

New APC Insights

THE latest edition of the Australian Pharmacy Council's publication *Insights* summarises the collaboration across Health Professions Accreditation Councils, identifies learnings from a pilot program around the future recognition of advanced pharmacy practice, UK's advanced pharmacy practice guru visit to Australia and updates on the Accreditation Committee and the Council itself.

One advanced pharmacy practice graduate shares her experiences and explains why "its not all about the credential".

CLICK HERE to access *Insights*.

TCMs a toxic mix?

MORE than nine out of ten traditional Chinese medicines (TCMs) have been found to be adulterated or mislabelled, with the undeclared ingredients rendering many of the tested samples either illegal or potentially hazardous to consumers, according to results from an Australian research collaboration led by Curtin University in WA, published in *Nature Scientific Reports*.

Lead researcher Professor Michael Bunce said, "Adulterants discovered in the 26 products tested included toxic metals such as arsenic, cadmium and lead; medications such as paracetamol, antihistamines, anti-inflammatories and antibiotics, and stimulants such as pseudoephedrine.

"Of particular concern were heavily regulated drugs such as warfarin and sildenafil (Viagra)."

CLICK HERE to access the study.

Global vax alignment call

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is calling for Australia to align with the pharmacy vaccination practices of international jurisdictions such as the UK, US and Canada.

With the success of the Queensland Pharmacists Immunisation Pilot (QPIP) for the 2014 flu season (**PD** 02 Apr 14) and the recent report from the National Health Performance Authority revealing the increased costs of preventable hospital admissions (**PD** 11 Dec), the groundswell of opinion calling for more pharmacy vaccination capacity is growing, the Guild said.

In addition, the peak pharmacy organisation pointed out that the trend was reinforced significantly when the Pharmacy Board of Australia in Dec 2013 stated, "The Board noted the work undertaken on its behalf by the Advanced Practice Framework Steering Committee and has advised that in its opinion vaccination is within the current scope of practice of a pharmacist".

While most objections to pharmacists conducting vaccinations revolve around patient safety and record keeping, the data supports the broader reach that the most accessible health care professional in our society can achieve.

"Data from the QPIP Phase 1 trial showed that 15% of those who received their shots through their pharmacy during the trial had never previously been vaccinated against influenza" and "no major adverse events have been reported from consumers receiving their



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vaccinations from a pharmacist in a pharmacy," the Guild said.

At present, all jurisdictions except the ACT and Tasmania have enacted, or have indicated they will enact, legislation to enable pharmacist delivered vaccinations.

WA community pharmacist and Guild Vaccination Committee member Paul Rees has been very active in the immunisation area and believes appropriately trained pharmacists should eventually provide the full range of National Immunisation Program vaccinations across Australia.

While doctors have assumed that pharmacy is stealing their business, this is actually business they would never have, given that patients had a general belief that they were not at risk, did not understand herd immunity and couldn't be bothered making a separate trip to the doctor, Rees said.

"It makes good sense for pharmacists to be able to administer the same 17 vaccines that are administered by the nurses who undertake equivalent training," Rees added.

FDA likes LifeVest

A WEARABLE cardioverter defibrillator called LifeVest, designed to be worn by children at risk of sudden cardiac arrest, but who are not candidates for an implantable defibrillator due to certain medical conditions or lack of parental consent, has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

CPD FAQs uploaded

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has published revised frequently asked questions (FAQs) on continuing professional development (CPD) for pharmacists and pharmacy interns.

The revised FAQs will guide pharmacists and interns to meet the Board's revised Registration standard relating to CPD.

See www.pharmacyboard.gov.au.

TGA OTC approval times reined in

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has in general terms been able to reduce approval times for OTC medicine applications in the first half of this year compared to 2014, with almost all application types being completed within half or less of target times, according to the TGA's half yearly performance report Jan to Jun 2015.

No registered complementary medicines applications were rejected during the reporting period, with one new medicine and 13 variations approved.

The report references TGA key performance indicators around approval times, submission outcomes, orphan drug designations, biological medicines, generics, complementary medicines, adverse event reports, medical devices and more.

Export issues, special access schemes, recalls as well as licensing and manufacturing issues are also summarised.

For full details see the report online at www.tga.gov.au.

