

Supply chain info

THE Community Service Obligation wholesalers have agreed to a common, central source for medicine supply chain product information using GS1 standards.

The National Pharmaceutical Services Association (NPSA) said it drove the initiative which would use GS1 barcodes to help protect against counterfeiting and better enable recalls, with GS1 Recallnet.

It would also allow pharmacists to record full product details and load information into the patient record, NPSA said.

NPSA president Patrick Davies said previously, the wholesalers had been working independently on elements of the supply chain.

GSA Australia ceo Maria Palazzolo said the move would improve efficiencies and security, and provide opportunities for pharmacy to improve patient care due to data in the barcode.

Medical pot: Vic, NSW

LEGISLATION to facilitate medical cannabis trials has been introduced into the Victorian State Parliament (PD 26 Aug).

Victorian Minister for Health David Davis said the Drugs, Poisons & Controlled Substances Amendment (Clinical Trials) Bill would streamline the process to enable properly regulated trials safely and ethically.

MEANWHILE in NSW, Premier Mike Baird has formed a working group to initiate a clinical trial and report back on results by the end of this year.

"These reforms are about compassionate care.

"Recreational use of drugs is illegal and will not be tolerated."

The NSW Government is about to start discussions with other states around a national research agenda to encourage nationwide legislative reforms.

HCP support transparency

THE majority of healthcare professionals (HCPs) support transparency around transfers of value from pharmaceutical companies, according to a survey commissioned by Medicines Australia (MA).

Conducted online in August, Cegedim Strategic Data surveyed 400 healthcare professionals nationally regarding attitudes to transparency reporting, as part of MA's 18th Code of Conduct submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (PD 06 Aug).

The survey found 57.5% of doctors agreed that payments should be transparent through public reporting, while 66% thought disclosure of payments should apply to all commercial life science organisations.

Doctors were split on how reports should be made publicly available, including 50.5% opting for a single, searchable database versus 43% opting for individual reports by companies hosted on their websites.

The survey found less than one in four doctors were unlikely to give consent to publish payment information about them.

For the majority of doctors, public disclosure of payments would have no impact on collaboration, with one in five being less likely to collaborate, the survey said.

Medicines Australia said it expected the number of HCPs consenting to publication of transferrals would "increase exponentially" as they became more familiar with the new regime in the Code of Conduct.

MEANWHILE the Department of Health's submission has called for a commitment to increasing the publicly available information on new medicines considered by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, including submissions, reports and minutes.

CLICK HERE to read more.

Guild on 6CPA

PHARMACY Guild national president George Tambassis has said he will write to members this week to say the Guild is ready to negotiate for the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA).

Tambassis said negotiations would include making clear that clinical dispensing must remain viable.

CLICK HERE to read more.

New MA ceo

TIM James, Minister for Resources and Energy Anthony Roberts' chief of staff, has been appointed Medicines Australia's (MA) new ceo.

MA chairman Dr Martin Cross said James had experience in government and policy, professional services and the medicines industry.

James replaces Dr Brendan Shaw, who left on 12 Sep, starting from 20 Oct, with Cross acting ceo until then.



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Free online CPD study

FREE online CPD activities are provided by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia as 'myCPD' to help ensure it reach its annual requirements for Pharmacy Board of Australia professional development.

The Guild said that in August this year, it recorded over 6,000 course completions by around 18,000 pharmacists.

More than 35 educational activities accredited for Group 2 CPD points are available through myCPD.

Go to www.guild.org.au/academy.

Chiro-AHPRA deal

THE Chiropractic Board of Australia (the Board) and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) have published the Health Profession Agreement that outlines the partnership between the Board and AHPRA, and the services AHPRA will provide to the Board in 2014 and 2015.

To read the Agreement, **CLICK HERE**.

Patients mistreated

SOME patients may be missing out on effective care or having unwarranted interventions, according to a report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which compared results from the 13 participating countries.

Australia was observed to have a high knee replacement rate (more than 200 per 100,000 population), a high rate of caesarean section (more than 300 per 1,000 live births) and a relatively high hysterectomy rate (330 per 100,000 females) compared with other OECD countries in the report.

The Commission's advisory group on healthcare variation chair Professor Anne Duggan said that less care is not necessarily worse than more care, and vice versa.

"What these findings really bring home is the importance of patients being fully informed about all options when making decisions about their health care".

CLICK HERE for the full OECD report.

Hep C prison trial

THE University of NSW has said it will lead a study to evaluate hepatitis C treatments as a means of preventing the disease's spread in prisons.

The Surveillance and Treatment of Prisoners with hepatitis C study would begin recruiting prisoners from this month, looking at whether treatment as a prevention would result in a reduction in infections in prisons, the Kirby Institute said.

CLICK HERE to find out more.

Abraxane on PBS

PANCREATIC cancer drug Abraxane will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from 01 Nov.

The government said it had committed more than \$92m over four years to subsidise it, with more than 1,500 patients benefiting from the listing each year.

The average cost for the medicine without the PBS listing would be \$16,000, Minister for Health Peter Dutton said.

Manufacturing taskforce

GENERIC Medicines Industry Association (GMiA) chair Mark Crotty has called for the establishment of a medicine manufacturing taskforce to look at barriers to manufacturing in Australia.

