## Pharmacy DAILY -

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Tuesday 07 Apr 2015

PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

#### Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today has two pages of news plus a full page from: (click)

• InnovaDerma

#### Codeine to S4?

**PUBLIC** submissions have been invited on proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard, one of which includes rescheduling the S3 codeine entry to S4.

The Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling would consider whether the rescheduling should occur due to "potential issues of morbidity, toxicity and dependence", the Therapeutic Goods Administration said.

Rescheduling all S3 preparations to S4 and amending the S2 entry could also be considered, it said.

CLICK HERE to read more.



## Call for more phmcy edu

MORE education with pharmacists is needed when it comes to needle and syringe (NSP) programs, particularly around stigma, the Standing Committee on Health has heard.

At a public hearing for the inquiry into hepatitis C in Australia last month, Australian Injection and Illicit Drug Users League executive officer Annie Madden said more than 90% of new infections of hepatitis C were among people who inject or had injected drugs, and that this was the "key affected" population.

What was important was that those at risk from injection had access to the best available evidence-based, non-judgemental services to prevent infection.

To remove barriers to accessing hepatitis C treatment, places drug users accessed frequently, such as NSPs, needed to be considered as places to start looking at testing, assessment for, and delivery of, treatment, Madden said.

Pharmacies were an important part of delivering NSPs due to resources and getting the volume of equipment needed out to people.

But people were often reluctant to access such programs at pharmacies because they were treated poorly when asking for needles and syringes, with pharmacies not seeing it as an important part of their business, Madden said.

More education with pharmacists, particularly for those working front of shop such as pharmacy assistants, was needed, she said.

"There is often not enough training in terms of stigma and discrimination, in particular."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) national president Grant Kardachi said he was surprised there was a suggestion of poor service or stigma attached to provision of NSPs in some pharmacies, which were an important factor in helping reduce the spread of diseases such as hepatitis.

The PSA recommended pharmacists provide discrete or private areas to ensure privacy was maintained, he said.

Pharmacists needed to ensure all staff were trained to counsel and provide advice in this area, with the aim of infection prevention as well as helping to improve the patient's health, he said.

**CLICK HERE** to read more from the public hearing.

## Patients before pharmacy ambitions

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has warned of "potential risks to patients" if pharmacists increase their scope of services to include vaccination, cancer screening, mental illness and drug dependence management.

RACGP president Dr Frank Jones said there were "alarm bells" around pharmacy scope expansion, due to a lack of diagnostic skills in the profession.

**CLICK HERE** for the statement.

## Call for withdrawal of Plain English Draft

THE Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association (SDA) as well as the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers Australia (APESMA) have sought the withdrawal of the Pharmacy Guild's 'Plain English Draft' of the Pharmacy Industry Award (PD 02 Apr).

The SDA said adding such a draft would add a "further layer of complexity" to the Review.

APESMA said should the Commission decide the Guild was entitled to submit the draft, it would request that the Guild provide details of what variations it sought to the Award.

The Guild has said employment law complexity should not be compounded by language difficulties (*PD* 02 Apr).



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# Pharmacy

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#### **Generics dominate** new TGA submissions

**NEW** generic medicines have dominated presubmissions and applications for registration with the TGA in its half year performance report to Dec 14.

Companies applied for registration for 371 new generic drugs compared with 55 for new chemical entities.



#### The Harper Report

THE Guild completely rejects last week's recommendations of the Competition Policy Review panel, known as the Harper Report.

The Guild is committed to the current community pharmacy model, including location and ownership rules, because they benefit health care consumers. The community pharmacy model provides near universal access, high quality service and choice for consumers.

The Harper Report has ignored evidence we presented to support the current model, and relied instead on untested assertions about what might be good for consumers.

Make no mistake - the implementation of the Harper recommendations would simply allow more market domination by the big duopoly, Coles and Woolworths, with no benefit to consumers. The Federal government has made its position clear on the issue of pharmacy regulation both before and since the last election expressly supporting the current pharmacy ownership model and the location rules. We will be looking to the Government to honour those commitments.

#### **VPA** business plan

**THE** Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) has released its business plan 2015-2016.

To ensure maintenance of a safe pharmacy system, the VPA said it would conduct a site visit program, with non-sterile compounding a particular challenge, due to an increasing number of pharmacies undertaking this, and some pharmacies not meeting minimum standards.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

#### **Export drops** 'disappointing'

**MEDICINES** Australia has said the drop in medicinal and pharmaceutical product exports is "disappointing".

Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics found that for 2014, exports were \$2.92b, down from \$3.56b for 2013 and \$4.32b in

Ceo Tim James said pharmaceutical manufacturing was an area Australia should excel at, with a skilled labour force, infrastructure and a reputation for safe medicine manufacturing.

Policies were needed to capitalise on growth in emerging markets in Asia for medicines and vaccines.

**CLICK HERE** for the statistics.

#### **Removing location** rules opens phmcy

**REMOVING** the pharmacy location rules would see more pharmacies across Australia, University of Melbourne Professor of Health Economics Philip Clarke

While the pharmacy ownership regulations were a debate for Australian society as to whether pharmacy should remain a small business sector, it was harder to justify the location rules from a consumer point of view, he said.

Any reforms would need to be introduced as part of a package, as access to medicines was not an issue in urban areas, with potentially some form of support in rural areas needed, such as the tender system suggested by the Harper Review (PD 01 Apr), he said.

The issues of access were not in urban areas, and reforms could increase urban pharmacy access while maintaining remote access, he said.

Changing the regulations would provide the opportunity for new people to enter the industry such as graduates, he said.

Both the Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia have opposed changes to current pharmacy regulation (PD 01 Apr).



#### **DISPENSARY CORNER**

APRIL Fools! Not...

Did your pharmacy get up to any April Fools hijinks last Wednesday?

Connecting Pharmacy

LEARN MORE

Because some people managed to get up to April Fools-like tomfoolery, reported by the press on 01 Apr, confusing everyone.

BBC News rounded up a top 10 true stories that looked like iokes, which includes articles about cats that hate heavy metal, a 70s version of Downton Abbey and colouring books for adults in France to be used as aids for anxiety.

Perhaps the best April Fools' on the internet, however, was the return of Strong Bad, who replied to his first email since 2009.

CLICK HERE to watch.

#### **EXO-LLENT** invention.

It's probably a little way away from being stocked in your front of shop, but engineers have apparently invented an exoskeleton for feet which reduces the energy needed to move by about 7%.

The boot weighs about the same as a shoe and makes wearers feel as though they've removed about 4.5kg, the Telegraph has reported, with uses flagged including helping people who are recovering from leg injuries.

We really shouldn't be surprised at such an invention, given sci fi has long predicted it.

The terrible Dune series has an apparatus for helping the obese villain float around at will and the wonderful Portal game series has the 'Long Fall Boot' that lessens the force of impact from falls.



#### Win with **DESIGNER** BRANDS

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and **Designer Brands** are giving readers the chance to win DB's new Blur Skin Perfector (RRP \$14.99) and NGM Blush (RRP \$14.99).



Blur products are all the rage now and DB is giving away two products from its Ace Your Base promo. DB has just launched its new and innovative 3 in 1 Blur Skin Perfector that can be used under or over make up as well as for touch ups. Also included in the giveaway is the fabulous NGM Blush, a perfect pink for a natural healthy glow

suitable for all skin tones.

To win, be the first person from **NSW** or **ACT** to send the correct answer to the following question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

How many shades do DB liquid foundations come in?

For more info CLICK HERE.

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

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