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## Last minute to Borneo

**LAST** minute registrations are still open for the upcoming Borneo Pharmacy Conference, offering CPD points as well as a break before the end of year rush in the next school holiday period - details 02 9233 6466 or [cpdconferencing.com.au](http://cpdconferencing.com.au).

## Gastro? Vomiting & Diarrhoea?

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## IT firms ready for ERRCD

**THE** Medical Software Industry Association (MSIA) has wholeheartedly agreed with the call by doctors and pharmacists for the prompt implementation of a national system for the Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs (**PD** yesterday).

According to MSIA ceo Bridget Kirkham, under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement the MSIA was contracted to create nationally consistent specifications for reporting the dispensing of controlled drugs to state and territory health departments.

"This work was completed in April 2014...to date only the ACT health department has adopted this solution," she said.

Kirkham said dispensing vendors

stand ready to implement this important reform which will definitely save lives.

"Chief pharmacists from all jurisdictions are aware of our work, as outlined in a Round Table in May 2015, and are supportive of these reporting standards.

"The MSIA has an established track record of working with government departments to roll out important IT solutions through its member companies, including all dispensing vendors," she said.

## Baby formula pact

**THE** Infant Nutrition Council has applied for authorisation for current and future suppliers of infant formula in Australia to give effect to a voluntary self-regulatory code of conduct titled the Marketing in Australia of Infant Formula (MAIF) Agreement.

MAIF governs the marketing of infant formula for infants up to 12 months, and constitutes Australia's official application of the World Health Organization's International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes.

Current authorisations will expire on 31 Dec 2015, with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission now conducting a public consultation process and a draft determination expected sometime next month.

## PHARMAC record

**NEW** Zealand's PHARMAC medicines agency has almost finished awarding contracts from its 2014/15 tendering process, which involved the procurement of 591 medicines or presentations of pharmaceuticals used in the hospital and community pharmacy.

PHARMAC director of operations Sarah Fitt said it was the organisation's biggest ever tender, and resulted in savings estimated at NZ\$38 million to the NZ budget, as well as an additional \$6.6 million to district health board hospital pharmaceutical budgets.

She said the tender reflects the healthy competition in the New Zealand pharmaceutical sector.

Now in its 19th year, the 2015/16 draft Invitation to Tender was also released this week, with formal bids to be sought from suppliers in Nov this year - to view the invitation **CLICK HERE**.

## Smoker's paradox

**TOBACCO** treatment specialist Colin Mendelsohn has written to the *Australian Prescriber* highlighting the paradoxically enhanced response smokers have to the antiplatelet drug clopidogrel.

The so-called "smokers' paradox" was brought to light in a recent meta-analysis showing that the clinical benefit of clopidogrel in reducing cardiovascular events was seen primarily in smokers (25% risk reduction compared to controls), with little benefit in non-smokers (8% reduction), but failed to get a mention in the publication's recent review of new antiplatelet drugs.

Mendelsohn sought clarification on dosing implications of these issues - **CLICK HERE** for more.

## SHPA seeking ceo

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has advertised for an "experienced, strategy and visionary Chief Executive Officer".

The Melbourne-based role is offering a "competitive remuneration package including an incentive based on performance".

Former ceo Helen Dowling resigned from the role almost three months ago (**PD** 21 May).



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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Darling Downs Region, QLD (Job# 2011547)  
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- **Pharmacist** - South Coast, NSW (Job# 2011530)  
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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).

**15-16 Aug:** Medication Review Skills in Primary Care; Novotel Brisbane; more info at: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)

**15-19 Aug:** Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2015; more details at: [www.medic.com.au/event/pharmacy-snow-business](http://www.medic.com.au/event/pharmacy-snow-business)

**19 Aug:** Consumer-led Ideas for Better Primary Health Care forum; info and RSVP to [k.hollis@chf.org.au](mailto:k.hollis@chf.org.au)

**20-21 Aug:** Pharmacy WA Forum; Pan Pacific Perth: [www.pharmacywa.com.au](http://www.pharmacywa.com.au)

**24 Aug:** Pharmacists in General Practice Forum; Sofitel Sydney Wentworth; details at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**25 Aug:** Australian Pharmacy Council 2015 Colloquium; Canberra; further details at: [www.pharmacycouncil.org.au](http://www.pharmacycouncil.org.au)

