



Today's issue of PD

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

- InnovaDerma

Competition winner

FRIDAY'S competition winner was Sharon Miller from Cabrini Hospital Pharmacy.

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Hydralyte** are giving away Hydralyte packs, starting today with NSW and ACT readers.

PSA health destination launch

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has partnered with eight companies to help implement the Health Destination Pharmacy program.

Pfizer, Bayer, Reckitt Benckiser, Johnson and Johnson, Blackmores, Willach Australia, NAB Health and Danone Nutricia had signed up, with the implementation stage due to launch later this year.

The program would shift pharmacies to have a stronger focus on consumer self-care and provide evidence based minor ailment and professional services, the PSA said.

National president Grant Kardachi said a team of pharmacy experts had also been formed to help roll the program out, including Professor Charlie Benrimoj from University of Technology Sydney and PSA ceo Dr Lance Emerson.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

LSDP submissions open

PUBLIC submissions are now open on the issues paper of the post-market review of the Life Saving Drugs Program (LSDP).

The Department of Health released its issues paper from the LSDP review, inviting comment by 30 Apr from interested organisations and individuals.

Issues identified included that access was provided to drugs usually before there was clear evidence of whether it was effective in the medium and long term, meaning manufacturers could be paid for a drug that was found to be ineffective, or less effective than claimed.

The paper asked whether the government should expect further evidence of continued benefit through mechanisms such as managed entry schemes and pay for performance, when effectiveness was not clear, and what criteria government should use in determining a reasonable cost to pay for such drugs.

Another issue was that the reference group had concluded that none of the drugs on the LSDP had been shown to cure the disease they were listed for.

"Who should decide to continue

therapy if the disease and/or the disease symptoms are not stable or improving?"

Possible options for the scheme included that it become an \$100 program for rare diseases, that the program be subsumed into state and territory public health systems, or that a cap be imposed on the program's budget.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more and submit to the consultation.

Pharmacist accused

JAMES Chau, Kingsgrove Pharmacy pharmacist, has been found by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct with relation to supply of pharmaceuticals such as pseudoephedrine-based products, testosterone-based products and the anabolic steroid nandrolone from February to November 2011.

The Health Care Complaints Commission alleged that Chau had supplied these items without a written prescription of an authorised practitioner and failed to keep Schedule 8 drugs of addiction in a locked safe.

The Tribunal imposed conditions that Chau was required to attend mentoring sessions on a quarterly basis for a period of two years.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

NSW allows pharmacist flu vax

THE NSW government has amended regulation to allow pharmacist-administered influenza vaccines.

Flagged in December by Health Minister Jillian Skinner, a spokesperson said in February that the Department would wait to review the final QPIP report to ensure a safe roll out (**PD** 03 Feb).

The state government amended the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 last month, the *Daily Telegraph* reported.

The amendment allows pharmacists to administer the influenza vaccine provided they have completed a training course and that certain details are recorded, including the person's name, address and date of birth.

MEANWHILE the Federal government has said from 01 Jan 16, it will remove the conscientious objection option regarding children's vaccination for access to child care payments.

This would see vaccine objectors unable to access Child Care Benefits, the Child Care Rebate and the Family Tax Benefit Part A, the government said, and immunisation requirements for the latter would be extended to children of all ages.

Vaccine objection rates had increased steadily under the conscientious objector category.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Unlicensed meds use

DELIVERY of medications in the palliative care setting at end-of-life stage is most commonly via subcutaneous injection for which many of the drugs administered are unlicensed, according to a study published in the *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy*.

The Netherlands-based study reviewed the day of death medications of 208 patients in a palliative care unit, finding the three most commonly prescribed drugs were morphine, midazolam and haloperidol.

Oral administration of medications was used in 89% of patients at admission while 94% were administered subcutaneously on day of death, the study found.

The authors called for more research on palliative care drug use.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the abstract.

WIN with Hydralyte

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Hydralyte** are giving away a Hydralyte pack.

If you're travelling - don't forget to pack your Hydralyte.

Travelling increases your risk of dehydration due to long haul flights (dry cabin conditions), travellers' diarrhoea, heavy sweating from exercise and hot conditions...not to mention dehydration associated with alcohol. When dehydration strikes replace fluid and electrolytes with Hydralyte.

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

Why do long haul flights leave you dehydrated?

[Click HERE](#) for a hint.

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

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PROPAIRA Ultra-Calming Lotion 100ml		932183
PROPAIRA Ultra-Calming Cleansing Gel 100ml		932221
PROPAIRA SPF50+ Sunscreen 80ml		932256

Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Saurabh Mishra**, Executive Director at Healthnotes.



