

## Lower cash rate good news for sector

**THE** lowering of the cash rate by the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) to 2.25% this month is good news for pharmacy, according to Allfin Financial Services.

The company's ceo Mark Churchill said the RBA was trying to stimulate business activity and household spending in a sluggish market.

"With the lower rate, the RBA hopes to reduce the cost of consumer, housing and business credit.

"This is all good for pharmacy, and retail in general, given that they expect that the surplus cash from the consumer will now go to discretionary spending in-turn fuelling retail spending and the economy.

"It also means that rates are at record lows so business owners should be reviewing their current lending arrangements to insure they are getting the best outcome possible."

Churchill said the downside was that an increase in the cash rate without notice, possibly next year, might be needed to keep growth under control.

## Cochrane co-founder to visit Australia

**CO-FOUNDER** of the Cochrane Collaboration Professor Peter Gotsche will visit Australia next week for a speaking tour warning about the dangers of use of prescription medications, particularly antidepressants and NSAIDs, the *SMH* reported.

## Pharmore administration

**MELBOURNE** pharmacy chain Pharmore Pharmacies has gone into administration, with staff retrenched and the group's head office shut down this week.

Peter Goodin and Robyn-Lee Erskine from insolvency specialists Brooke Bird were formally appointed as external administrators on 05 Feb, according to Australian Securities and Investments Commission records.

Founded by John White more than 20 years ago, Pharmore Pharmacies currently operates 17

retail pharmacies in the Melbourne metropolitan area under a full service franchise model, providing accounting and book-keeping services, recruitment, payroll and financial management to members.

The company's website is still operational, but **Pharmacy Daily** understands that the administrators have changed the locks at the Pharmore management office in Glen Waverley.

In a statement, the administrators said they understood their appointment occurred as a result of the "inability of the company to undertake a necessary restructuring of its operations and an overhead structure that exceeded its revenue base".

The 17 franchisees were not subject to the appointment and their employees ought not be impacted by it, Brooke Bird said.

Suppliers were requested to deal directly with the individual pharmacies without reference to the administrators.

Creditors were informed on 06 Feb, the company said.

Calls made to the Pharmore Pharmacies head office were not answered.

The Pharmore group offers a customer loyalty program and a 'pharmacist in your pocket' smartphone app as well as a range of community sponsorships.

## 18.5% of disabilities psychological

**THE** latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures have found of all people with any type of disability, 18.5% had a psychological disability.

Just over three percent of Australians reported having a psychological disability in 2012, or 770,500 people, an increase from 2.8% in 2009.

The results are based on responses from almost 80,000 Australians to the 2012 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers.

ABS said 96% of respondents with a psychological disability reported needing assistance or experiencing difficulty in at least one of the broad activity areas of everyday life.

This follows calls for further mental health training for pharmacy students (**PD** 04 Feb).

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

## UK doubles A&E pilot

**A BRITISH** pilot which is trialling pharmacy in Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments has almost doubled in size due to higher than expected interest.

The National Health Service (NHS) England announced the pilot last year as part of its urgent and emergency care review, a bid to reduce demand on A&E services.

To be managed by Health Education England (HEE), the trial initially targeted up to 35 emergency units across England, looking to identify opportunities to make effective use of pharmacists' knowledge and skills, working with other staff in A&E so patients were seen and treated safely, effectively and in a timely manner, to improve the patient experience and reduce wait times, HEE said.

It invited expressions of interest to pilot the program and after a strong response, had decided to fund 65 trusts to take part in the trial, the *Pharmaceutical Journal* reported.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society said it was "fully supportive" of the pilot, saying it was "a step closer" to its call for A&E departments to have a pharmacist manage medicines-related issues.

The pilot is set to run from March for five weeks, with linked projects in non-medical prescribing and advanced clinical practice training.

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

## back to school

Help ensure your customers' kids head back to school feeling happy and healthy this year with **Inner Health for Kids**.

If a child has been taking a course of antibiotics, **Inner Health for Kids** may assist in maintaining the levels of normal healthy flora that may have been disrupted.

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## WIN WITH PROPAIRA FOR ACNE PRONE SKIN

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Propaira** are giving readers the chance to win one Propaira Purifying Cream 30mL and Propaira Foaming Cleansing Gel 100mL.

Propaira for Acne Prone Skin contains clinically proven key ingredients to help reduce redness, blemishes, black and white heads, the company says. Propaira says that used in combination, the formulation also helps to reduce sebum production and calm the skin. Australian-made, Propaira is also simple to use, without the worry of common side-effects such as irritation, dryness, scarring, or adverse reactions when the skin is exposed to the sun, the company says.



To win, be the first person from **QLD** to send the correct answer to the following question to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**Does niacinamide cause photosensitivity?**

Need a hint? [Click here](#).

Congratulations to yesterday's winner Cathy Portolesi from The Pharmacy Guild of Australia!

## How about a little support?

Blooms Milk Thistle supports detoxification and helps protect and regenerate liver cells.



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## Guild Update

### Phase 2 of Discover More campaign

The Pharmacy Guild's *Discover More. Ask Your Pharmacist* campaign will return to screens from this week.

