



Friday's Comp winner

FRIDAY'S lucky winner of the Spotner pack was **Joanne Campbell** from Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital.

This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five readers the chance to win an iWhite pack, a professional teeth whitening kit.

For details, see below.

Vit D deficiency risks

TWO new studies have highlighted the risks of vitamin D deficiency.

Low levels of vit D can lead to serious complications and even death following non-cardiac surgery, says research published in *Anesthesia & Analgesia*.

CLICK HERE to see the abstract.

Vit D deficiency may also halve chances of conception via IVF according to a study published in the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*.

CLICK HERE to read the abstract.

Both papers were reviewed first and summarised on the Blackmores website

blackmoresinstitute.org

Review PBS list more often

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia's submission to the Authority Required Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) Listings Review has said the terms of reference should consider how often the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) reviewed the PBS items list.

The Guild said it was unaware of the last review and noted it was "still yet to receive a response" to its submission on Streamlined Authorities.

"If the listings were regularly reviewed it would ensure they were up-to-date, relevant to current clinical practice and the product life cycle of the medicines."

The submission said the Restricted Benefit category was underutilised and should instead be a "primary means for applying restrictions", including that a medicine be considered for the Restricted Benefit category to limit PBS usage so it was used in accordance with TGA approval.

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia said the PBAC should consider restricting access to medicines with a set list of attributes from five categories

including medicines where there were specific public health issues (restricted by prescriber approval based on credentialing information in prescriber number) and medicines that had a high risk if used inappropriately (restricted as above) - **CLICK HERE** to read more.

Age-healthcare costs

AUSTRALIAN *Health Review*, a journal of the Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association, has published a fiscal incidence analysis relating to trends in government health expenditure by age.

Drawing on Australian Bureau of Statistics fiscal incidence studies between 1984 and 2010, the John Curtin University report said the main finding was that spending had shifted focus from the younger half to the older half of the population across acute hospital care, community health services and pharmaceuticals.

Expenditure on the elderly has grown three times faster than on younger households with a 51% increase for the young, 79% for the middle aged and 179% for the elderly.

Credentialing delayed

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has said it will delay the implementation of the credentialing pilot until March.

This was due to the responses to its consultation on Advanced Pharmacy Practice recognition model regarding timeframes for implementation and the need for further clarity around the functions of professional support organisations (*PD* 19 Aug), the APC said.

Full implementation would occur late next year, the APC said.

Other topics which provided the most discussion included evaluator requirements, titles and credentialing for different areas of Expert Professional Practice and evidence requirements.

Consolidated feedback, as well as a document on key themes and outcomes, is available **HERE**.

WIN AN iWHITE PACK

This week **PD** is giving five readers the chance to win an iWhite pack.



iWhite Instant is a professional teeth whitening kit for instant results. This product contains a new, whitening gel, which has been clinically proven safe and effective.

This one-step system will remove stains and strengthen teeth while whitening. Just wear the prefilled tray for 20 mins a day for instant results up to eight shades whiter. It is 100% safe and hydrogen peroxide free.

See **HERE** for more details.

To win, be first to send the correct answer to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

iWhite is
100% ____ free.

Your link to a sustainable future

guildlink



Build alternative revenue streams & patient loyalty with



guildcare



guildsmart



MemoCare



medAdvisor

Limited! Subscription Offer
click here



Get the insider's
guide to success
after PBS reforms.

Read more >

Chemmart
PHARMACY

Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's**
weekly comment
feature.

This week's
contributor is
Paul Rowe,
Managing
Director - The
Business Squad



The Business of Pharmacy

I **HAVE** taught the 'Business of Pharmacy' for some 18 years and written courses for UTAS and UWA, and Pharmacy schools on this subject. It is therefore with great excitement that I see that the Pharmacy Guild has made this a key focus for the year ahead.

At the recent WA Pharmacy Forum, George Tambassis, president of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia made it clear that the 'Business of Pharmacy' would be important for any pharmacy owners looking to combat the PBS reforms and other pressures on their bottom line.

