



## IF YOUR CUSTOMERS ARE TAKING A COURSE OF ANTIBIOTICS

a probiotic such as Inner Health Plus may assist in maintaining the balance of good bacteria.

**INNER HEALTH PLUS**  
Always read the label. Use only as directed.

## PSA call to action

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has urged its members to meet with local members of parliament and senators to discuss Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement outcomes and issues.

The PSA said some issues to discuss included the Australian National Audit Office report and its findings (*PD* 06 Mar) as well as the savings generated through the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

## Indigenous years of life lost high

**FATAL** burden of disease and injury for Indigenous Australians, measured as years of life lost, is between 2.6 and eight times the rate for non Indigenous Australians, according to a report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Infant deaths were the largest contributors, mainly due to congenital conditions, while cardiovascular disease and cancer were the main causes of death for those over 34, the report said.

**CLICK HERE** to read the full report.

## Gov pay OMT dispense fee?

**PAYING** pharmacists to dispense opioid management therapy (OMT) could remove financial pressures from patients and boost adherence, a new report from the Penington Institute has said.

The majority of dosing points (88.2%) in 2013 were community pharmacies (*PD* 16 Jun 14).

Patients were charged a daily dispensing fee, or co-payment, for OMT, generally about \$1 to \$10 per day, which incorporated time, consumables and general business costs, the report said.

"Pharmacies are commercial enterprises.

"For these businesses to continue to provide OMT, it must remain financially viable."

However, the cost of OMT co-payments could put adherence in jeopardy, with research showing patients faced hardship with the fee, often prioritising it over basic necessities.

Research also suggested that if clients were not struggling to pay fees, more pharmacists would be attracted to providing OMT, it said.

There were greater costs to community if patients could not stay on OMT due to fees, and it

therefore made sense to address the issue of co-payments, the report said.

Research suggested that co-payment subsidies would see better adherence, a more productive pharmacist-patient relationship, increased coverage of treatment, and lower drug related health and crime costs to the community, the report said.

Paying pharmacists a monthly fee and requiring a monthly patient contribution of \$6 per month for those with a healthcare card and \$36.90 for those without was one option, the report said.

Based on the current patient numbers of 37,471 receiving OMT through pharmacies or private clinics, a model of this would cost about \$144m per year, with increased costs as patient uptake increased.

Minister for Health Sussan Ley said the government covered the full cost of the methadone and buprenorphine for people with opiate dependence, to the cost of nearly \$50m, and that no patient co-payment was required.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia national president Grant Kardachi said the organisation would be supportive in principle of the report, especially if it would improve adherence and so, health outcomes.

A Department of Health spokesperson said fees charged to the patient were a commercial decision of the respective pharmacist or clinic.

**CLICK HERE** to read the report.

## ACCC on pricing

**THE** Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has said while suppliers can provide a list of recommended retail price to retailers, it is illegal to set a minimum price for products or services.

In response to *PD* queries regarding talks with the Guild (*PD* 09 Apr), the ACCC said competing businesses agreeing to fix prices or to charge certain fees was also illegal, and these agreements did not need to be in writing.

"Businesses can apply to the ACCC for authorisation to engage in this conduct if they consider it provides a public benefit."

## Otsuka in Australia

**SINCE** opening offices in Australia in January (*PD* 28 Jan), Otsuka Australia Pharmaceutical has now announced that it will take over sponsorship of Abilify (aripiprazole) tablets from Bristol-Myers Squibb in Australia as of 21 Apr.



## Expressions (EOI) of interest are invited for the position of Director for Tasmania

A casual vacancy will exist from June 2015 for a director on the PDL board of directors

Qualifications for this position:

- Reside in Tasmania
- Financial PDL member
- Pharmacist with general registration with PBA (AHPRA)
- An understanding of the importance of corporate governance
- Must complete AICD course within 3 months if not already completed
- Commit to the PDL board protocols [www.pdl.org.au](http://www.pdl.org.au)
- Refer to the Code of Conduct [www.pdl.org.au](http://www.pdl.org.au)
- Board meetings held every six weeks mainly in Melbourne

PDL is the largest pharmacist membership organisation in Australia. The successful candidate for the vacancy on the PDL board needs to be focused on the future of the profession, actively engaged in pharmacy practice with an excellent understanding of current and emerging practice issues. Fiduciary and governance responsibilities are priorities as is analysis to assist in positioning the company during its second century of serving our pharmacist members and the profession of pharmacy.

**Written EOIs to be emailed to [dean.schulze@pdlappco.com.au](mailto:dean.schulze@pdlappco.com.au) by COB on Monday 11th May 2015.**

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Skin Care for Problematic Skin		
ITEM		
PROPAIRA	Purifying Cream 30ml	932140
PROPAIRA	Foaming Cleansing Gel 100ml	932167
PROPAIRA	Ultra- Calming Lotion 100ml	932183
PROPAIRA	Ultra-Calmng Cleansing Gel 100ml	932221
PROPAIRA	SPF50+ Sunscreen 80ml	932256

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### Jobs of the Week

- **Clinical Pharmacist** - Mid North Coast, NSW (Job# 2010822)  
6 month contract - opportunity to work with iconic health care provider.
- **Pharmacist, E-Health Integration Tester** - Melbourne (Job# 2011266)  
Want to work in the emerging and high growth e-health sector?
- **Pharmacist** - Darling Downs region, QLD (Job# 2011258)  
32hrs/wk - opportunity for new reg to build skill set alongside exp mgr.

