

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page reminding pharmacies to order their **API Calendars**.

Risperidone update

THE Product Information (PI) for risperidone has been updated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, to limit the indication in dementia and restrict this use to short-term management.

Detailed in the TGA's latest Medicines Safety Update, there is an increased risk of cerebrovascular adverse events in dementia patients taking risperidone.

Previously the drug was indicated more generally for the treatment of behavioural disturbances in dementia, but is now limited to a maximum of twelve weeks for moderate to severe dementia only of the Alzheimer type.

The safety update also details changes to the PI for infliximab, to provide further information about the risk of skin cancers, particularly in psoriasis patients who have undergone phototherapy.

The TGA also reminded health professionals that tramadol oral drops are not approved for use in children under the age of 12 years, and no dosing instructions are provided for this age group in the Product Information.

Although there are 82 Tramadol products on the ARTG, only one of these, Tramal, has an oral drop presentation, with the TGA saying given the concentration (100mg/mL) there's a potential risk of overdose in children.

Expand pharmacy - CHF

A SURVEY conducted by the Consumers Health Forum has found strong support from the Australian community for an expanded role for pharmacists.

The survey was launched earlier this year (**PD** 02 Jun) in the wake of the Federal budget allocation of up to \$600 million to "trial and potentially expand the role of pharmacists".

Nearly three quarters of the 500 or so respondents to the poll supported the concept of pharmacists providing expanded services, either co-located with doctors or at local pharmacies.

CHF ceo Leanne Wells said the survey showed that most people wanted to see their pharmacists have a greater role in performing basic support services such as immunisations and blood pressure checks and working with GPs to help chronically ill patients better manage their medication.

"The major implication of these results is that defenders of traditional 'silos' of medicine need



MIB OTC label format

THE proposed Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Medicine Information Box labelling approach for OTC products could be improved, according to research from University of Sydney and University of Leeds, UK, and published in *Health Expectations*.

The Medicines Information Box (MIB) was the subject of a 2012 TGA consultation paper which aims to standardise labels and thereby improve the quality of information.

For the research, mock MIB labels were developed in line with the TGA consultation paper, and used as interview stimulus material with adult participants in both Australia and the UK.

The authors concluded that although the labels were generally received positively and provide good information in their design, further improvements to content and design - such as adding colour and pictograms - could enhance quality and usability even more.

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

to rethink the traditional roles for GPs and pharmacists," Wells said.

However despite wanting to see pharmacy's role expanded, respondents also said they didn't want to see an erosion of the role of the general practitioner.

74.2% of those who participated in the poll wanted to see a pharmacist co-located with the GP, compared to 69.6% who supported local community pharmacists providing increased services.

However some respondents also expressed concerns about having their GP "out of the loop" and were worried about the safety and quality of pharmacy services, the level of privacy in the pharmacy, and the confidentiality of information.

"We believe both models of expanded care by pharmacists should be explored," Wells said.

CLICK HERE for the survey report.

Non-vax nurses out

THREE New Zealand nurses based in Waitako Hospital were suspended from work last week for failing to comply with a directive from the Waikato District Health Board (WDHB) that all hospital staff working in a clinical area must be vaccinated against influenza or wear facemasks.

The first NZ health board to adopt the stringent rules, WDHB has defended its position after strong criticism from several union groups which have labelled the move to stand the nurses down as "heavy-handed" and "bullying".

PBS website update

THE Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits was updated on 01 Aug and the Summary of Changes can be found on the New, Amended and Deleted Items page.

Other changes to the site include pricing, indicative 01 Oct pricing, submission deadlines, PBAC Public Summary Documents, Drug Utilisation Sub Committee Outcomes and more.

CLICK HERE to access.

FIP equips students

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has set up the "Lab Box Project", a pilot set up in Malawi under the FIP UNESCO-UNITWIN programme, providing basic laboratory equipment designed to allow students to conduct key experiments throughout the pharmacy curriculum.

Established in Sep last year, the lab boxes are enabling students to graduate with practical lab skills.

CLICK HERE for an outcomes video.



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**

100% Fulfilment Rate On Orders



Want to know how Australia's fastest growing generic company can eliminate costly out of stocks in your pharmacy?

CLICK HERE

Generic's New Generation



100% fulfilment rate applies to orders of Amneal branded products placed by Amneal 500 Partners between September 1, 2014 and July 10, 2015.



Advertise with us

- Cost Effective
- Targeted
- Easy

Pharmacy DAILY

For details call us today 1300 799 220

RGH on dysgeusia

THE Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy E-Bulletin this week looks at the subject of taste disturbance, or dysgeusia, which can result from a range of medications and disease states.

CLICK HERE to access the Bulletin.

Guild Update

Congratulations

THE Pharmacy Guild congratulates all winners of awards at last weekend's Pharmaceutical Society of Australia conference in Sydney.

In particular we welcome the award bestowed on remote pharmacist and strong advocate for improvements in Aboriginal health, Andrew 'Robbo' Roberts, who was named PSA Pharmacist of the Year for 2015. Mr Roberts has served communities in Western Australia for over ten years, selflessly working devoted to improving health in rural and remote communities. He provides pharmacist services to 10 clinics which service 2500 people across a practice area the size of Victoria.

The Guild is also particularly pleased to acknowledge the lifetime achievement award bestowed on pharmacist John Coppock, whose lifelong career has been focussed on working in the interests of the broad profession. Mr Coppock, who was Chairman of PDL Ltd, was recognised for using his position and influence in encouraging various pharmacy organisations to work together.

Congratulations also to Amy Page, the Young Pharmacist of the Year; WA's Shanae Hancey who was named student of the year; and Laura Norman, named the inaugural PSA-MIMS Intern of the Year.

