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## Vit D deficiency tests

**THOSE** at risk of vitamin D deficiency should be tested, not healthy babies, children and adults, an article in the latest edition of *Australian Prescriber* has said.

Royal Perth Hospital endocrinologist and pathologist Dr Paul Glendenning said recent Australian guidelines indicated individuals at increased risk of deficiency should be tested, and replacement vitamin D should be started when circulating levels were low and patients were at increased risk of falls or fractures.

**CLICK HERE** for the article.

## NAPSA: a future beyond the counter



**THE** National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) encouraged its members to 'Step into the future, a Future Beyond the Counter' as the theme of its 2015 Gold Coast Conference last week (**PD** 29 Jan).

National president Sam Turner said students had become excited about future prospects.

In addition, through a series of fundraising projects, students also raised over \$5,000 toward the Pharmacists' Support Service during the course of the week.

**Pictured** are Congress delegates.

## Biz electives for students

**THE** opportunity for pharmacy students to take electives from business schools at Universities, as well as from behavioural sciences, could be "transformational", pharmacy owner Rhonda White has said.

Speaking at the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) Congress last week, White cited a survey which found mental health and pharmacy business management were areas students believed their degrees were still missing (**PD** 14 Jan).

Speaking with **PD**, White stressed she was not an educationalist, but said community pharmacy students would need to operate successful businesses in future, while mental health issues such as depression were increasingly a challenge for the health system, requiring various skills to counsel patients.

Currently there was not the time within pharmacy degrees to take such electives, but this could be possible after students were qualified, she said.

Such a move would not be possible at every university, White said.

NAPSA said many university member associations had opted to provide members with Mental Health First Aid certificate opportunities.

University of Technology Graduate School of Health head Professor Charlie Benrimoj said the University incorporated business aspects into the master's program, with a focus of understanding the business implications of developing and

delivery of professional services, while it was also working with stakeholders on content and integration of aspects of owning and managing community pharmacy.

Associate Professor Kylie Williams said students spent time in their second year looking at mental health issues via lectures and workshops.

University of Sydney (UoS) Dean of Pharmacy Professor Iqbal Ramzan said a unit of study in pharmacy management was offered in its BPharm and MPharm courses, while a unit on mental health was offered in the third year of the BPharm degree, which included presentations from representatives of relevant groups, such as Schizophrenia Australia.

UoS was currently looking at whether Mental Health First Aid courses should be offered in or after degrees, and when, he said.

## Stockpile tender call

**THE** Federal Department of Health has called for tenders to manage Australia's National Medical Stockpile, delivering stockpile related services, including specialised warehousing and storage during Business As Usual periods and during emergencies.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

## ALLEVYN Life's fresh look

**SMITH & Nephew** has introduced ALLEVYN Life to replace ALLEVYN Gentle Border and Thin, with new pharmacy packaging.

See **page four** for more.

## Bexsero in NZ?

**NOVARTIS** has not yet licensed its meningococcal group B vaccine Bexsero in NZ, despite proposed meetings in July last year with Medsafe (**PD** 30 Jul).

A Novartis spokesperson said the company had "reached out" to Medsafe last year.

It had not made an official application to the organisation for Bexsero as yet.

The company was still evaluating when and how this might occur, the spokesperson said.

Bexsero went on sale through private prescription in Australia in March last year (**PD** 07 Mar 14).

## Vic marijuana move

**TO PROGRESS** its election commitment to legalise cannabis for medical use, the Andrews Labor Government has appointed Dr Ian Freckleton QC for six months as Special Commissioner to the Victorian Law Reform Commission's review on the matter.

For more information, **CLICK HERE**.

## School is back... and so are head lice!

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## WIN WITH PROPAIRA SPF 50+



This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Propaira are giving readers the chance to win two lots of Propaira SPF 50+ sunscreen 80mL.

Propaira SPF50+ Sunscreen is designed to protect cancer prone skin from harmful UVB and UVA. The term "SPF (Sun Protection Factor) UVA/UVB Broad Spectrum" used on sunscreen labels represents UVB protection but has less emphasis on UVA protection, the company says. Propaira SPF50+ Sunscreen has very high UVB protection as well as very high UVA protection to further prevent the development of skin cancers, Propaira says.