Recent surveys conducted by Jigsaw Research shows customers who use a pharmacy less frequently, between two and six times a year, were more likely to consider using a pharmacy for advice and/or treatment for a non-emergency illness, injury or medical condition after seeing the TV commercial before Christmas.

The digital strategy in particular also saw some impressive results. The engaging TV adverts featuring the charming characters generated above industry average click throughs on YouTube and Yahoo with more than 170,000 video views.

The "second flight" of the campaign will continue to improve its reach with more targeted web ads, digital marketing at airports and YouTube advertising.

The campaign will continue to promote the value of community pharmacy and highlight the service areas that pharmacies offer, such as pain management, after hospital care, health checks and advice, and in-home care.

It also aims to strengthen community pharmacies as primary healthcare providers by raising the awareness of the role pharmacies play in the health care of all Australians.

If you are a Guild Member, remember these easy steps:

1. Display the Guild 'gold cross' Tile prominently in your pharmacy
2. Order a free poster booster pack from [www.guild.org.au/consumer-campaign](http://www.guild.org.au/consumer-campaign)
3. Contact your State or Territory Branch with any questions.

## Statin controversy ablaze

A SCIENTIFIC paper published by a group of pharmacologists in Japan has raised significant questions about the use of statins, with the authors saying that contrary to current practice, "the epidemic of heart failure and atherosclerosis that plagues the modern world may paradoxically be aggravated by the pervasive use of statin drugs".

First posted online on Fri in the *Expert Review of Clinical Pharmacology* journal, the paper examines pharmacological mechanisms which could mean that statins are actually causative in coronary artery calcification.

"Statins inhibit the synthesis of Vitamin K<sub>2</sub>, the cofactor for matrix Gla-protein activation, which in turn protects arteries from calcification," the paper states.

The authors, from several Japanese universities, the Japan Institute of Pharmacovigilance, the Toyama Onsen Daini Hospital and Texas-based Clinical Cardiology Practice, also postulate that statins can function as "mitochondrial

toxins that impair muscle function in the heart and blood vessels" via the depletion of coenzyme Q<sub>10</sub>.

They also say statins inhibit the biosynthesis of selenium-containing proteins, one of which is glutathione peroxidase serving to suppress peroxidative stress.

This in turn may be a factor in congestive heart failure, "reminiscent of the dilated cardiomyopathies seen with selenium deficiency".

The paper concludes with a proposal that "current statin treatment guidelines be critically re-evaluated".

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

## Invacare recall

INVACARE Australia has launched a recall of certain PerfectO2 oxygen concentrators made between 2010 and 2012, with a faulty component identified which could potentially ignite a fire.

Call 1800 460 460 for more.

## Two further HPV AEs worth monitoring

THE Advisory Committee on the Safety of Vaccines (ACSOV) said two additional adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) for the human papillomavirus (HPV) warrant monitoring.

In its review of the TGA's report on enhanced passive surveillance for four acute adverse events following school-based HPV immunisation, the ACSOV said as well as anaphylaxis, generalised allergic reaction, loss of consciousness and referral to an Emergency Department for any reason temporally related to the administration of the vaccine, ovarian insufficiency and chronic fatigue were of potential significance in terms of community perception, and therefore also warranted monitoring.

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

## Mayne Pharma buys Doryx

MAYNE Pharma has bought the Doryx brand and related assets in the US from its distribution partner Actavis for about US\$50m.

To be completed on 26 Feb, there would be a transition period of about two months, during which Actavis would continue to distribute the product, Mayne Pharma said.

Ceo Scott Richards said acquiring the brand was the "most attractive option" for optimising its doxycycline franchise.

## RGH E-Bulletin

THE RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin this week concerns drug-related electrolyte abnormalities (part two).

To read more, **CLICK HERE**.

## DISPENSARY CORNER



**OPTOMETRISTS** in the UK are urging people to get an eye test, releasing a list of vision mishaps which prompted patients to get help for their failing sight.

In one of the most serious cases a man was rushed to hospital with stomach pains after eating his hearing aids, in the mistaken belief that they were cashew nuts.

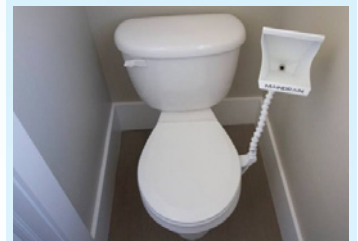
Another incident saw a maths teacher mistake a 'minus' sign as an 'equals' symbol, while there was one patient who found they were attempting to read a book while holding it upside down.

Many reported offending friends or relatives after failing to recognise them across the street, while one man started chatting to a stranger in a bar, thinking that it was actually his girlfriend.

And finally one of the most common vision complaints was being unable to read the expiry date or instructions on prescription medications.

"LEAVING the seat up" could be a thing of the past, with the invention of the so-called "Main Drain" (pictured below), a simple device which attaches to any toilet to create - yes - your own personal urinal.

Pitched as perfect for any "man cave" the gadget also has an articulated hose which "allows sit-down toilet users to push the Main Drain out of the way so they don't have to sit with their face right beside it as they go about their business," according to Gizmag.com.



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