Speakers at the conference covered a diverse range of subjects including customer/patient engagement, marketing, automation, financing and professional services. It was also fantastic to see that pharmacists were buying into this concept and clearly understood that this would be one of the keys to surviving and thriving in the current market.

At Curtin University, they also ran a Business of Pharmacy unit and in the previous year only 15 students chose this unit. This year, 60 enrolled which showed that even the young realise how important this aspect of pharmacy is moving forward.

So for me, September will be a celebration of the Business of Pharmacy and all that it has to offer.

ACCC on monetising

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has said in general, organisations dealing with pricing issues, including recommended price lists or fee schedules, were at risk of price fixing.

Responding to **PD** queries about the Guild's confirmation it was in talks with the ACCC about information regarding pricing for pharmacy services (**PD** 28 Aug), an ACCC spokesperson said in general, price information needed to be for information only and it needed to be clear that practitioners were free to set their own prices.

"To avoid breaching the price fixing rules, it is important that associations allow members to set their own prices and do not seek to impose any disciplinary action on members for using their own pricing policies."

The spokesperson said the ACCC could authorise businesses to engage in arrangements that would otherwise be anti-competitive if it was satisfied the public benefit outweighed public detriment.

The spokesperson said the ACCC understood the important role associations such as the Guild played in supporting members.

The ACCC's role was to ensure fair competition and protect consumers, the spokesperson said.

Youth take up e-cigs

NEW research published online by *Oxford Journals* has revealed that more than a quarter million 'never-smoking' US youth had used e-cigarettes, highlighting the need to enhance prevention efforts to include e-cigarettes.

There was a threefold increase in young US non-smokers trying e-cigarettes from 79,000 to more than 263,000 from 2011-2013.

Motivations for becoming an e-cigarette user (a 'vaper') include perceived safety vs real cigarettes.

CLICK HERE to access the research.

Oxycodone concern

THE Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum (APLF) members said they were concerned about the possibility of generic oxycodone in a non-tamperproof form, approved from this month on (**PD** 03 Jun).

The APLF said it had concerns that, should a non-tamper-proof formulation become available again, pharmacists could be at risk in the workplace and oxycodone abuse could occur.

MEANWHILE the APLF has agreed to support the 'Building upon pharmacists' practice in Australia: a vision for the profession', with a consumer version to be developed.

The project would be officially launched at the PAC conference.

Excellence magazine

THE Pharmacy Guild's Excellence magazine is out, dealing with maintaining the cold chain and the QCPP questionnaire with 70,000 patient responses - **CLICK HERE**.

DISPENSARY CORNER

PANDA fakes it for food.

Not what you'd find in the maternity aisle of your pharmacy, that's for sure - based on her previous experience when pregnant, a giant panda in the Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding Research Centre, China, appears to have faked her own pregnancy to reap the benefits.

Previously when pregnant, she had been moved into a single room with air conditioning and fed more buns, fruit and bamboo, reports *Orange News*.

Expert handlers believe she associated pregnancy behaviour with the pampering.

Because of their low reproduction rate, when captive bears fall pregnant every measure is taken to protect the pregnancy.

ALAS, poor Yorick.

Your pharmacy may be involved in charitable endeavours, but likely nothing like the thrift store in Texas which received a human skull donation.

The Goodwill store staff said they found the skull while sorting through donations in July, which could have been given to them up to a week prior to its discovery, *Associated Press* reported.

The publication reported that homicide detective Derek Israel "just wants to know" how the skull came to be at the shop and that no skullduggery was suspected (sorry); it was the fourth skull Goodwill received this year, AP said.

30 days of fashion

PRICELINE Pharmacy has announced that the eighth annual multi million dollar '30 Days of Fashion and Beauty' campaign will run through September.

\$50 Cash Back

REVITIVE LV
CIRCULATION BOOSTER*

Available 8th September-19th October 2014

Conditions apply.

See www.revitive.com.au/LVcash for details



DOWNLOAD the FREE *Pharmacy Daily* iOS App, **CLICK BELOW**.