To win, be the first person from **WA** to send the correct answer to the following question to: **comp@pharmacydaily.com.au**

**Is it UVA rays or UVB rays that penetrate the skin deeper?**

Need a hint? **Click here**.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Kathy Thomas from Townsville Health Centre!

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## Novartis fined \$90k

NOVARTIS has been fined \$90,000 by the Medicines Australia Monitoring Committee for a one day presentation skills event.

Delivered by the National Institute of Dramatic Art Corporate Performance, the event had just three attendees, described in the invitation as "Novartis Retinal Fellows", the quarterly report said.

The Committee determined that the event had breached sections of the Code requiring that the primary purpose of companies' interaction with healthcare professionals must be enhancement of medical knowledge and the quality use of medicines.

As well as the fine, the Committee said Novartis should not arrange or support further, similar events.

MEANWHILE GlaxoSmithKline was fined \$20,000 over advertisements for Votrient (pazopanib hydrochloride).

Pfizer's complaint that the advertisements conveyed overarching superior survival claim for Votrient over sunitinib that was false and misleading was upheld by the Committee, however its complaint that the quality of life claim could not be substantiated by the referenced study was not.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the report in full.

## Liver cancer action call

LIVER cancer has the highest death-to-incidence ratio of any cancer in Australia, Hepatitis Australia has said.

Analysis of the latest Australian Cancer Incidence and Mortality books had shown that liver cancer had a death to incidence ratio of 0.98, with 1,446 new cases diagnosed in 2011 compared with 1,419 lives lost due to the disease, Hepatitis Australia said.

This rate compared with 0.77 for lung cancer, with 8,090 deaths and 10,511 people diagnosed, and 0.88 for pancreatic cancer, with 2,423 deaths and 2,748 people diagnosed.

Hepatitis Australia said nearly all other cancers had survival rates steadily improving over the last 20 years, but there had been no improvement in liver cancer prognosis.

Acting ceo Kevin Marriott said untreated viral hepatitis was the leading cause of primary liver cancer in the country, and Australia "urgently" needed greater investment in programs to prevent viral hepatitis, including needle and syringe programs and hepatitis B vaccination, as well as improved early diagnosis and timely treatment, to stop liver cancer

developing.

Cancer Council NSW medical director Associate Professor Monica Robotin said advances in liver cancer were happening very slowly, so the best way to prevent liver cancer was to prevent hepatitis.

"This is why it is so important that people at risk of hepatitis B are vaccinated, and that for both hepatitis B and C the uptake of antiviral therapy is improved.

"There are moves underway to make community pharmacists responsible for dispensing hepatitis medications which would be a significant step forward."

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the data.

## Teal nail MANicure

CHEMMART pharmacy chain has launched its MANICURE campaign to raise funds for ovarian cancer during Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month this February.

The campaign encourages people to paint their nails teal, the colour for ovarian cancer, to show support for those affected by the disease and Chemmart has enlisted the help of Ovarian Cancer Australia Ambassadors actor Gary Sweet and rugby league player Cameron Smith.

## US\$213m sought for precision medicine

US PRESIDENT Barack Obama is seeking US\$213m in his 2016 budget submitted to Congress for "precision medicine".

This would include a US\$130m program for a research cohort of a million volunteers whose genetic, medical and lifestyle data would be collected, the *British Medical Journal* reported.

Obama said this would allow individualised treatments most likely to be effective for each person, the publication reported.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

## Pharmacist-led meds audit ups quality

SIGNIFICANT and sustained improvements in prescribing quality were demonstrated as a result of a pharmacist-led intervention on an acute medical admission unit's antimicrobial use in a study published in *The International Journal of Pharmacy Practice*.

Consultant engagement and acceptance of the stewardship was recorded in the research which involved an audit of 2,609 antimicrobial prescriptions.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the study's abstract.

