



### Today's issue of PD

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

- InnovaDerma

## Guild slams Harper tax

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia has said a "glaring weakness" in the Harper Review's recommendations for removal of the location and ownership rules (*PD* 01 Apr) is that consumers would have to pay more, not less, for medicines.

Harper said patients might have to pay a levy on taxi rides and medicines to help compensate businesses affected as part of transitional arrangements for current businesses, the *Australian* reported.

This had precedence in the dairy industry reform and milk levy in NSW and ACT, he said.

University of Melbourne Professor of Health Economics Philip Clarke said government compensation package for owners could be considered for pharmacy reform (*PD* 08 Apr).

The Guild said Harper's suggestion was a tax on medicines to fund the closure of local pharmacy and pointed to figures in its Review submission (*PD* 01 Apr).

[CLICK HERE](#) for the report.

## ANAO opinions letter

**THE** Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) has said criteria for its audit report on the administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (5CPA) (*PD* 06 Mar) included that the 5CPA provide "transparent and accountable" remuneration arrangements for PBS dispensing and that extra programs and services were managed effectively.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

## Link PBAC and evidence work

**WORK** done to identify treatments and investigations of little to no value should be linked to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) processes, the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) has said.

In her opening statement to the Senate Select Committee on Health this week, AHHA ceo Alison Verhoeven said linking the work done by the Choosing Wisely initiative, run by NPS MedicineWise, to the PBAC and the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) processes would drive efficiency when it came to systematic reviews of items already on the various schedules, and reduce unnecessary spending.

She told *PD* reviews of already listed items were disconnected with other activities, such as the work of Choosing Wisely.

NPS announced the initiative in February, with the launch set for 29 Apr.

The project will look at tests, treatments and procedures that are commonly used but provide no or limited benefit to the patient (*PD* 02 Feb).

Such work would be useful for the

PBAC to take into account when deciding which items to review for the year, Verhoeven said.

A spokesperson for NPS MedicineWise said there had been broad interest and consultation regarding Choosing Wisely, as part of which it had presented at the recent MSAC meeting.

NPS had met with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the Pharmacy Guild and the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia as stakeholders and had invited these groups to participate in the initiative, the spokesperson said.

## PBAC: med access delay on companies

**THE** Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has said pharmaceutical companies failing to apply for listing, or not agreeing with government on conditions for supply, was often the reason for delays in access to listing of cancer medicines.

In a submission to the Senate inquiry into the availability of new, innovative and specialist drugs in Australia, the PBAC said some sponsors submitted applications to it "so far in advance of TGA approval that the PBAC has no option but to reject or defer them".

The PBAC said comparisons of submissions had found new products were submitted to the TGA about 105 days after submission to the European Medicines Agency.

A major barrier to fast listing was the pricing expectations of companies, with many drugs having a much higher price relative to what they could achieve, than for other serious life-threatening diseases, it said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

## US Rx spend up 13%

**SPENDING** on prescription pharmaceuticals in the United States in 2014 rose to US\$373.9b, up 13.1% over the previous year, a study from IMS Institute has found.

The increase was largely attributed to spend on new brands, less impact from patent expiries and branded medicine price increases, the report said.

New brands added US\$20.2b to the bill while hepatitis C treatments added US\$12.3b, it said.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the IMS report.

## Paracetamol may blunt emotions

**PARACETAMOL** has been shown to have a "general blunting" effect on evaluative and emotional processing, both positive and negative, according to a study published in *Psychological Science*.

Using the International Affective Picture System, 82 participants evaluated their response to images, positive and negative, with weaker responses from the paracetamol group compared with the untreated, while non-evaluative ratings, such as the level of colour saturation in each image, were unaffected, the authors said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the abstract.

## Willach: 800 orders this year

**WILLACH** has said it is on track to have 800 systems installed in pharmacies by the end of this year.

The company said it installed 650 FAMA and CONSYS systems last year, and 500 by the end of 2013, with nearly 800 orders this year.

About 200 would be CONSYS robots, it said.

It saw 100 expressions of interest at APP this year, which was a record amount, Willach said.

## PRAC advice updates

**THE** European Medicines Agency Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) has recommended measures to minimise known risk of osteonecrosis of the jaw associated with medicines containing zoledronic acid (Zometa, Zoledronic acid medac, and other nationally authorised medicines), and denosumab (Prolia, Xgeva), including updates to the product information.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

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## Med error guidelines

**THE** European Medicines Agency (EMA) has published draft guidelines to address reporting quality, evaluation and prevention of medication errors by regulation authorities and the pharmaceutical industry in Europe.

