



PBS claiming changes

EFFECTIVE from 01 Apr, changes have been made to claiming for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and Repatriation PBS.

Using online PBS claiming, healthcare professionals would no longer need to send prescriptions and paperwork to finalise a claim and could close a claim electronically through dispensing software, the Department of Human Services said.

A transition period of three months applies until 30 Jun to allow for software changes.

For full details, [CLICK HERE](#).

Six weeks for flu shot

THE Influenza Specialist Group has said Australians have a six week "optimum" period to get the influenza vaccination this year.

The government-funded flu vaccine for at-risk groups would be available a month later than last year on 20 Apr, due to a double strain change (**PD** 05 Mar).

Group chair Dr Alan Hampson said cases usually rose in June with a peak in August, meaning there was a six week "optimum" window to get a flu shot.

Hampson said the Group was urging Australians to get a flu shot before the influenza season hit.

The NSW state government recently changed regulations to allow appropriately trained pharmacists to administer influenza vaccinations (**PD** 13 Apr), bringing it line with South Australia, Western Australia and the NT (**PD** 14 Jan), with the Queensland Pilot ongoing (**PD** 03 Dec).

EU ibuprofen info changes

THE European Medicines Agency's (EMA) Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) has recommended updating ibuprofen's product information to include advice about cardiovascular risk with high doses.

The Committee completed a review which found there was a small increase in risk of cardiovascular problems in patients

taking 2,400 mg or more per day, which was similar to the risk seen with other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) including diclofenac, it said.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration is consulting on proposed advisory statements for NSAIDs (**PD** 05 Feb) and has said it is in the process of implementing changes to the labels of medicines containing diclofenac (**PD** 16 Jan).

No increase in risk was seen with doses up to 1,200 mg, generally the highest oral OTC dose in the EU, and the benefits of the medication outweighed the risks, PRAC said.

Doses of 2,400 mg or more per day should be avoided in patients with serious underlying heart or circulatory conditions and doctors should assess a patient's risk factor for these before starting long term ibuprofen treatment, it said.

The recommendations also applied to dexibuprofen, for which a high dose was 1,200 mg or more per day.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

TGA consults on EU guidelines adoption

SUBMISSIONS on the adoption of EU guidelines around quality, biological medicines and clinical efficacy and safety are now open, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has said.

In particular, the TGA is consulting on whether it should adopt the guideline on similar biological medicine products.

The consultation closes on 22 May.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Yervoy now first line

YERVOY (ipilimumab 3mg/kg) has been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for first line treatment of adult patients with advanced melanoma, Bristol-Myers Squibb has said.

Previous to this 'first line' listing, Yervoy could only be prescribed for patients unresponsive to, or unable to tolerate, a prior systemic therapy.

[CLICK HERE](#) for Yervoy PI.

PIWG reformation?

FOLLOWING reports that the government will re-establish the Pharmaceutical Industry Working Group, including from Labor, a spokesperson for Minister for Health Sussan Ley has said the government "regularly meets with members of the pharmaceutical sector and this will continue".

Common sense move

THE Pharmacy Guild has said the NSW Government allowing pharmacists to vaccinate adults (**PD** 13 Apr) is a "significant step forward for healthcare in the state" and a "common sense" move, broadening convenient access to immunisation.

The decision also brought NSW into alignment with other states and territories, as well as other comparable countries, NSW branch president Paul Sinclair said.

Pharmacist training and administration of vaccinations would take place under strict protocols and guidelines, he said.

Privacy Commissioner in contact on data sale

THE Office of the Australian Information Commissioner has told **PD** it has been in contact with IMS Health to seek further information regarding reports the organisation is buying patient data from pharmacies.

News Corp said it drew the Department of Health's attention to the fact that IMS Health was buying patient prescription information, *news.com.au* reported.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said pharmacists and IMS must comply with relevant privacy legislation at all times.

It had passed this information on to the Privacy Commissioner.

Information gathered by a pharmacist in dispensing or consulting with a patient was the property of the pharmacist, but the patient retained the right to view or copy that information, the spokeswoman said.

IMS Australia gm Andrew Sutton was quoted as saying the company used prescription information to help understand how patients and doctors used medicine which helped its clients to get "marked aligned outcomes".

All information was fully encrypted, anonymous and not linked to physicians or patients, he said.

The Pharmacy Guild's policy states that no third party should have access to consumer data unless it is de-identified and for a "clear and approved purpose" that complies with privacy laws.

Data collection arrangements needed to meet all necessary privacy, confidentiality and security requirements, the Guild said.

IMS Health did not reply at time of publication to requests for comment.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

RGH E-Bulletin

THE RGH E-Bulletin this week summarises issues around monitoring and prevention of acute opioid toxicities.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access this week's E-Bulletin.