## MIMS Updates

### NEW PRODUCTS

**Brintellix (vortioxetine (as hydrobromide))** is a 5-HT<sub>3</sub>, 5-HT<sub>7</sub>, and 5-HT<sub>1D</sub> receptor antagonist; its mechanism of action is thought to be related to its multimodal activity: direct modulation of receptor activity and inhibition of the serotonin transporter. Brintellix is indicated in the treatment of major depressive disorder in adults including prevention of relapse. Vortioxetine is not indicated for paediatric use. Brintellix should not be used in combination with a MAOI, or within at least 14 days of discontinuing treatment with an MAOI. Brintellix should be discontinued for at least 14 days before starting treatment with a MAOI. Brintellix is available as 5 mg, 10 mg, 15 mg and 20 mg film coated tablets in blister packs of 28's.

**Fluarix Tetra (quadrivalent influenza vaccine)** is an inactivated and purified split influenza vaccine. The antigen composition and strains for the 2015 influenza season corresponds to the following types: A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus, A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 (H3N2)-like virus, B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus and B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus. Fluarix Tetra is indicated for active immunisation of adults and children from 3 years of age for the prevention of influenza disease caused by the influenza virus types A and B contained in the vaccine. Fluarix Tetra should not be administered to individuals with known hypersensitivity after previous administration of Fluarix Tetra or influenza vaccines. Fluarix Tetra is available as 0.5 mL pre-filled syringes in packs of 1's and 10's.

**Fycompa (perampanel (as hemisesquihydrate))** is a first in class selective, noncompetitive antagonist of the ionotropic  $\alpha$ -amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazolepropionic acid (AMPA) glutamate receptor on postsynaptic neurons. The precise mechanism by which perampanel exerts its antiepileptic effects in humans remains to be fully elucidated. Fycompa is indicated for the adjunctive treatment of partial onset seizures with or without secondarily generalised seizures in patients with epilepsy aged 12 years and older. Fycompa is available as 2 mg tablets in packs of 7's and 4 mg, 6 mg, 8 mg, 10 mg and 12 mg tablets in packs of 28's.

**Halaven (eribulin mesilate)** is a nontaxane, microtubule dynamics inhibitor belonging to the halichondrin class of antineoplastic agents. Eribulin inhibits the

growth phase of microtubules without affecting the shortening phase and sequesters tubulin into nonproductive aggregates. Halaven monotherapy is indicated for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer who have progressed after at least two chemotherapeutic regimens for advanced disease. Prior therapy should have included an anthracycline and a taxane unless patients were not suitable for these treatments. Halaven is contraindicated during breastfeeding. Halaven is available as a 1 mg/2 mL solution for injection in a 2 mL glass vial in packs of 1's.

### NEW INDICATIONS

**Xolair (omalizumab (rch))** is now indicated for adults and adolescents (12 years of age and above) with chronic idiopathic urticaria who remain symptomatic despite H1 antihistamine treatment.

## February 2015

### SAFETY RELATED CHANGES

Administration of **Picato Gel (ingenol mebutate)** is now not recommended until the skin is healed from any open wounds. The treated area should not be covered with occlusive bandages after Picato Gel is applied.

*This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.*



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## Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy.

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)



### DISPENSARY CORNER

**HELL** of a commute.

If you walk to the pharmacy of a morn, spare a thought for James Robertson, who has said he typically walks 21 miles, or about 34 km, to and from work each day, and has done so for the past 10 years.

The *Detroit Free Press* reported that Robertson, 56, walked the parts of the way to work that bus routes don't cover, including 13 miles after his shift finished at 10pm, because he couldn't afford a car.

But people have started crowdfunding efforts to help him buy one, and pay for insurance, after the publication wrote about his situation.

A GoFundMe page set up by sympathetic readers has so far raised US\$121,402.

**THE** 5-0, the heat, the buzz.

Do you offer stress reliever products in your pharmacy? How about bees?

The Metropolitan Police in the UK has invested about \$1,000 in two hives and protective suits for the newly formed Met Police Beekeeping Association (MPBA) to help keep members of the firearms unit calm, *Orange News* has reported.

Apparently, the club is described as perfect for stressed police officers as it is a relaxing and rewarding hobby, with a Met Police spokesperson reportedly saying the Association has no record of members being stung by their MPBA bees, the publication reports.

