

## MonoDerma correction

ERIS Pharmaceuticals is the distributor of MonoDerma, not the manufacturer (PD 29 Apr).

## PBS changes hit bush

RURAL and regional patients may be disadvantaged compared with those in the city under planned PBS deregulation, Health Minister Sussan Ley has told the AFR.

Ley was commenting on proposals which would see some OTC analgesics no longer available on the PBS (PD 27 Apr) and the patient pharmacy co-payment flexible by up to \$1 less.

Ley said this raised the issue of rural towns with just one pharmacy not needing to discount, leaving those patients paying the full amount, the publication reported.

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## Pts unempowered on prices?

THE PBAC has said from its discussions with consumers, it noted that patients feel agitating for lower prices for high cost lymphoma medications could risk losing access to drugs.

A consumer meeting in March with Lymphoma Australia covered upcoming submissions for lymphoma medications including brentuximab vedotin, bendamustine and idelalisib.

With regard to the high cost for these drugs, the representative noted that generally patients did not "feel empowered to question or challenge how sponsors arrive at their asking prices".

Patients were willing to go to great lengths, including selling or mortgaging homes, to self-fund treatment, the PBAC said.

"Ultimately, patients feel that to agitate for lower prices could risk losing access to drugs they sorely need, and access options are where advocacy efforts are strongly focused."

However, Lymphoma Australia ceo Sharon Millman, who attended the meeting, said the latter was out of context.

## Corum rights

THE recent departure of some Corum directors will result in the lapsing of many of their previously issued performance rights, benefiting the company to the tune of at least \$1.6m over the vesting period of those rights, the company has said.

**CLICK HERE** for the update.

# Last chance

## Limited places left

Generic's New Generation

**Click here**



## Choosing Wisely Oz launches



**CHOOSING** Wisely Australia, which identifies commonly used tests, treatments and procedures that are of proven low value or carry unnecessary risk, has launched.

Facilitated by NPS MedicineWise, multiple medical societies and colleges released recommendations for treatments and tests, including the Royal Australian College of GPs, which said proton pump inhibitors should not be prescribed long term in patients with uncomplicated disease, without regular attempts to reduce the dose or stop altogether.

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians also released recommendations, including that antihistamines should not be used as first-line treatment for anaphylaxis, when the appropriate treatment was adrenaline, with delays in appropriate treatment potentially life threatening.

It has been suggested that the Choosing Wisely work be linked with the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee review processes for scheduled items (PD 16 Apr), but NPS ceo Dr Lynn Weekes (pictured above right) said Choosing Wisely was a clinician-led review for colleges and was separate from the government's ongoing PBS and MBS reviews.

However, it was expected that the organisations would learn from each other, with some carry over expected from the generated lists.

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

## Veterans' MATES Apr

**VETERANS'** Medicines Advice and Therapeutics Education Services (Veterans' MATES) has published a new topic, 'Talking about mental fitness - it's OK.'

**CLICK HERE** to access.

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## Opioids roundtable

**THE** Department of Health will conduct an opioids roundtable meeting on 27 May to guide the PBAC in forming recommendations to the Minister for the PBS listing of opioids.

The Authority Review Reference Group, which includes SHPA and Pharmacy Guild representatives, found about 30% of telephone authority requests, or 1.8m calls per year, were for increased quantities or repeats of eight opioids, representing a significant regulatory burden, the Department said.

The roundtable will meet in Canberra and stakeholders who have not yet been invited may nominate by **CLICKING HERE**.

## Travel Specials

### Silky Oaks Lodge Indulgence

**SILKY** Oaks Lodge, on the banks of the Mossman River near the World Heritage-listed Daintree Forest, is offering an all-inclusive five-night Ultimate Silky Indulgence Package.

The package starts at \$5,495 per room and includes a rainforest helicopter tour and full day guided Cape Tribulation 4WD exploration.

