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## Rules to go unless Guild signs - report

**THE** government could be prepared to let the pharmacy location regulations lapse unless the Guild signs a new Pharmacy Agreement by the Fifth Agreement's expiry date, a *news.com.au* report has said.

Quoting "senior sources involved in the negotiations", the article said this followed a report that the government was considering reducing the co-payment when generic medicines were used.

University of Melbourne Professor of Health Economics Philip Clarke has said pharmacy reform could be separated, with the location rules the priority to remove (*PD* 08 Apr).

Pharmacy groups have rejected recommendations to remove the location and ownership rules (*PD* 01 Apr).

Health Minister Sussan Ley said negotiations for the Agreement were ongoing and confidential.

Ley said the government had opened up discussions to the "whole pharmaceutical supply chain" for the first time, to make sure consumers had a "seat at the table", to ensure pharmacists and consumers got a fair deal.

**CLICK HERE** to read the article.

## QPIP: expand to other vax

**THE** final report for stage one of the Queensland Pharmacist Immunisation Pilot (QPPI) has said it is reasonable to explore expansion of pharmacist administered vaccinations.

The report, submitted to government last year, said given the medicines knowledge of pharmacists combined with new competencies in administration of vaccinations, and international experience, it recommended considering expansion to travel vaccinations, HPV and "selected vaccinations" to those under the age of 18 years old.

The report also said as the

level of privacy given to patients increased, moving from a booth to a private room, the number of patients wanting to be vaccinated also increased, with a minimum standard of a private room or closed-in booth with space for several chairs and a table recommended for vaccination services.

Australian Medical Association Queensland branch president Dr Shaun Rudd said the organisation still held a number of concerns about vaccines administered by pharmacists, the most important being safety.

Doctors were best placed to respond in the case of adverse reactions, "rare as those cases may be", he said.

## Vic pharmacy lesson

**THE** Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) has said a lesson to be learned from a panel hearing in March is that approval must be granted before making significant alterations to a pharmacy.

The VPA's April communiqué said the case involved proprietors constructing a room in the dispensary for dose administration aids and patient counselling without prior VPA approval.

A caution was issued, with the VPA saying unapproved alterations could see pharmacies no longer registered with "possible PBS and professional indemnity insurance consequences"

The guideline for facilities used to provide immunisation services in pharmacies had also been amended, effective immediately.

## EllaOne OTC in UK

**EMERGENCY** contraception pill EllaOne (ulipristal acetate, 30mg) is now available through UK pharmacies without prescription, according to a report in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*.

The EU approved the product as a non-prescription item in January following a European Medicines Agency recommendation in November last year (*PD* 25 Nov 14).

It was registered in Australia as an S4 product in March.

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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).

**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)

**4 May:** 6CPA briefing session – NSW; NSW PSA office; visit: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**4-5 May:** 2015 Asthma Australasia Conference; Sofitel Brisbane Central; more info at: [www.asthmaaustralia.org.au](http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au)

**9 May:** HIV Workshop introduction; Melbourne; see: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)

**16-17 May:** Laboratory Tests Seminar; Brisbane; 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)

**23 May:** HIV Workshop introduction; Brisbane; see: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)

## MSF renews Pfizer, GSK vax cost call

**TIMED** to coincide with Pfizer's shareholder meeting in New York, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has launched a campaign which again calls on both GSK and Pfizer to reduce the price of the pneumococcal vaccine in developing countries to US\$5 per child.

MSF previously called on the Australian government to back this call (**PD** 21 Jan), releasing a report which said in the poorest countries, it was 68 times more expensive to vaccinate a child now than in 2001, with many places unable to afford "high-priced" vaccines, including against pneumococcal disease.

Pfizer committed in January to reducing its per dose price for Prevenar 13 to US\$3.10 for its four dose product (**PD** 22 Jan), starting in 2016.

The new price would be extended to Gavi eligible and graduated countries through to 2025, it said.

GSK said about 80% of its vaccines, including its pneumococcal vaccine, were provided at a "substantial discount" to developing countries, and it had committed this year to a 10 year price freeze for Gavi-graduated countries, as well as to supply its pneumococcal vaccine at a "nominal cost" to MSF to immunise children in ongoing crises.

**CLICK HERE** for the MSF report.

## Study shows no MMR vax/autism link

**RECEIVING** the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine was not associated with increased risk of autism spectrum disorders (ASD), new research has found.

The US study published in *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* looked at 95,727 children, of whom 994 were diagnosed with ASD and 1,929 had an older sibling with ASD.

The study found no link between the vaccine and an increased risk of autism at any age, even among children already at higher risk, but did find that those children with older siblings with ASD had a lower vaccination rate, of 84% at two years of age and 92% at five years old versus 73% and 86%.

The paper said it was plausible that parents of older siblings with ASD would be especially attentive to developmental delays in younger children and put off immunisation.

**CLICK HERE** for the *JAMA* paper.

The Australian Federal government has said from 01 Jan 16, it will remove the conscientious objection option regarding children's vaccinations for access to child care payments (**PD** 13 Apr).



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**THAT'S** just sealy.

Pharmacists in New Zealand and now California may need to ensure their pharmacy doors are closed to marauding seal pups, given the news that a baby sea lion waddled a quarter of a mile onshore in the US state this week.

Apparently, the pup hitched a ride with patrolling police officers, climbing into their squad car before being driven back to the ocean, *Associated Press* reported.

The report follows the story of New Zealand home owner Annette Swoffer who walked into her kitchen in 2011 to find a fur seal pup having a snooze on her couch, *NZ Herald* reported.

The pup had made its way across several roads, up a drive and past her dog and cats to make itself at home on the couch, Swoffer told the publication.

Apparently, she had to convince the SPCA that she hadn't been drinking when calling for aid in removal of the visitor, the publication reported.

**CLICK HERE** for photos.

## 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](http://Airsential.com.au).

To win, be the first person from **VIC** or **TAS** to send the correct answer to the following question to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

What pulse range is able to be measured by the LifeLine Elite BP machine?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Diana Feeley fro Clifford Hallam Healthcare.



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### Jobs of the Week

- **Franchise Support Manager** - Sydney, NSW (Job# 2011228)  
Your time to make a difference as you take this group to the next level.
- **Dispensary Technician** - Melbourne, VIC (Job# 2011255)  
Growing pharmacy, focus on scripts for RACF clients and data entry.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Capricornia Coast, QLD (Job# 2009590)  
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