

9,062 meds enquiries

NPS MedicineWise fielded 9,062 completed medicines enquiries in the 2013-14 financial year.

The organisation released its seventeenth annual evaluation report, which said improvements in appropriate prescribing included a 10% relative decrease in prescribing of clopidogrel in the 2012-13 financial year, associated with a corresponding decrease in Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme expenditure of \$16.95m, NPS said.

Changes in GP prescribing practice were associated with a 4% reduction in prescriptions for antipsychotics in the elderly, associated with reduced expenditure of \$2.35m over the 2011-13 period, NPS said.

More than 21,700 health professionals participated in NPS programs during the year, including 3,533 pharmacists.

The NPS MedicineWise National Consumer survey 2014 of more than 1,500 people found 37% of participants reported they always, often or sometimes forgot to take medicines, 24% had taken less than instructed and 29% decided to miss out a dose.

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

PSA launches APF23

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has launched the 23rd edition of the Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and Handbook (APF23) with a number of new sections and two counselling guides.

New sections include biosimilar medicines, immunisation and screening, and risk assessment.

The two new counselling guides focus on common colds in children and threadworms.

The publication will be available in March but [CLICK HERE](#) to order.

Co-pay rise to hurt Indigenous

AN ADDITIONAL co-payment on pharmaceuticals would add to issues already faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accessing longer term care, the Senate Select Committee on Health has heard.

At a public hearing, Indigenous Allied Health Australia ceo Donna Murray agreed that out-of-pocket health costs were a significant impediment to health-seeking behaviours by Indigenous communities, on top of cultural safety barriers.

Murray said the proposals in the last budget, including the proposed \$5 co-payment increase on Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines for general patients (*PD* 14 May 14), were a further barrier to health services for Indigenous peoples.

Even were the community-controlled sector to absorb co-payment costs, this would affect what programs it could deliver to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Murray said.

She agreed the proposals would see a significant flow-on effect, "particularly with co-payments on diagnostics and pharmaceuticals".

Writing in *The Conversation*, health researchers said studies had suggested that, if implemented,

POC Hep C test call

HEPATITIS WA has called upon the federal government to pilot a rapid point of care (POC) test for hepatitis C, in its submission to the parliamentary inquiry into hepatitis C in Australia.

An accessible test would make people more inclined to take it, influencing behavioural choices and reducing transmission, it said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see submissions.

the PBS co-payment rise might lead to an increase in the rate of discontinuation of some medicines.

Due to be published in *Health Policy*, a study of 1,260 people who were taking statins in Australia, found those who did not have a concession card were about 60% more likely to stop taking medication, the article said.

Accelerated price disclosure had seen a fall in the price of statins, reducing out-of-pocket costs for general users, which was likely to improve adherence to medications.

When considering a policy that would increase drug costs, the government needed to consider more than just financial impact, such as changes in the number of hospitalisations, it said.

"Our results suggest that reducing the cost of statin medications may not only save taxpayers money, it may also save their lives."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Cancer drug PBAC call

BAYER Australia has called upon the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) to be more flexible in assessing the clinical benefits of oncology medicines by placing more value on clinical end points with progression free survival, the experience of clinicians and a greater emphasis on a patient's need for an innovative medicine.

The company statement was submitted to the parliamentary inquiry into the availability of new, innovative and specialist cancer drugs in Australia (*PD* 05 Dec 14).

Another concern for Bayer was the cost referencing to old therapies, the submission said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Guardian picks up satisfaction award

GUARDIAN Pharmacy has picked up the 2014 Roy Morgan Research Customer Satisfaction Award for Pharmacy for the third year in a row.

The awards collate 12 months of responses from the Consumer Single Source and Business Single Source surveys, which consisted of 50,000 interviews annually, with sample size varying per chemist but a cut off of 100 people who had visited the shop, Roy Morgan said.

The awards have been run for four years, with Amcal picking up the 2011 gong.

Sigma chief operating officer Gary Dunne said the company and its Guardian members had put "significant" effort into making sure health programs, products and services that consumers wanted were delivered.

\$3.1m Corum profit

PHARMACY software supplier Corum Group yesterday reported a 46.8% rise in half year profit, with an overall result of \$3.132m.

The strong result includes \$1.1m of "income tax benefit" arising from the recognition of deferred tax assets, with the operating profit before tax coming in at \$2.11m, 1% lower than for the previous corresponding period.

Overall, revenue was down 5.3% to \$9.514m, with the Corum Health Services division achieving sales revenues of \$6.73m, down about 4%.

However the software segment recorded a \$1.461m profit contribution, up \$59,000.

