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### \$2.5m telehealth centre

**HEALTH** Minister Peter Dutton has launched the \$2.5m Centre for Research Excellence in Telehealth in Brisbane.

Hosted by the University of Queensland, the Centre would focus on places where access to health services was particularly challenging including rural hospitals and residential aged care facilities, the government said.

To read more, **CLICK HERE**.

### WIN AN INNOXA PACK

This week **PD & Innoxa** are giving five readers the chance to win an Innoxa prize pack.



Innoxa has been caring for skin with Dermatologically tested, cruelty free skincare ranges. The Restore Lift & Firm Primer provides hydration. The Pore Vanishing Crème is the perfect pick me up that minimises pores. For a mascara that lengthens and curls whilst conditioning, Lush Lashes Mascara is one to try. For those multi taskers, the 2 in 1 Liner and Eyeshadows are great for touch ups on the go. Visit: [www.innoxa.com.au](http://www.innoxa.com.au)

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

What active ingredient is present in the Lush Lashes Mascara?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Grace Grimmett** from **Symbion**.

## Generic oxycodone avail

A **GENERIC** version of modified release oxycodone has been launched on private prescription.

Sandoz released Oxycodone Sandoz and Sandoz branded oxycodone modified release tablets last week, its customer services line confirmed.

The company confirmed the product was available in 5mg, 10mg, 20mg, 40mg and 80mg strengths through hospital and retail pharmacy channels as a non-PBS product.

It said it was launching the product in line with Therapeutic Goods Administration approval guidelines and "in response to patient needs."

In April, Mundipharma introduced its tamper-proof version of controlled release OxyContin, with stock of the original formulation returned by wholesalers and destroyed, Mundipharma md Jane Orr said in a letter to pharmacists in August (**PD** 03 Sep).

Only the tamper-proof, controlled release OxyContin was available on the PBS, Orr said.

The patent on controlled release OxyContin expired in July, allowing generics to be

sold, a fact which prompted the Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum to say it was concerned non-tamper-proof formulations being available would mean pharmacists could be at risk in the workplace and oxycodone abuse could occur.

Preliminary data from the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre showed a drop in OxyContin injection onsite since the introduction of the new formulation although it also saw an increase in other drug use (**PD** 16 Jul).

The Department of Health said a pharmacist would be unable to claim an item as a pharmaceutical benefit through the Department of Human Services if they attempted to dispense a generic version of the controlled release oxycodone.

The Generic Medicines Industry Association has previously made the point that the introduction of generic medicines was important as they played a crucial role in containing expenditure on the PBS and that it was vital that effective market entry pathways existed for generic medicines in Australia.

### TWC on generic oxy

**TERRY** White Chemists has said it will wait until the generic modified release oxycodone has the approval of all "necessary and relevant" authorities, including the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, before ranging the medication, as part of its standard approach.

A spokesperson said this was of particular importance when it came to schedule eight drugs.

API said it would be up to individual stores/pharmacists as to whether they would procure the product as it had no company or brand recommendation on the product.

Sigma did not respond to **PD** queries at time of writing.

### AMA on supermarkets

**AUSTRALIAN** Medical Association president Associate Professor Dr Brian Owler has said when it comes to supermarkets selling prescription medicines, what was best in terms of the patient should be looked at.

"And if the best thing is for the patient being able to access medicines at a cheaper rate, but still have access to a pharmacist that has the sort of training and expertise to provide the information to the person that's collecting their script and looking for advice on certain medications, then that's something that I think needs to be considered."

Owler said the question needed to be asked why funding from the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement was going to pharmacies to distribute medicine when "we have a lot of other alternative ways of distributing it?"

The Agreement needed to be considered in context with the other savings measures occurring in health, he said.

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## New therapy for CLL

**GAZYVA** (obinutuzumab, or GA101), a new type II monoclonal antibody, has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for previously untreated chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) in combination with chlorambucil.

## 170 pharmacists enrol

**SINCE** the launch of RB's free program 'Pharmacy Forward' in July, more than 170 pharmacists from around Australia have signed up for online training via the RB HealthHub and started building their Pharmacist-Only offering, RB has said.

For more information, **CLICK HERE**.

## Travel Specials

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

### Choose your own adventure at Lake Crackenback

Were you a fan of the Choose Your Own Adventure books? Now's your chance to choose your own holiday adventure with Lake Crackenback Resort and Spa's adventure getaway, which includes two nights' accommodation in a lake view apartment, daily breakfast and two adventure activities from a choice of a Segway eco tour, river sled tour, day walk, fly fishing or a mountain bike ride.

The packages start from \$289 per person available for stays from 06 Oct to 04 Jun 2015.

Guests booking the package get free use of the resort's activities.

For bookings, visit

[www.lakecrackenback.com.au](http://www.lakecrackenback.com.au).

## Only 9% aware of high chol

**A QUARTER** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults had high cholesterol but only about one in 10, or 9.1%, were aware they had it, a survey by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has found.

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Measures Survey 2012-13 involved about 3,300 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and found that 11.1% had diabetes and 65.3% had at least one risk factor for cardiovascular disease.

While one in four adults had abnormal or high total cholesterol levels according to blood tests, only one in 10 self-reported having high cholesterol as a current long term health condition, ABS said.

The survey found one in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were taking cholesterol lowering medications compared

with one in eight non-Indigenous Australians, the Heart Foundation said.

Almost one in five, or 17.9%, had signs of chronic kidney disease.

Compared with non-Indigenous population, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were more than three times as likely to have diabetes, twice as likely to have signs of chronic kidney disease, almost twice as likely to have high triglycerides and more likely, at 53% compared with 32.5%, to have more than one chronic condition, it said.

The data follows an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report which found there was still a 10 year gap when it came to Indigenous life expectancy, despite some improvements having been made (**PD 08 Sep**).

To read the full report, **CLICK HERE**.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**YOU'LL** bee in a pickle.

More from the 'unconventional cures' file, following the pharmacy reader who was aghast the agony aunt pharmacist who hadn't recommended bleach as an antifungal treatment (**PD 22 Aug**), comes the person who wrote to pharmacists Joe and Teresa Graedon to share a helpful hint when it came to treating bee stings.

The reader wrote in a letter published on the *Bradenton Herald* website that when both her four year old daughter and her husband were stung in the mouth by bees, they sucked on "a giant pickle" which seemed to alleviate the swelling.

The pharmacists replied that a sting in the mouth or throat was a medical emergency due to the possibility of blocked airways and immediate attention should be sought, but that they were glad the "pickle trick" worked.

**FRESH** income stream category.

If you are looking for another income source and are prepared to take on a new category in the healthy eating department, take a leaf (sorry) out of Marriott Hotels Chicago.

According to the Marriott News Centre, the chain has adopted a healthy food vending machine created by Farmer's Fridge for after hours travellers needing to feed the weary body.

The machines are installed in 12 different locations in Chicago and offer a Detox Salad (aka Junk Food Eraser), Greek Yoghurt and Berries (aka Breakfast of the Gods) and Lemon Pepper Chicken.

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