

Warfarin PI update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has said the product information (PI) for warfarin requires an update for clarity and inclusion of clinical information.

The findings follow a review of the PI, with proposed changes relating to potential drug interactions, patient monitoring for anticoagulant status and treatment of overdose, the TGA said.

It was working with the sponsor to update the PI to provide clarity and more up to date information.

The safety of warfarin was maintained by frequent monitoring of the International Normalised Ratio, the TGA said.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

SHPA: 6CPA transparency

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) presented to the Health Minister on the need for the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA) funding arrangements to be transparent, consumer oriented and outcome focussed.

As part of the consultation on the Agreement announced by the Minister (*PD* 16 Feb), SHPA and other stakeholders, including the Consumers Health Forum (CHF) and the Australian Medical Association (AMA), presented ideas to Minister Sussan Ley last week.

President Professor Michael Dooley said there was an opportunity to learn from other sectors, like hospitals, regarding implementation of evidence-based models that could lead to better and more cost effective use of medicines.

SHPA said the agreement should not just be about the medication

Patients unable to consent in clinical trial

A CLINICAL trial comparing standard of care sedation strategies in intensive care units has been approved by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal allowing patients who are unable to consent to participate.

Prince of Wales Hospital senior intensivist Dr Yahya Shehabi sought approval to conduct a prospective multicentre randomised controlled trial of early goal directed sedation compared with standard care in mechanically ventilated patients in intensive care to determine which approach best reduced 90 day mortality.

The study acronym is SPICE III and details of the judgement can be found by [CLICKING HERE](#).

supply chain but also the "cognitive services" needed to ensure QUM.

The organisation said the Minister had indicated stakeholders would be consulted and given the opportunity to have further input into CPA discussions.

An AMA spokesperson said the organisation told the Minister it was supportive of pharmacists being able to provide medicines to the community in a safe, accessible and affordable way.

The AMA was pleased with the broader consultation, the spokesperson said, having called for more groups to be involved since the last Agreement was finalised.

President Associate Professor Brian Owler said the AMA supported initiatives to enhance the ability of pharmacists to provide pharmacy services, including as non-dispensing pharmacists within general practice.

The CHF has previously called for greater transparency in the 6CPA negotiations.

The Minister said there would be ongoing discussions with key groups about the 6CPA and the future of the PBS more generally in the coming weeks.

Clinician scope feedback sought

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is seeking feedback on draft guidance issued for clinicians and managers responsible for defining scope of practice at the appointment and reappointment of credentialed practitioners.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

RGH E-Bulletin

THE complexities of managing high serum potassium in patients with chronic kidney disease and the role of patiomer is discussed in the latest E-Bulletin from the RGH.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access.

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Tuesday 17 Feb 2015

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Guild Update

Rural pharmacists urged to take advantage of travel allowance

Pharmacists in rural and remote areas may be eligible to receive up to \$2000 to assist with travel and accommodation expenses to CPD accredited Group 2 activities.

The 5CPA Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Allowance provides financial support to assist pharmacists from rural and remote areas to access Group 2 accredited events.

For program details including eligibility criteria and guidelines refer to www.5cpa.com.au

For program enquiries and assistance email: support@5cpa.com.au or phone: 1300 555 262.

This Program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Eylea DME indication

DIABETIC macular oedema (DME) can now be treated with Bayer's Eylea (aflibercept) following the Therapeutic Goods Administration registration of the product for this indication.

CLICK HERE for the Eylea PI.

Pharmacy Incentive program reg

REGISTRATIONS for the Pharmacy Choice Incentive program open on 01 Mar.

The program, which involves 'five steps' to improving retail sales, saw 450 pharmacies sign up in 2014, with 30 winning trips to Dubai or Hamilton Island, Symbion said.

Stores must be a Pharmacy Choice member to take part and stock with Symbion.

Participating pharmacies in 2014 saw a 5.5% increase in retail sales on average, with \$490m in retail sales achieved overall during the incentive period, Symbion said.

Net profit was not tracked, a Symbion spokesperson said.

CLICK HERE for more.

FDA guidance

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued five draft guidance documents to pharmacies and others seeking to compound or repackage drugs.

CLICK HERE to read more.

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TWC \$0.6m profit

TERRY White Chemists Group Investments Limited has issued a trading update which said first half earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) are expected to be a profit from between \$0.4m and \$0.6m, due to the "assignment of the ownership of the Terry White Chemists brand and increased efficiencies in the group's management function".

Full year EBITDA was expected to be comparable with the previous financial year, the company said.

CLICK HERE to read more.

Aged care briefings

NEW arrangements relating to aged care services, planned for roll-out 01 Jul this year, will be explained in a series of Department of Social Services briefings around the country.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia ACT branch board member Patrick Reid recently argued there was a much wider scope of things pharmacy could provide to both residential and home care (*PD* 06 Feb).

CLICK HERE for briefing details.



DISPENSARY CORNER

ALCOHOL hiccup.

So you've justified your red wine indulgence with the resveratrol story or other science announcements that suggest there is a health benefit in moderate alcohol consumption?

Sorry, we are about to burst your bubbles, if a recent editorial from the *BMJ* is to be believed.

Previously, studies had indicated certain cardiovascular and other benefits could accrue to people imbibing moderately, but this latest review indicates that unless you are female and over the age of 65, there is no definitive positive association.

The editorial points out that even that select group of drinkers do not have the full weight of evidence on their side, with the data admitting only modest benefit which could possibly be explained by selection bias.

So time to pack away your wine rack and brush off the dust from your treadmill, alas.

CLICK HERE to read more.

WIN WITH PROPAIRA FOR ECZEMA



This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Propaira are giving readers the chance to win a prize pack to the value of \$49.90 containing one Propaira Ultra Calming Lotion 100mL and Ultra Calming Cleansing Gel 100mL.

Propaira Ultra Calming Lotion and Cleansing Gel have been designed to combat itchiness, dryness, redness, burning, stinging and tingling, and support the integrity of the skin barrier, Propaira says. According to the company, Propaira for Eczema range is suitable for use on the face, body and hands for people of all ages, and is steroids free, with the key ingredients being niacinamide, ceramide, zinc gluconate and colloidal oatmeal.

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

What is the role of zinc gluconate in propaira eczema products?

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

Congratulations to yesterday's winner Peta Cottrell from Link Health Care!

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