**CLEAN** out that locker.

If you have unused staff lockers at your pharmacy, go inspect them, quick!

An Indian school has found more than 2 kg of gold in unused lockers, *BBC News* reports.

### Burt's Bees Almond Milk & Beeswax Hand Crème

Burt's Bees Almond Milk & Beeswax Hand Crème is a 98% natural hand cream that provides long-lasting relief to dry, chapped hands, the company says. It contains sweet almond oil, beeswax and aloe to moisturise the skin and leave it soft and supple. Burt's Bees Almond Milk & Beeswax Hand Crème has an inviting almond fragrance while the jar and steel lid are recyclable. Apply to hands as often as required and rub in well.

Stockist: 02 9794 9510

RRP: \$19.95

Website: [www.burtsbees.com](http://www.burtsbees.com)



### Instant Hand Sanitiser Spray in Vitamin E & Jojoba

NatraSan Instant Natural Antibacterial Hand Sanitiser Spray in Vitamin E & Jojoba is a non-alcohol-based hand sanitiser that the company says kills 99.99% of germs without the need for water or towels. The formula is moisturising and made up of 99% natural ingredients. Natralus says this gentle formula offers protection from germs for up to 90 minutes, while being both non-flammable and airline safe.

Stockist: 08 8382 3000

RRP: \$4.79

Website: [www.natralus.com.au](http://www.natralus.com.au)



### COLOUR by Total Beauty Network (TBN) Moisturising Lipstick

COLOUR by TBN Moisturising Lipstick provides bright colour and deep nourishing benefits for the lips. The lipstick has been formulated with aloe vera and vitamin E to moisturise the lips while providing lightweight, smooth colour. The lipstick is packaged in a square, outer case that is reflective of each lipstick shade with the silver bullet flashing a black base embossed with the COLOUR by TBN logo. TBN's moisturising lipstick is now available in 20 shades.

Stockist: 1300 765 332

RRP: \$2.50

Website: [www.tbn.com.au](http://www.tbn.com.au)



### Glameyes Bambi Lashes by Manicare

Manicare Glameyes Bambi Lashes are a pair of false lashes that have been designed to mimic Australian model Bambi's eyelashes. They are unique due to the longest lashes being in the centre of the eye, opening up the area for a doe-eyed effect, the company says. The lashes are made from natural hair and are reusable. They contain a lash applicator and hypoallergenic adhesive.

Stockist: 1800 651 146

RRP: \$11.95

Website: [www.glambymanicare.com](http://www.glambymanicare.com)



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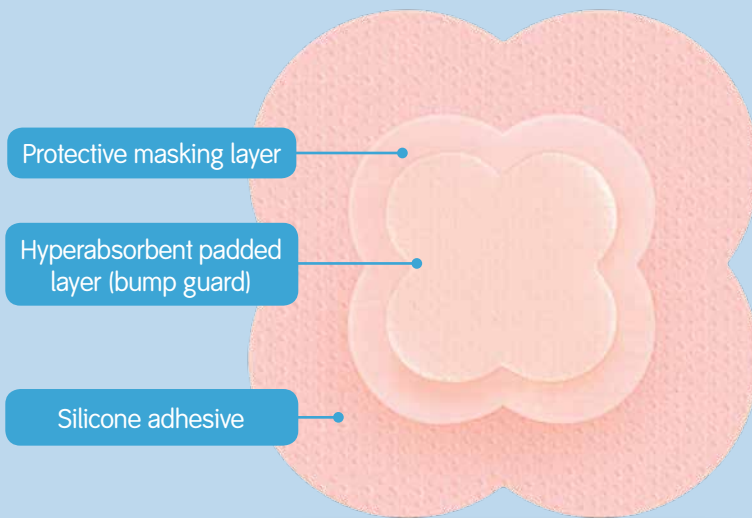
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ALLEVYN Life medium (12.9cm x 12.9cm)	2	156221	170787	911631	ALLEVYN Thin 10cm x 10cm Pk 3

To learn more visit <http://www.smith-nephew.com/anz/producthome/allevynlife/>

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