During a visit from Minister for Industry Ian Macfarlane to Hospira's manufacturing site in Melbourne, Crotty said the industry was not looking for a hand out, "just a fair go to keep medicine manufacturing viable".

The taskforce would bring together manufacturers and the Departments of Industry, Health and Trade, to increase Australia's medicine export capacity, encourage global investment in medicine manufacturing, commercialise medical and biotechnology R&D and give the country the ability to respond in times of pandemic or medicines emergency, GMiA said.

To read more, **CLICK HERE**.



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Diabetes fall risk

DIABETES patients with peripheral neuropathy are at greater risk of falls during stair ascent and descent due to larger and more variable medial-lateral sway causing loss of balance, according to new research.

The paper was presented at this year's annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes in Vienna by UK researchers from Manchester Universities.

CLICK HERE to read the abstract.

Travel Specials

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

Get on your Bike to Port Stephens

The new 'Get on Your Bike' package from Marty's at Little Beach includes two nights' accommodation, a 1.5 to two-hour ride along the foreshores of Port Stephens with new operator, Port Stephens Mountain Bike Adventures, and a complimentary sports towel per person, as well as helmets and water for the ride. A \$20 per booking cash back offer is also offered for guests booking the cycling package.

The two night deal is available from \$310 per couple for weeknights (Sunday to Thursday) or from \$330 for weekends (Friday-Saturday), minus the \$20 cash back.

The package is in a two bedroom apartment for up to four guests is priced from \$570 per apartment for the two nights on weeknights and from \$600 on weekends, minus the \$20 cash back.

The package is valid from 01 Sep 2014 to 11 Dec 2014, excluding the period from 19 Sep to 06 Oct.

Conditions apply and the mountain bike rides are suitable for riders aged 12 and over.

To book the Marty's at Little Beach package, visit www.martys.net.au.

Letter to the Editor

THE article on the Friends of Science in Medicine call for pharmacy not to host naturopaths in-house (**PD** 15 Sep) has prompted this response from Monash University School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine Adjunct Associate Professor Dr Ken Harvey:

Australian Naturopathic Practitioners Association president Eta Brand said, "Not all naturopaths were trained in iridology as this was not part of the core training".

Yet the ANPA website promotes several disproven diagnostic and therapeutic modalities such as iridology, live-blood analysis and homeopathy.

<http://www.anpa.asn.au/therapies/iridology>

<http://www.anpa.asn.au/therapies/blood-analysis>

<http://www.anpa.asn.au/index>

[php?option=com_content&view=article&id=110&Itemid=298](http://www.pharmacydaily.com.au/php?option=com_content&view=article&id=110&Itemid=298)

I have no problem with naturopaths use of nutritional medicine, dietary and lifestyle advice and massage therapy but they do themselves a disservice by continuing to promote disproven modalities.

We welcome all comments. If you would like to weigh in on this or other subjects, you can email us at info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Business focus works

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia said a record 250 delegates registered for the Pharmacy Business Network (PBN).

PBN 2014 organising committee chair Anthony Tassone said feedback had highlighted the "focused, practical and interactive format."

New TGA eCTD check

ELECTRONIC submissions for the entry of registered medicines on the ARTG will, as of 2015, be able to be validated, reviewed and processed with new software used by the TGA.

New CV CPD module

PHARMACIST Club and Betaglucare are offering a new online CPD accredited module for pharmacists 'Oat beta-glucans for cardiovascular health'.

CLICK HERE to access.

WIN AN AROMABABY GIFT PACK

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Aromababy** are giving five readers the chance to win an Aromababy gift pack.

Launched two decades ago as the first, natural baby brand of its kind, Aromababy offers a comprehensive selection of organic-rich products for mother and child including unscented, for sensitive skin. 100% Australian made and used in select hospitals, Aromababy is not sold in supermarkets and relies on concentrated formulations, ensuring value for money together with optimum efficacy.

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Does Aromababy have unscented/ no essential oil product?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Sue Yang from Cabrini Health.



DISPENSARY CORNER

TOO excited.

It's likely that somewhere in your pharmacy, there are Star Wars-branded products available, so successful has the franchise been.

So imagine, if you will, the nerdy excitement at **PD**, and the sheer awesomeness, of a Star Wars parody, performed by Sesame Street.



Currently clocking in just under 600,000 views on YouTube, the video is titled 'Star S'Mores' and features the Cookie Monster as Flan Solo, whose excellently cast, but poorly chosen, partner is Chewie the Cookie (guess what happens to him).

Luke Piewalker joins forces with Flan to save Princess Parfaita from Darth Baker, taking advice from Only One Cannoli along the way (yes, we giggled far too hard at this).

CLICK HERE to view the video.

IT'S flipping Barbie.

You may have had to deal with product recalls from your pharmacy, but probably not for profanity.

Apparently, Talina Evans in Wales heard her daughter's Barbie turn the air blue, saying "What the f***" while her daughter was playing with it, the *Mirror UK* reported.

If you're curious, the Barbie was made to say things like "There is no substitute for glitter!" and "To the salon!" so the jury's still out on whether the additional phrase was an improvement.

Apparently, Mattel has launched an investigation into the foul mouthed doll, but it's not the first time a doll hasn't said what it was supposed to - **CLICK HERE** for more.