Pharmacy's Application Economy

Marc Benioff, the founder of Salesforce.com, describes an intriguing meeting with Steve Jobs of Apple in the 90s. Jobs told him "you need to build an application economy". When Benioff pressed him to elaborate, Jobs famously said, "I don't know, but you better go figure it out".

Now, I am not Steve Jobs (clearly), but having founded five innovative e-health businesses in the past 15 years, I feel that Australian pharmacies are uniquely positioned to create a lucrative personalised health information-based service industry.

Personally controlled electronic health records are here, and sooner or later they will be adopted en-masse. Smartphones and wearable devices are already generating a wealth of real-time health data. The cost of whole genome sequencing is falling rapidly enough to imagine a not-too-distant future when we can add our genome sequence to our PCEHR.

What personalised health information-based services might spawn out of just these trends? Clearly, nobody knows.

But together with you, I am determined to find out. We have an ambitious pipeline of innovations within Healthnotes around enabling pharmacies to deliver services based on personalised health information. Together, let's take them out there to your customers and figure out what will constitute pharmacy's "Application economy".

2nd try for no script pill

NEW ZEALAND will once again consider the reclassification of oral contraceptives from prescription to restricted medicine.

The NZ Medicines Classification Committee recommended that selected oral contraceptives not be reclassified to pharmacist only in April last year, saying the main problem with the application for reclassification was a lack of collaborative work with GPs, with an emphasis "entirely on offering opportunities to pharmacists" (**PD**

28 May 14).

The company which made the original submission, Green Cross Health Limited, has again applied to the Committee's 53rd meeting on 05 May for reclassification of selected oral contraceptives, including levonorgestrel and norethisterone, to restricted medicine supplied by a pharmacist who had successfully completed a training course.

The submission said reclassification could mean greater accessibility to oral contraceptives, reduction of barriers to starting contraception and reduction of unintended pregnancies.

It suggested pharmacist consultations to provide the medicine last about 20 minutes and be conducted in a private area.

The company had consulted with GPs, obstetricians and gynaecologists, and sought GP feedback on its submission, in response to the Committee's previous comments, it said.

The Australian Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling consulted last year on a proposal to create Schedule Three entries for various oral contraceptives, including levonorgestrel, with possible conditions including a pharmacist questionnaire and in-pharmacy blood pressure test, with a limit of three to six months' supply in one transaction (**PD** 18 Nov 14).

An interim decision is expected on 04 Jun from the Australian Advisory Committee.

\$2.2m for hep C prisoner program

THE Victorian government has said it will launch a \$2.2m program to provide a network of hepatitis C clinics in every prison to ensure 1,280 prisoners are treated over the next two years.

CLICK HERE to read more.

Vit C for smokers

VITAMIN C supplementation should be considered for active smokers if cessation of smoking is not effective, according to new research published in the *International Journal of Advanced Research*.

Smoking was an established risk factor for cardiovascular disease, the authors said, and with 50 subjects in each arm of the study, serum vitamin C and urinary excretion of vitamin C showed a strong inverse correlation in smokers compared with non-smokers.

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

Co-ordinate ice attack

BOTH short and long term solutions are needed to deal with the increased usage rates of ice (crystal methamphetamine), National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) director Michael Farrell, has said.

While welcoming the government's decision to launch a task force to deal with the "scourge" of ice (**PD** 10 Apr), Farrell said there was no simple answer to the problems and there was a need to consider new ways of working together across the whole sector from health and social services to the police and courts.

CLICK HERE for the NDARC blog.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

SCRIPT for a Mr Hodor?

Following on from our does-Jon-Snow-need-an-antidepressant story (**PD** 09 Apr) comes another Game of Thrones character in need of healthcare help - Hodor, who is apparently a "textbook example" of someone with expressive aphasia.

For those not hip to the jive, the gentle giant Hodor only ever says one word, 'Hodor', which is not his name but is what people call him.

Writing in *The Conversation*, Penn State College of Medicine neuroscience doctoral candidate Jordan Lewis says individuals with expressive aphasia tend to use 'telegraphic speech', using about three words to give their meaning.

The most common cause of the condition is stroke, Lewis writes, but can also be caused by various things including a tumour, haemorrhage or trauma to the head - so what happened to Hodor?

CLICK HERE to read more.

STOP trying the diazepam!

You're unlikely to find pharmacy customers trying out the product before purchase, we'd say, but IKEA is trying to dissuade such a practice in Beijing, by banning shoppers from taking a snooze on its furniture.

Xinhongmen branch staff were told customers were not allowed to sleep on the furniture displays - but struggled to implement the rules, with one staff member telling the *Beijing Youth Daily* that there were "old people sleeping" on the beds, the *Telegraph* reports.

Another said as soon as he tells a customer to leave the bed, another soon approaches for a little mid-shopping-trip nap, the publication reported.

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