Specialists in:

- Pharmacy Insurance • Professional Indemnity Insurance

Tony Carollo - VIC/NSW/TAS

Nick Nicola - VIC

Susan Carollo - WA

**FOR AN OBLIGATION FREE QUOTE CLICK HERE
OR PHONE 1300-CAROLLO / 1300-2276556**

Pharmacy DAILY

Tuesday 14 Apr 2015

PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU



TGA: 10 recs by 31 Dec

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has said it has implemented 38 recommendations as part of its four year reform program, with a further 10 planned to be implemented by 31 Dec.

However, the Expert Review of Medicines (**PD** 27 Oct 14) had required a revision of the schedule for some recommendations, it said.

Guild Update

Asthma Council launches new medications wall chart

A **HANDY** education tool for pharmacists to help identify and explain different asthma and COPD medications is now available from the National Asthma Council Australia.

This useful resource shows the main asthma and COPD medications available in Australia displayed in one wall chart.

The updated version reflects the recent developments in respiratory medicine, with almost one-third of the included medications having come onto the market within the past two years.

Publication of the chart was supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Novartis. The National Asthma Council Australia retains full editorial control.

You can download a PDF copy of the wall chart from the National Asthma Council website: <http://www.nationalasthma.org.au/>

A2 poster-sized print copies can be ordered from your local Novartis representative or through the National Asthma Council online ordering system.

Obesity screening gap

GPS are not recording measures of obesity routinely as recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council clinical practice guidelines for managing overweight and obesity in adults, adolescents and children, according to new research published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

Study lead biostatistician Dr Lyle Turner drew on data from the Melbourne East Monash General Practice Database, which showed that of 270,426 adult patients seen between Jul 2011 to Dec 2012, only 22.2% had their BMI recorded and 4.3% had their waist circumference recorded.

CLICK HERE for the study.

'No pay' - no way

PUBLIC health experts have criticized The "No Jab, no play and no pay" approach from the Abbott government (**PD** 13 Apr) as less effective than better education, an *ABC* report has said.

Sydney University public health expert Dr Julie Leask said people were not vaccinating because they missed medical checkups and lacked education.

CLICK HERE for more.

AHF fish-heart review

A **NEW** evidence review published in *The Heart, Lung & Circulation Journal* has provided additional data to support a review of the Australian Heart Foundation (AHF) position on fish, omega-3 and supplements.

Given that the Heart Foundation has not reviewed its position on omega-3 polyunsaturated fat, fish oil and fish since 2008, ceo Mary Barry said that in 2013 the Heart Foundation began the process.

"Recent scientific evidence assessed as part of our review found higher fish intake was consistently associated with lower rates of sudden cardiac death, stroke, heart failure and heart attack."

While ideally Australians were urged to eat two to three servings of fish per week, supplements would still help those who did not, AHF said.

The Australian Self Medication Industry said that the results highlighted the importance of omega-3 in the Australian diet, whether in oily fish or in supplements, but also called into question the issue of whether Australians were getting enough fish in their diet.

CLICK HERE for the study.



DISPENSARY CORNER

THROW away the GPS.

Have you an electronics category in your pharmacy?

Probably not, but the next big thing to help people find their way to your store is coming soon, according to new research at the University of Hannover, *The Telegraph* reports.

An electronic stimulating device connected to the legs of a wearer can send an electrical pulse to the sartorius muscle, which runs from the inside of the knee to the top of the outer thigh, giving a gentle tug to the left or right.

When hooked up to a GPS, researchers hope to be able to program in a destination so that a walker could easily find their way even in a strange city, for example as a tourist wanting to look around, rather than focus on a street map, the report said.

CLICK HERE for more.

IOTA before epsilon.

For those not in pharmacy, medicinal names can seem like ancient Greek, but apparently, even to scholars, ancient Greek can seem like, well, ancient Greek, given the news that a sign placed outside Cambridge University and written in both Greek and Latin has a mistake in it.

The sign warns those who leave their bicycles against the railings that the vehicles will be destroyed, using a particularly forceful verb which can translate to 'annihilate', apparently.

Unfortunately, classicists have said the Greek is incorrect, rather saying that bicycles taken there would be destroyed, the *Telegraph* reports.

Students reportedly claimed the sign is "pompous" and "elitist", with one saying they wanted to "add some Anglo-Saxon graffiti" of their own, the publication reported.

WIN with Hydralyte

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

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 **QLD** to send the correct answer to the following question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What do Bali Belly, the trots and runs all refer to?

Click HERE for a hint.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Nicole Vizard from Lachlan Health Service.



Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

Sign up free at www.pharmacydaily.com.au.

Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

Publisher: Bruce Piper

Editor: Alex Walls info@pharmacydaily.com.au

Reporter: Mal Smith

Advertising and Marketing: Magda Herdzyk advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Travel Daily

CRUISE WEEKLY

travelBulletin

business events news

Pharmacy DAILY

Travel Daily

Pharmacy Daily is a publication of Pharmacy Daily Pty Ltd ABN 97 124 094 604. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.