One guide focuses on prevention and the other on how medication error adverse reactions should be recorded, coded, reported and assessed, the EMA said.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## Travel Specials

### New Solomon Airlines deal

**SOLOMON** Airlines is offering a special deal for return flights Sydney to Honiara at \$649, inclusive of all taxes.

The fare includes in-flight meals and entertainment and a 30 kg baggage allowance on Solomon's Airbus 320.

The fares are available for sale until 02 Jun and valid for travel until 10 Aug this year.

### Cebu Pacific seat sale

**CEBU** Pacific Air has a seat sale on offer from 13 to 18 Apr, with fares from Sydney to Manila for \$199 return.

These include taxes and fees but not meals or baggage allowance, with the deal on offer for flights from 01 May to 31 May.

To book, visit

[www.cebupacificair.com](http://www.cebupacificair.com).

### Early birds at Tamarind Village

**TAMARIND** Village in Chiang Mai is offering a 10% discount on season rates as an early bird offer for guests booking before 31 Oct.

The offer is valid for stays of a minimum of two nights, booked 45 days or more in advance, and includes a buffet breakfast every day for two.

To enquire or to book, contact

[reservation@tamarindvillage.com](mailto:reservation@tamarindvillage.com).

## Diabetes consultation

**MINISTER** for Health Sussan Ley has opened a national consultation process on the development of a National Diabetes Strategy.

The Strategy is due for release toward the end of this year, and it was important to get a diversity of views, given the overall cost of the disease to the economy was estimated to be \$14b annually, Ley said.

The National Diabetes Strategy Advisory Group developed a consultation paper to aid discussion about the Strategy, which included

a goal of promoting earlier detection of diabetes.

One of the areas for action identified was increasing awareness of type one diabetes among healthcare providers and the community, including boosting recognition of the disease's symptoms to help with early diagnosis.

A Pharmaceutical Society of Australia spokesperson said as the most accessible primary healthcare professionals, pharmacists were "ideally positioned" to have a role in screening and risk assessment of people who might not be aware as to whether they had diabetes, disease state management assistance for those diagnosed with diabetes and medication management advice.

Consultations close on 17 May.

**CLICK HERE** to read the paper.

## Eris buys Aurobindo

**AUROBINDO** Pharma has sold its Australian subsidiary to Eris Pharmaceuticals, saying it was not contributing profit to the parent company.

Eris ceo Panos Athanasiou told **PD** that the acquisition more than doubled its generic molecule portfolio.

Eris would not comment on the value of the deal, which took effect from 10 April.

Current generics remained available and would be branded as Eris Pharma, the company said.

## Cimzia PBS funded

**THE** PBS has now funded UCB's Cimzia (certolizumab pegol) for the treatment of adult patients with active psoriatic arthritis where response to previous disease modifying antirheumatic drugs has been inadequate.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**NOT** sure about this one.

One for the less appetising files of the *People's Pharmacy* is a reader's recommendation of using yoghurt to settle her itchy bottom.

Inspired by reading the dairy product was helpful for yeast infections, the reader applied it to her "derriere" with great success, she said.

Pharmacists Joe and Teresa Graedon said while it was good to hear the yoghurt was "soothing", the solution seemed a bit messy.

Try not to think about that.

**KNIT** sweaters are back, bro.

Sure, you had to study for several years to get a pharmacy degree, but could you tell us which figure of speech, named after the 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet, is JFK's statement "mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind" an example of?

Ted Loveday, of Gonville and Caius College, can, as well as various other knotty questions, helping his team win the UK University Challenge, *stuff.co.nz* reports (the answer to the above, by the way, is chiasmus, and yes, we looked it up).

#allyouneedisloveday began trending on Twitter, prompted by Loveday's brains and choice of wool sweater, the publication reported.

**CLICK HERE** to see Loveday in action.

**HARRY** Potter for realz.

If the above problem has made you consider retraining from pharmacy to 'general knowledge wizard', how about just 'wizard'?

Because there's a four day 'school of wizardry' course in a castle in Poland, the *BBC* reports, with students up to 60 years old flying in (on planes) to take part.

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

Name two things that can leave you dehydrated when travelling.

Click **HERE** for a hint.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Damian Weinbrecht from Walker Wayland.



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