**CLICK HERE** for more details.

### Amadeus 2 for 1 cruise fares

**LÜFTNER** Cruises and Classic Voyages are offering special two for one cruise fares for selected 2015 Amadeus cruises, for all twin share cabin categories between Budapest - Amsterdam, Classic Danube sailings and the popular Paris and Seine tour.

All cabins have French balconies and special rates are on a first-come basis.

Ring 02 9267 6661 or email Peter Podesta at Classic Voyages at

[ppodesta@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ppodesta@bigpond.net.au).

## Pharmacists 2nd for ethics

**PHARMACISTS** have ranked equal second place with doctors behind nurses as the most ethical and honest profession in the latest Roy Morgan Image of Professions Survey.

Conducted over three days in April with 598 Australians aged 14 and over, the survey found both pharmacists and doctors dropped

two points to 84% of respondents believing these were the most ethical and honest professions, while nurses rose 1% from 2014 to 92%, the highest rated profession.

Nurses had topped the list for the past 21 years, the company said.

Seventeen of the 30 professions surveyed lost ground this year, while ten improved their position.

Dentists at 71% were down 3% while car salesmen were up 1% to 4% - **CLICK HERE** to access results.

## PBAC July agenda

**THE** July agenda for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) includes re-submissions for Bexsero to be included on the National Immunisation program for the prevention of meningococcal B disease in infants and adolescents.

Another re-submission was to extend the listing of Pfizer's pneumococcal conjugate vaccine Prevenar 13 on the National Immunisation Program to include prevention of the disease in non-Indigenous adults aged 65 and Indigenous adults aged 50.

Janssen Cilag submitted to have its Olysio (simeprevir) Section 100 Authority Required listed for the treatment of genotype one chronic hepatitis C.

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

## Reg board reminder on shop alterations

**THE** Pharmacy Registration Board of Western Australia has issued a communiqué reminding pharmacists with overall responsibility for a pharmacy that they must not make alterations without prior approval and applications should be made two months prior to action.

This follows the Victorian Pharmacy Authority reporting on a panel hearing in March involving construction of a room in a dispensary without prior approval (**PD** 24 Apr).

**CLICK HERE** for the communiqué.

## DISPENSARY CORNER



**PLUS,** it's robots.

If you're struggling to lift stock in your pharmacy, you could invest in tiny robots that can carry up to 2,000 times their own weight.

Yes, ants of the robotic world have been created by Stanford University PhD students David Christensen and Elliot Hawkes.

The bots, called 'MicroTugs', which is pretty adorable, come in 12g and 9g versions, with the former



Credit: Karen Ladenheim

able to pull two thousand times its weight, or the equivalent of a human dragging a blue whale around on land, the University blog says.

The 9g can carry more than one kg vertically, equivalent to a human climbing a skyscraper with an elephant strapped to their back.

**CLICK HERE** to learn more about our future overlords and **HERE** for a video showing the wee robots at work.

**DANCE** like nobody is watching.

It's probably not a great way to capture attention for promotion of your pharmacy, so maybe don't follow the example of the three women who found themselves in jail for making a video of the three of them twerking next to a World War II memorial in Southern Russia, *Yahoo! News* reported.

With next month marking the 70th anniversary of the Allies' victory, the Novorossiysk district court took a dim view of the dance, sentencing them to 10 to 15 days in jail for 'hooliganism', the publication reported.

## Win a Nourish Naturals pack

This week, *Pharmacy Daily* and Nice Pak Products are giving away a Nourish Naturals prize pack including Nourish Anti-Itch Soothing Cream, Nourish Naturals Soap Free Wash, Nourish Naturals Dry Skin Lotion and Nourish Naturals Skin Oil.

The Nourish Naturals™ range contains naturally derived ingredients and provides skin with deep nourishment. Clinically tested, Nourish Naturals products are free from sulphates, parabens, artificial colours and fragrances. According to the company, the high quality ingredients deliver real results for dry, sensitive, rough, itchy and flaking skin, or skin prone to eczema, psoriasis and dermatitis.

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

Fill in the blank: All Nourish Naturals products are \_\_\_\_.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Eva Goodlich from Yokine Pharmacy.



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