



NZ phmcy med fraud

A NEW Zealand pharmacist has been sentenced to nine months home detention after falsely claiming more than NZ\$150,000 in subsidies on prescription medicines, the NZ Ministry of Health has said.

Terence Osborne had used returned drugs to fill new scripts but claimed as though the scripts were for new drugs, and claimed for a more expensive version of a drug while dispensing the generic, the Ministry said.

DHB Performance acting director John Hazeldine said claiming under the subsidy scheme was honesty-based and the "vast majority" of pharmacists carried out work within that system.

\$100k asthma research fellowship

HUDSONS Coffee has provided funding to Asthma Australia for an early career research fellowship worth \$80,000 to \$100,000 per year, the organisation has said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Make e-cigs available

A SWISS research group has recommended that e-cigarettes be made available, but only under specific conditions, a study in the *BMJ Open* has said.

Researchers from the University of Lausanne brought together 40 experts from across the country, who recommended provisions that restricted sale to adults, a maximum nicotine level and a list of authorised ingredients.

Advertising would also be restricted and smoking them would be forbidden in public places.

The authors also called for specific regulations to manage e-cigarettes.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the abstract.

Phmcy mental health ticked

PHARMACY groups have welcomed the National Review of Mental Health Programs and Services Report recommendation to include pharmacists as part of the mental health care team.

Released last week, the report recommended that incentives be introduced through the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement to get pharmacists working as partners in the primary mental health team, including making initial and regular contact with a patient to ensure medication compliance and to provide medication management reviews.

Pharmacists played an important part in primary mental health, but not in isolation and not as replacements for GPs, it said.

They needed to be part of an integrated approach, it said, pointing to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) pilot with the Australian Medical Association, which places pharmacists in GP clinics (*PD* 23 Jul 14).

Such a move would see a shift away from dispensing pharmaceuticals to a "long-term sustainable role" for pharmacists as multidisciplinary team members.

PSA national president Grant Kardachi said the AMA/PSA model provided great opportunities for pharmacists to become integral members of the mental health team.

PSA offered training in the mental health area through first aid programs, and clinical education on various types of mental illness, he said.

A Pharmacy Guild spokesperson said medication advice and easy access to health professionals were "strengths" of community pharmacy in Australia.

The report highlighted the need to promote easy access to self-help options, the spokesperson said.

Mental Health Australia ceo Frank Quinlan said in general the organisation was "absolutely" supportive of the idea that people should have a 'no wrong door' approach to mental health, where people were able to access help through well planned referrals or provision of service.

It made "enormous sense" to have pharmacists involved in this.

Minister for Health Sussan Ley said an Expert Reference Group would be established to help plan a national approach to mental health, with the report finding a "complex" and "fragmented" system in place.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the report.

Friday's comp winner

THE winner of Friday's competition was Fabian Kong from the University of Melbourne.

This week, *PD* and Airsential are giving readers the chance to win a LifeLine Elite BP monitor, starting today with ACT and NSW.

See [page two](#) for more details.

QPIP: approx 3,000 vax administered

APPROXIMATELY 3,000 influenza vaccinations have been administered as part of the second stage of the Queensland Pharmacist Immunisation Pilot, Queensland University School of Clinical Sciences Professor Lisa Nissen has said.

This second stage would "easily" get to 10,000, she said (*PD* 17 Apr).

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Veena Lingam, Business Development Manager at Healthnotes**.



Thinking inside the box

AS PHARMACISTS you are seeking to enchant. Enchant your patients. Enchant your customers. Enchanting is changing hearts, minds and actions. To be enchanting you must be creative, think innovatively and find out what can make you unique. But how do you create new ideas?

As pharmacists you are strongly positioned to be exceptional and valuable within your community and the world. Having a sound knowledge base is a great start but what steers you towards great ideas? Everyone says, 'Think outside the box'.

Jonathan Rosen created a baby incubator for premature babies in remote Africa. He had an idea. If small trucks, cars and motorcycles can survive in remote areas then why not use such car parts to build an incubator? No doubt he would've worked with his creative team to deliver this life-giving product, but Jonathan was actually thinking inside the box. He drew from his environment for ideas. He enchanted the hearts of many African mothers.