More kids' analgesics recalled

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has confirmed an expanded recall for children's pain-relief products due to potentially faulty packaging.

In the latest update Cipla Australia (sponsor) and Sigma (brand owner) are recalling one batch of Pharmacy Care children's paracetamol suspension for 6-12 years, and one batch of Pharmacy Care children's paracetamol elixir for 1-5 years.

"It has been identified that the bottle grooves that secure the lids on these products could break off during opening...there is a risk that small pieces of plastic could be ingested," the TGA said.

The affected products are 200ml bottles with the batch numbers IA50046 and IA50002, both with expiry dates of 11/2016.

The latest issue is similar to that highlighted in other recent recalls, including by Apotex (Terry White Chemists Ibuprofen Children's Suspension, **PD** 10 Jul) and Symbion (Chemmart and Pharmacy Choice Ibuprofen Children's Suspension

and Chemmart Children's Paracetamol - **PD** 06 Jul).

Symbion also yesterday identified three additional affected batches of the Chemmart and Pharmacy Choice products - FA4514, IA50152 and IA45030.

Consumers are being advised to return any affected products to the place of purchase.

Herbal meds by EMA

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) has announced that it will systematically publish summaries of the recommendations of its Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products (HMPC) on the medicinal uses of a herbal substance in easy to understand, public-friendly language.

The HMPC says it scientifically evaluates "all available information including non-clinical and clinical data but also documented long-standing use and experience in the European Union".

The summaries include information on each herbal substance assessed, its recommended uses, the data supporting the recommendations and the potential side effects.

CLICK HERE to access the EMA herbal monographs.

Quit meds update

THE latest edition of *Australian Prescriber* includes an update on medicines for smoking cessation.

As well as nicotine replacement therapy, the respective roles of varenicline (Champix from Pfizer), bupropion (Zyban from Aspen, or Prexaton from Ascent) and e-cigarettes are discussed.

"While there is some evidence that electronic cigarettes might facilitate smoking cessation, quit rates are not yet comparable with those of the drugs approved on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme," said the authors.

CLICK HERE to access.

Nothing to sneeze at

SBS Australia's chief football analyst Craig 'Fozz' Foster has joined the fight against antibiotic resistance in conjunction with NPS MedicineWise by giving a 'play by play' on the best sneeze practice to encourage good hygiene and prevent the spread of colds and flu.

NPS MedicineWise clinical adviser Dr Jeannie Yoo says it's important for Australians to take personal action to prevent the spread of colds to others.

"It's a critical time of year to practise good hygiene and know how to prevent the spread of flu and other infections," says Yoo.

"This can be as simple as covering your mouth when you sneeze or cough, preferably with a tissue or the inside of your elbow, rather than your hand."

CLICK HERE for more.

DISPENSARY CORNER

SOME might give this invention a standing ovation.

Food safety officials in China have seized more than 5,300 bottles of alcohol which had been dangerously laced with Viagra.

The Liuzhou Food and Drug Administration confirmed that powdered sildenafil had been added to three different types of "baijiu," a clear intoxicating spirit which is very popular in China.

The adulterated alcohol had been added at two distillers, who promoted the product as having "health-preserving qualities".

IT probably served him right.

First aid was urgently required by a Texas man last weekend, after he shot a wild armadillo which was in his back yard.

According to *Reuters* the man spotted the creature on his property in the early hours of the morning and opened fire with a .38 revolver - but the creature's armoured shell saw a bullet ricochet back and accidentally hit him in the face.

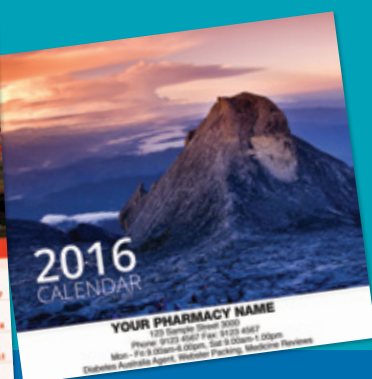
The victim was airlifted to a nearby hospital where his jaw was wired shut, with the local sheriff also confirming "we didn't find the armadillo".

SUPPLEMENT stockpiling could prove a windfall for a New Zealand man who is now selling 143kg of classic chocolate drink Milo, which he bought when the manufacturer Nestlé changed the recipe recently.

According to Shaun Harris, Nestlé has controversially added vitamins D, B3, B6 and B12 but removed magnesium as well as vitamins A, B1 and the so-called "added flavour".

He has listed the stash online with hopes of raising at least \$4,000, saying the 273 packets are like "money in the bank".

API 2016 CALENDARS HURRY... ORDER NOW!



SAVE 5%
ORDER ONLINE

www.pharmacycalendar.com.au

FREE DELIVERY MID NOVEMBER 2015
ORDERS CLOSE 31 AUG

PRICE STRUCTURE (PRICE EXCLUDES GST)

QUANTITY	100-249	250-599	600-999	1000-2999	3000+
5% DISCOUNT via online orders. Simply click below to order.	\$2.05 ea	\$1.70 ea	\$1.39 ea	\$1.15 ea	\$0.95 ea



Get your order in for your pharmacy's personalised 2016 calendar with lots of bonus features:

- + **PERSONALISED** with your pharmacy details
- + Beautifully designed with 12 scenic photographs
- + Fantastic **LOW PRICES**
- + **GREAT QUALITY** print
- + Easy online order process
- + **REPEAT EXPOSURE** directly into your customers' homes

For enquiries call: (03) 8855 3108 www.pharmacycalendar.com.au

api