

### RADAR going digital

NPS MedicineWise is putting its RADAR publication fully online, with the new digital edition adding new evidence-based commentary on newly listed medicines and a wrap-up of all new PBS listings - sign up on the **MyNPS portal**.

### New PII insurance standard

**THE** Pharmacy Board of Australia has published a revised registration standard for Professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements, due to take effect from 01 Jul 2016.

All registered practising pharmacists with general, limited or provisional registration, will need to meet the new requirements either by the time they next renew their PII policy or by their next renewal of registration which is due by 30 Nov 2016, whichever

comes sooner.

The new standard does not however apply to the current cycle of renewals, the Board said.

The new standards require a minimum \$20m cover and certain adjustments have been made around third party cover self-assessment and expert advice requirements, notification details, required evidence of cover and consequences of failure to comply.

The Board also says it has reworded the standard to give greater clarity, as well as having plans to publish further information including FAQ's.

More information about the revised PII arrangements standard can be found at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

### Vax saves hospitals

**POTENTIALLY** preventable hospitalisations have been quantified in a recent report by the National Health Performance Authority (NHPA).

The report examines rates of potentially preventable hospitalisations for 22 conditions across Primary Health Network areas and more than 300 smaller local areas, revealing that the five most common preventable conditions are chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), diabetes complications, heart failure, cellulitis, and kidney and urinary tract infections (UTIs).

It was estimated that 600,000 hospitalisations could have been prevented nationwide.

The report found that vaccination against pneumonia and influenza alone would preclude the necessity for hospitalisation for some 12,000 people over the age of two months and a further 18,000 would have avoided hospital if they were vaccinated against whooping cough, chickenpox and severe childhood diarrhoea.

To access the data **CLICK HERE**.

### \$1 discount advice

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia is providing "a range of factual materials" to its members to assist with the likely patient interactions in relation to the new option of discounting co-payments on eligible PBS and RPBS prescriptions by up to \$1 per script effective 01 Jan.

In an update issued earlier this week, Guild Executive Director David Quilty said pharmacies need to be ready for the change which is being introduced at the same time as the delisting of a number of PBS medicine, with both measures set to impact safety net entitlements.

"If a concessional patient receives the full \$1 discount on all their eligible prescriptions they will need to fill an additional 11 scripts during the year before they are able to access free medicines on the Safety Net," Quilty pointed out.

He also noted that patients will pay the same total out of pocket amount for their medicines over the calendar year to reach the Safety Net.

### Lipa ceo for CMA

**COMPLEMENTARY** Medicines Australia (CMA) has announced the election of Dusko Pejnovic, ceo of Lipa Pharmaceuticals, to the presidency of the CMA Board.

CMA ceo Carl Gibson welcomed Pejnovic saying his knowledge of the industry is invaluable "as is his vision for the development of the complementary medicines sector and its recognition as a vital component of the Australian healthcare landscape."

CMA also announced that past president, Richard Henfrey from Blackmores, has accepted the role of vice president of the organisation.

"We are delighted that he will remain an active member of the Board," Gibson said.

### "100% healthy" alert

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a warning about "100% Healthy Food for Men tablets", with the explanation that they contain the undeclared substance sildenafil.

The product has not been assessed by the TGA for quality, safety or efficacy and supply in Australia is illegal.

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\* When taken as a dose of 2 x 25 mg tablets Trust Difenac 25 provides pain relief for up to 8 hours. Always read the label. Use only as directed. Incorrect use may be harmful. If symptoms persist, see your healthcare professional.

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\* Brod M et al. Patient Intelligence Survey Nov 2014, pp 43 - 60.

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**Jobs of the Week**

- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Central NSW (Job# 2011786)  
Generous package for the motivated candidate ready to step up.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Great Ocean Road, VIC (Job# 2011694)  
Beachside small town on Victoria's west coast, very popular with tourists.
- **Customer Care Pharmacist** - SW Rural WA (Job# 2011960)  
Within cooee of Perth and Bunbury - accom support, laidback lifestyle.

Share your career vision with us and we'll help get you there!



## ACP software issues

**THE** Australian College of Pharmacy has apologised to its members for problems in the online assessment components of its CPD activities, with ACP's software developers expecting to deploy a solution as soon as possible.