**26 Aug:** Cardiovascular Update: Atrial Fibrillation and Anticoagulants; St Leonards; visit: [www.guild.org.au](http://www.guild.org.au)

**1 Sep:** Work Priorities workshop; Melbourne; more info at: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)

**4-5 Sep:** The Friendly's Conference - 2015; Stamford Grand, Glenelg; more info at: [pharmacyconference.com.au](http://pharmacyconference.com.au)

**26 Sep-3 Oct:** Kota Kinabalu Conference; Kota Kinabalu, Borneo; for details visit: [www.cpdconferencing.com.au](http://www.cpdconferencing.com.au)

**11 Nov:** ASMI Annual Conference, AGM & Awards Dinner; Waterview Convention Centre, Homebush; visit: [www.asmi.com.au](http://www.asmi.com.au)

## New scheduling proposal

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration is seeking comments on proposals to change the scheduling of bismuth oxychloride and paracetamol, as well as to include naproxen and pantoprazole in Appendix H.

The proposed amendments referred by the delegate for scheduling advice for consideration by the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling also include an application to amend the Schedule 2 paracetamol entry to include paracetamol when

combined with ibuprofen in pack sizes of 12 dosage units or less.

The naproxen and pantoprazole changes would allow advertising of the medications to consumers, while the bismuth oxychloride application is to exempt the item from schedule 4 for human therapeutic topical use.

Submissions on the proposals are now being sought, with a deadline of Thu 03 Sep 2015, with stakeholders asked for suggested improvements, whether or not they support the amendments, and an assessment of how the proposed changes might impact on respondents.

For more details see [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## Welsh pharmacy pilot

**A** MINOR ailments scheme in Wales allowing pharmacists to provide medicines for some conditions has reduced the rate of general practitioner consultations.

The Choose Pharmacy pilot program involved a total of 32 community pharmacies in two regions since 2013, with the final report into the program showing the most common condition presented was hayfever, followed by conjunctivitis and head lice.

An analysis of the findings suggested that if the Choose Pharmacy scheme was introduced across Wales the health budget would save around £43 million over a five year period, and that GP engagement is important to promote confidence in the service.



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## Flordis CAM update

**FLORDIS** has issued a statement aiming to address “a number of misleading statements” regarding the use of complementary and alternative medicines (CAMs) for the treatment of menopause symptoms (*PD Wed*).

In particular, SOHO Flordis ceo Nigel Pollard strongly disagreed with a sweeping conclusion in a paper published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* which said CAMs for alleviating vasomotor symptoms “are known to be ineffective”.

He said the Monash University paper did not investigate the clinical efficacy of any individual natural medicine, yet asserted that all such products were useless based on “other meta-analysis reviews and quality of life questionnaire responses”.

Pollard said the meta-analysis of natural medicine studies does not take into account the wide variability of the products, simply lumping all such items together.

“Any study which treats all natural products as equal, such as the Monash publication or indeed a Cochrane review, is not appropriate for drawing any inferences on an individual product or treatment”.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

**NEXT** time you're in surgery, it may be a good idea to tell the doctor to leave his iPod at home.

A study just published in the *Journal of Advanced Nursing* has found that music played during surgery may hinder communication and impact on patient safety.

The study found that surgeons are bopping along to their favourite tunes in as many as 70% of surgical operations worldwide.

The researchers strategically places cameras around the operating theatre to observe verbal and non-verbal communication between staff.

When music was played, repeated requests - for example, for a surgical instrument - were five times more likely to occur in surgeries with music.

The findings suggest that this leads to frustrated staff, as tension runs high due to ineffective communication.

**MEANWHILE** craft beer has taken an unexpected turn, with a tavern in Wellington, New Zealand serving up a stout laced with - you guessed it - stag semen.

The Green Man pub is about to launch the new product which has been created by Choice Bros.

It's not the first time the pub has ventured into the (presumably) unknown, in 2011 offering “apple-infused horse semen shots”.

This year a stag called Lagoon is kindly donating his goods for the beer, which will be “served using a hand pump rather than force carbonated, to deliver an extra smooth and creamier texture”.

Pub co-owner Steve Drummond says the beer is “export quality.”

“We only deal with the best,” Drummond says.

The beer is said to have a “big chocolate and roasted character”.

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