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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).

- 14 Apr:** NOACS: What you need to know webinar; details at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 14 Apr:** Cardiovascular Update: The Role of Pharmacy; St Leonards; see: [www.guild.org.au](http://www.guild.org.au)
- 15 Apr:** Short Course – Chronic Disease Management -Respiratory; St Leonards; more info at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 18-19 Apr:** Victorian Pharmacy Conference; Monash University, Parkville; visit [www.psa.org.au/conferences](http://www.psa.org.au/conferences)
- 21 Apr:** Instigo and PKF Lawler Retail & Business Improvement Master Class; Newcastle; click here for tickets and further details: [www.proticket.com.au](http://www.proticket.com.au)
- 22 Apr:** Short Course – Arthritis pain; St Leonards; details at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 22-23 Apr:** Safety in Action Brisbane, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, see: [www.safetyinaction.net.au](http://www.safetyinaction.net.au)
- 2 May:** Better Pharmacy Futures Forum; Bathurst; visit: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 3-4 May:** Naturally Good Expo; Royal Hall of Industries, Moore Park, Sydney; details at: [www.naturallygood.com.au](http://www.naturallygood.com.au)
- 9 May:** HIV Workshop introduction; Melbourne; see: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)
- 17 May:** Clinical Practice Seminar – Pain; Parramatta; details at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 24 May:** Medicines in the Bush Symposium; Darwin Convention Centre; details at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

## Real time pseudo recording

**REAL** time recording of pseudoephedrine should be compulsory nationally, with appropriate funding, to protect the community, the Guild said.

The Federal government confirmed it would develop a National Ice Action Strategy this week to deal with the growth of use in 'ice' (crystal methamphetamine), with rates close to doubling in the last 12 months.

A taskforce would be established as a first step to look at current methods of addressing ice use, with an interim report due by the middle of the year.

## Guild vax support

**THE** Pharmacy Guild has set up a new page on its website providing guidelines and resources for members around vaccination programs in pharmacy.

The information and resources include clarifying the possible arrangements for employing a nurse practitioner or GP to administer the vaccine, reimbursement issues under Medicare, and third party provider contracts.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

The Guild said real time online recording of pseudoephedrine sales was not compulsory in all Australian jurisdictions.

Uniform legislation would improve data collection on product sale, reducing diversion from community pharmacies, national president George Tambassis said.

The Guild said about 80% of pharmacies were using its Project STOP real time recording system.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott said it was important the government do an "urgent national stocktake" of actions and "get cracking" with what was working.

**CLICK HERE** to read the Guild's statement and **HERE** for the government's.

## NZ funds Zytiga

**EFFECTIVE** 01 May, PHARMAC will fund prostate cancer treatment abiraterone (Zytiga) from Janssen.

This move had the potential to help up to 1,000 men annually, with prostate cancer the most commonly diagnosed male cancer in NZ, PHARMAC said.

Being in tablet form, patients will not need to take hospital time to receive intravenous therapy.

**CLICK HERE** for more.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**QUICK** thinkers.

A shout out to Montrose Pharmacy staff Sue Valastro and Penni Doubleday, who called 000 when customer Stephen Tasker suffered a heart attack while filling a prescription on 21 Mar, the *Lilydale and Yarra Valley Leader* reports.

Tasker told the publication if he'd been anywhere else, he would be dead.

Valastro told *PD* Tasker had originally thought the pain was due to indigestion but with his breathing becoming very rapid, she had realised this wasn't the case and called emergency services.

He had since brought in a bunch of flowers, and she was "very glad" to see Tasker, a regular, walk through the doors of the pharmacy again, she said.

Good work, team life savers!

**CLICK HERE** to see a photo of Tasker, Valastro and Doubleday.

**ANY** issues with penicillin?

Pharmacists know complex names don't mean bad health, something pointed out by California-based analytical chemist Yvette d'Entremont, who has unrelentingly bagged American health blogger Vani Hari, who calls herself "The Food Babe", for failing in her pseudoscientific rational for her health recommendations, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reports.

D'Entremont accused Hari of attending "Google University to transform herself into an uncredentialed expert in everything she admittedly can't pronounce", the story reads.

"I wonder if anybody's warned her about good old dihydrogen monoxide? (aka water)."

"She's also utterly full of s\*\*t."

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

## 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 **TAS** or **VIC** to send the correct answer to the following question to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Is the range paraben-free?

For more info **CLICK HERE**.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Deborah Caldera from Jardines Chemmart Pharmacy.