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Xtandi prostate tick

ASTELLAS Pharma Australia has announced that the indication for Xtandi (enzalutamide) has been extended by the TGA to include the treatment of certain patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer.

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.

3-10 Jan 2016: Education Vacation, Canyons/Park City USA; more info from www.cpdconferencing.com.au

20 Jan: First Aid and CPR; PGA QLD Brach, Spring Hill; see: www.guild.org.au/qlld_branch

31 Jan: Immunisation Training Workshop; St Leonards, details at: www.psa.org.au

8-10 Feb: 2016 Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar; Crowne Plaza Melbourne; see: www.pharmeducation.com.au

13-14 Feb: Evidence Based Practice Seminar; Rydges Sydney Central; details at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

19-21 Feb: Foundation Clinical Pharmacy Practice; Novotel Brisbane; for more info visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

4-6 Mar: NSW Annual Therapeutic Update; Crowne Plaza Terrigal; visit: www.psa.org.au

5 Mar: Emergency Medicine Seminar; Crowne Plaza Melbourne; details at: 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

e-Health pharmacy error

THE personally controlled "My Health Record" of a consumer was corrupted last month by an alleged series of errors by a pharmacist, according to a report by *PULSE+IT*.

The consumer contacted the online health technology publication when she found there were six scripts that were not prescribed for her in the Pharmaceutical Benefits report section of her My Health Record.

The products involved were reported as a combination antibiotic, a contraceptive pill, a different antibiotic, an asthma inhaler and an oral corticosteroid - all incorrectly recorded as having been dispensed on three different days in 2014.

Upon advice from *PULSE+IT* staff, the consumer rang the then-called PCEHR hotline to remove the errors, but was advised that weekend staff didn't have access to individual records.

After much bureaucratic handballing of the consumer's enquiries, and a bit of a push from *PULSE+IT*, Medicare communicated with her to the effect that they had spoken to the pharmacist and found he/she had "submitted incorrect patient information resulting in the items

appearing in your record," a DHS representative wrote in the email.

"This has now been corrected and the items have been removed from your record."

The matter was finally considered resolved, with the cause possibly linked to confusion with another patient of the same name.

The PBS representative contacted by the consumer could not identify the pharmacy "for privacy reasons", the report said.

VPA cites four cases

THE Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) has issued its final communiqué for the year with a summary of four recent Panel Hearings into allegations that licensees had failed to meet their responsibilities.

All four cases were examples of pharmacists failing to maintain accurate records around the dispensing of Schedule 8 (S8) poisons, failings relating to storage of S8 products and/or patient privacy issues.

Offending parties were reprimanded, cautioned and/or to submit to internal and external audits - **CLICK HERE** for details.

DISPENSARY CORNER

CHINESE diners in the eastern city of Zhangjiagang were charged a 1 yuan (AU\$0.22c)

'clean air fee' by a restaurant that had recently installed an air filtration system, in bids to combat the city's rising pollution problem.

Authorities weighed in on the surcharge, telling the restaurant that though installing an air filtering system was a good idea, imposing the charge on its client is unacceptable.

The case went viral on Weibo, China's preferred social media channel, with many saying they'd happily pay one yuan to breathe easy.

IF WATCHING horror films is enough to make your blood curdle - then you're not alone.

Dutch researchers who hypothesized that acute fear really could curdle blood, recruited 24 healthy volunteers from Leiden University Medical Centre, to test their theory.

Fourteen volunteers were assigned to watch a horror movie followed by a non-threatening one, and the remaining 10 watched the movies in reverse order.

Researchers found that upon watching scary films, a blood clotting protein known as Factor VIII increased in 57% of its participants, but only in 14% during the educational film.

Though researchers are still unsure of the underlying biological mechanism in increased coagulation activity, one thing for sure: "blood curdling in literature is justified," said Researcher Dr Banne Nemeth.



WIN WITH KEY SUN

This week Pharmacy Daily and Key Sun are giving away every day a prize pack of 2 x Key Sun Sunmilk.

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To win, be the first from **TAS** or **VIC** to send the correct answer to the following question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Fill in the blank: Key Sun Zinke has been protecting Australians from sun damage since ____.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Helen Auchterlonie from Symbion.



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