So how can we think inside the box? How can our environment lead to unusual levels of innovation and creativity? We think a new idea is a single idea, but when we get a new idea, a network of neurons fire in our brain. We learn from each other and from our surroundings. We must create such an environment where there is a network of ideas jostling with others. You are looking for many ideas to come together to form a new idea that enchants.

NZ: trust for pharmacist vax

NEW Zealand patients and other health professionals trust that pharmacists administering vaccinations provided the same high standards of care as other healthcare professionals, the Pharmacy Guild of NZ has said.

President Ken Orr said NZ pharmacists had provided unfunded influenza vaccinations since 2011 and this year, pharmacies in some areas would provide funded flu vaccinations to people who qualified for them.

These vaccinations had been so successful other vaccines were now able to be administered by trained pharmacists, including Tdap and meningococcal disease vaccines.

Pharmacist vaccinators in New Zealand underwent training which included counselling prior to vaccination and management of anaphylaxis.

Pharmacists in NZ also visited work places to give on-site vaccinations, taking a qualified first aider and equipment needed for adverse reactions, he said.

Pharmacy worked collaboratively with general practice to ensure

continuity of care, he said.

The Royal NZ College of GPs told *PD* it had concerns that vaccinations offered outside a medical practice could lead to fragmentation of care (*PD* 17 Apr).

PSA national president Grant Kardachi has said the comments of the United General Practice Australia (UGPA) were "ill-informed and misleading" and that other health professionals had provided vaccinations in pharmacies in Australia for "many years without incident".

Data from the Queensland pilot and public acceptance showed it was "totally untrue" for UGPA to say vaccinations in pharmacy posed a "serious risk to patients", he said.

Miami Rx drug bust

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Florida attorney sent marshals into Stratus Pharmaceuticals where they seized unapproved prescription drugs valued at more than US\$1.5m, the FDA has said.

CLICK HERE to read more.



DISPENSARY CORNER

ARTHRITIC ape action.

Ever been called on to dispense a great ape's medication?

Because going from this story in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the opportunity might just arise.

Melbourne Zoo senior veterinarian Dr Helen McCracken called upon retired anaesthetist Kevin Moriarty and orthopaedic surgeon Marinis Pirpiris to assist in a three hour examination of 37 year old arthritis prone orangutan, Suma, who had been showing signs of arthritis in her ankles, left hip and jaw, the report said, with the operation a smooth success.

A VERY special pharmacist.

If you're looking to feel unique, you could consider being the sole pharmacist of Liberland, a seven sqkm patch of land between Serbia and Croatia which Vit Jedlicka has declared a new state.

As self-proclaimed president, Jedlicka has said the patch sits in no-man's land between the countries, and that it's a place without unnecessary restrictions, taxes - and extremists, with Nazis, communists and more banned, *BBC News* has reported.

Jedlicka says hundreds of applications for citizenship have been received, with only seven citizens so far, the *BBC* reports.

LET it go, Senator.

For all those turning their phones on silent at the dispensary due to embarrassing ringtones, here's your champion.

Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas City had the best come back when his phone went off at a committee hearing, sending Disney's Frozen hit 'Let It Go' around the room.

Placed on his phone by his grandchildren, Roberts told the room to 'just let it go' while attempting to switch it off, *AP* reports.

WIN WITH AIRSSENTIAL

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Airsential Home Health Care Solutions** are giving away five LifeLine Elite BP monitors valued at \$89.95.

The LifeLine Elite BP monitor enables fast and reliable blood pressure measurement and allows storage of up to 40 completed readings for up to three users. It has a large display screen showing date and time, systolic and diastolic pressure, pulse, a hypertension classification indicator and an irregular heartbeat indicator.

This monitor can be operated from mains power and the adapter is included as standard. It has a A/A rating (the highest rating for accuracy) from the British Hypertension Society (BHS) and features very favourably in the current CHOICE Magazine. Learn more at Airsential.com.au.

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

What method does the LifeLine Elite BP machine use to measure blood pressure?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



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