain how its information was being used within CSIRO.

CSIRO had offered in April to provide copies in confidence of two patent specifications filed by Zeenar Enterprises Pty Ltd, with which Gordagen had not "sufficiently engaged", to determine where this information would lead, the judge said.

"The parties should have engaged further, relevantly Gordagen, in further negotiations relating to the provision of information prior to Gordagen bringing the application." **CLICK HERE** to read more.

## New Guild online study

'**MANAGEMENT** of anal fissure in community pharmacy' is a new Guild Pharmacy Academy course sponsored by Care Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturers of Rectogesic Ointment - **CLICK HERE**.

## AIHW housing report

**THOSE** with drug and alcohol use problems have the highest rates of homelessness out of four vulnerable groups, according to a new report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The report examines the housing outcomes of over 94,000 clients of Specialist Homelessness Services between 01 Jul 2011 to 31 Dec 2013 across the four cohorts.

The other three groups investigated were those subject to domestic violence, the young alone and mentally ill - **CLICK HERE** to access.

## Sep CM cancellations

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has cancelled Newlite Enterprises' Child Cough and Phlegm Drink, saying the goods do not conform to a standard applicable.

Also cancelled were Pharmicare Laboratories' K.P.24 Natural Head Lice Mousse and Body & Health Essentials' Maxi Organic Red Grapeseed because there was insufficient evidence to support the stated indications or insufficient information was supplied by the sponsor, the TGA said.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**#PHARMACIST** Twitter love.

The second annual #Pharmacist tweet-a-thon saw pharmacists and sector groups tweet from all over the world about the positive impact pharmacists have on customers and the community.

Fullife Pharmacies had some crackers (@FullifePharm):

"Elderly gentleman tripped on the pavement, dressed wound and offered comfort and a cup of tea."

"Spoke to nursing home residents on the increasing prevalence of falls, prevention... Then joined them for jam and scones!"

Cassie Fersterer kept it short and sweet (@casfer):

"#Pharmacists are awesome. Just saying."

And also posted a pic of a grinning eel telling this joke:

"I asked the pharmacist if there was any extra sodium in Mrs Brown's TPN. She said Na."

Apparently Too Sassy didn't live up to their name with this nice tweet (@MuglerHomme):

"Today I optimised pain relief for an amputee patient #pharmacist."

Search out more #pharmacist love using the hashtag.

**LIGHTNING** or enlightening?

Don't prescribe this man anything - despite being struck by lightning, he's doing just fine.

Tony Cicoria was struck 20 years ago while speaking on a public payphone and was left with a burning passion for writing and listening to piano music, reports *Orange News*.

Apparently, the only way he could deal with the obsession was to spend 12 years learning the piano, subsequently writing his 'Lightning Sonata'.

He has now posted his performance of the work in Mozart House, Vienna, online, with the video clocking in at more than 50,000 views.

**CLICK HERE** to watch him play the composition which is, in parts, lightning quick...

## 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](http://www.nads.com)



To win, be the first from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Nad's Body Wax Strips are dermatologically tested and remove even short hairs. True or false?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner from SA, **Cathy Ashton** from the **Pharmacy Guild of Australia**.