## 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).

- 3-10 Jan 2016:** Education Vacation, Canyons/Park City USA; more info from [www.cpdconferencing.com.au](http://www.cpdconferencing.com.au)
- 20 Jan:** First Aid and CPR; PGA QLD Brach, Spring Hill; see: [www.guild.org.au/qld\\_branch](http://www.guild.org.au/qld_branch)
- 31 Jan:** Immunisation Training Workshop; St Leonards, details at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 8-10 Feb:** 2016 Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar; Crowne Plaza Melbourne; see: [www.pharmeducation.com.au](http://www.pharmeducation.com.au)
- 13-14 Feb:** Evidence Based Practice Seminar; Rydges Sydney Central; details at: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)
- 19-21 Feb:** Foundation Clinical Pharmacy Practice; Novotel Brisbane; for more info visit: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)
- 4-6 Mar:** NSW Annual Therapeutic Update; Crowne Plaza Terrigal; visit: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 5 Mar:** Emergency Medicine Seminar; Crowne Plaza Melbourne; details at: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)
- 17-20 Mar:** Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual National Conference APP 2016, Gold Coast - more information at: [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com)

## AFT Pharmaceuticals float

**AFT** Pharmaceuticals, a company started in a family garage in 1997, is about to float on both the Australian and New Zealand stock exchanges with a value of NZ\$269m.

Founder Hartley Atkinson M.Pharm, PhD, originally from Perth, but now living in NZ, has been dubbed the "Dick Smith of the pharmaceutical industry" for his entrepreneurial flair which has seen the company develop products such as Maxigesic, which has a 6% share of the NZ paracetamol and ibuprofen analgesic market.

Other products include Crystaderm, Zostrix and Pascaderm. Registration for cold and flu treatment Maxiclear PE has

been achieved as well as the first licensing deal in four European countries, while in development is the SURF nebuliser, a drug delivery system for treatment of nasal diseases such as chronic sinusitis.

"The main reason for this public offering (IPO) is to enable AFT to accelerate bringing these products to global markets," said Atkinson.

Investors have the opportunity to be part of the initial public offering, with a "priority offer" closing on 16 Dec prior to the planned formal listing on 22 Dec.

Shares under the offer are priced at \$2.80, with the IPO aiming to raise about \$30 million.

Atkinson and his wife Marree will retain a significant stake in the business and will continue their existing executive roles.

The offer document can be viewed at [aftpharmshares.com](http://aftpharmshares.com).

## Warfarin interactions

**RECENT** research has identified a new and potentially dangerous drug-drug interaction between warfarin and glipizide/glimepiride, with hospital admission suggesting the relationship.

Published in *The BMJ*, the retrospective cohort analysis from the University of Southern California demonstrated an association between use of warfarin with common sulfonylureas and serious hypoglycemic events.

**CLICK HERE** for the abstract.

## MEDSAFE update

**NEW** Zealand's Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority (MEDSAFE) has published its latest update, with guidance on statins, ocular adverse reactions, ingenol mebutate, medicinal cannabis, aspirin in children, nitrofurantoin, dabigatran, metformin, melatonin and more - [medsafe.govt.nz](http://medsafe.govt.nz).



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**A BRITISH** researcher has managed to gain a unique insight into pain management with the help of a 39-year-old woman who hasn't ever felt any.

The female patient suffers from congenital insensitivity to pain (CIP), an extremely rare genetic disorder that prevents messages of physical suffering such as a sting, a bruise, a bite or a burn from reaching the consciousness.

Given the important role of pain in alerting to danger such as a burn, the condition is generally very difficult to live with.

Neurobiologist John Wood of University College London helped the patient experience pain for the first time by using a laser beam and a dose of the opioid antagonist naloxone.

By reverse engineering the experience, the scientist identified what he's called the "secret ingredient" in painlessness, namely a combination of opioid peptides and drugs that block communication channels between the body and the brain, known as Nav1.7 channels.

## CHEMOTHERAPY cooling-cap.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved for marketing the first "cooling cap" to reduce hair loss in female breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

The Dignitana DigniCap Cooling System is a computer-controlled system that circulates cooled liquid to a head-worn cooling cap during chemotherapy treatment.

The apparatus is designed to constrict blood vessels in the scalp, which in theory, reduces the amount of chemotherapy that reaches cells in the hair follicles, reducing the local impact of the treatment, the FDA explained on its website.

## Win with DESIGNER BRANDS

This week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away a prize pack each day with all six limited edition shades of Designer Brands Longwear Infinite Nail Polish. This formula locks in colour and fade proof shine with just one coat. Two coats provides intense bold colour and even longer wear. These on-trend limited edition shades from the Designer Brands' Everlasting Longwear collection are perfect for the party season! Visit [www.dbcosmetics.com.au](http://www.dbcosmetics.com.au)

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



Name the pink shade.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Simonne Cramer from Scaffidi Group.