The company recently announced that md and ceo Geoffrey Broomhead would leave the company as of 30 Jan (*PD* 02 Feb).

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

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Pharmacy DAILY

Thursday 19 Feb 2015

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Inappropriate advice

A **MINORITY** of pharmacy staff provided appropriate advice for self medication in developing countries, according to a meta-analysis of 28 studies, published in *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy*.

The Australian analysis of the data involved MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL Plus, Web of Science and International Pharmaceutical Abstracts, finding that a minority provided appropriate advice in 83% of the scenarios performed, the authors said.

CLICK HERE to access the paper's abstract.

Mayne Retail Entitlement Offer

MAYNE Pharma Group has announced a retail entitlement offer for retail shareholders at the issue price of \$0.61 per new share, in order to raise about \$45m.

This follows the company's announcement that it bought the Doryx brand in the US for about US\$50m (**PD** 10 Feb).

CLICK HERE to read more.

NSAIDs in Alzheimer's

PRELIMINARY evidence suggests no statistically significant beneficial effect of NSAIDs on cognition or overall Alzheimer's Disease (AD) severity, according to a new meta-analysis of seven studies involving the use of diclofenac, nimesulide, naproxen, rofecoxib, ibuprofen, indomethacin, tarenflurbil and celecoxib.

MEDLINE, Web of Science, Science Direct, and the Cochrane Library were used to search all the randomized controlled trials up to 01 Oct 14 that evaluated the efficacy of NSAIDs as a treatment for AD, the study said.

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

PSA15 registration

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced that registrations for PSA15, with the theme 'Leading Pharmacy Innovation', are now open.

PSA national president Grant Kardachi said the pharmacy conference market was becoming crowded and in response to feedback (**PD** 05 Sep 14), the organisation had developed a formula combining PAC and CPEXpo concepts into the one offering, held at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth from 31 Jul to 02 Aug.

CLICK HERE for earlybird offers.

Pseudoephedrine supply judgement

THE Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal has found pharmacist Brian McAllan guilty of providing pseudoephedrine without recording sales in Project STOP and under other circumstances contrary to the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia had referred the disciplinary proceedings to the Tribunal

CLICK HERE for more.

DISPENSARY CORNER

NEGATIVE reviews killed my mother!

We're hoping none of our readers have received negative reviews for their pharmacy, but apparently, it could just be that the reviewers have deep-seated issues.

A study out of Stanford University, looking at more than one million one-star reviews online from 2011 to 2013, found the language was comparable to that used by people in moments of trauma, the *Telegraph* reported.

A sample of one-star reviews provided by the publication involved language such as "a truly horrible hotel in every possible way" and "My girlfriend [and I] were having a romantic meal, however it was spoilt when an employee spat in my hair."

SHEEPISH WiFi.

Considered routing your pharmacy WiFi through a sheep? We ask, because a team from Lancaster University is planning to turn sheep into mobile WiFi hotspots, *Orange News* reports.

Apparently, the group plan to fit the animals with collars to track their movements, and affix sensors to river banks in order to measure erosion.

However, the electronics could also be used as emergency WiFi spots for lost hikers.

SELFIE sticks are ka pai.

Are you cool with customers using selfie sticks inside your pharmacy?

Stand tall alongside Te Papa museum then, which said it would not follow some US museums in banning the sticks and indeed, encouraged people to take selfies in some situations, including in front of a statue of Azog from the *Hobbit*, *stuff.co.nz* reported.



Image courtesy of photostock at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

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Travel Specials

National ANZAC Centre Packages

BROOME & The Kimberley Holidays, together with Australia's South West and Tourism WA, has released travel packages to visit the newly opened National Anzac Centre in Albany, while also exploring the Great Southern region and other features of the South West.

Try the Albany Three Day Tastemaster from \$260 per person twin share or the South West WA Wine Trail with eight nights from \$1,219 per person twin share, including car hire.

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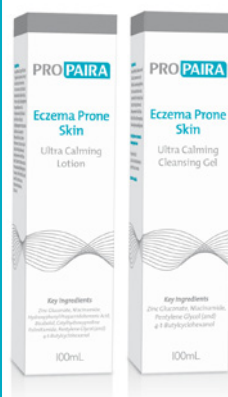
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CLICK HERE for more.

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 steroid free, with the key ingredients being niacinamide, ceramide, zinc gluconate and colloidal oatmeal.

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

What is the role of sodium hyaluronate in Propaira eczema products?

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

Congratulations to yesterday's winner Donna Delgado from Jardines Chemmart Pharmacy!

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