

Guild aims to slash Sunday rate

THE Pharmacy Guild has proposed cutting the rates on a Sunday from 200% for all hours worked to 150% of the minimum hourly rate for hours worked between 7am and 9pm.

In its draft determination submitted to the Fair Work Commission for its four yearly Industry Award review, first reported by *Pharmacy News*, the Guild also proposed dropping the rate on public holidays from 250% to 200% for fulltime and part-time employees.

The determination proposes bringing rates down for casuals working on a Saturday, and lists an economics expert witness who will provide evidence on subjects including the effect of penalty rates on staffing and employee preferences for hours of work.

CLICK HERE to read more.

PSA close to MoU with AMA

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is close to signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a number of issues with the Australian Medical Association (AMA), a spokesperson told *Pharmacy Daily*.

However, the model of pharmacists working within general practice clinics on activities such as medication management reviews (*PD* 23 Jul 14) was still receiving input and was not a "cookie cutter" concept, the spokesperson said.

PSA NSW on cannabis, eRRCD

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) NSW branch has released its election manifesto, listing six proposals including a medical cannabis program and an Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs (eRRCD) system.

The proposal calls for a medicinal cannabis program with \$250,000 to be paid in setup costs to state pharmacies for compliance with storage and setup requirements, as well as credential training.

The PSA estimated this would cost \$495 per patient per year to provide a Quality Use of Medicines-oriented framework for delivery of medicinal cannabis, with pharmacist duties including patient counselling and surveillance of adverse reactions.

Branch director Steven Drew said NSW had been at the forefront with the announcement of medicinal cannabis clinical trials, and a program could come in advance of a Federal regulator (*PD* 16 Feb).

Medicinal cannabis would likely be Schedule Eight, branch president Dr Stephen Carter said.

The PSA also called for the introduction of Community Liaison Pharmacist roles, to aid in reducing medication misadventure and readmission, in public hospitals with an emergency department.

Such a pharmacist would work with the ward and/or discharge pharmacists, doctors and nurses to identify patients at high risk of medication misadventure.

Carter said such a role would require only Home Medicine Review (HMR) accreditation, as this was not a new idea, and would see an increase in targeted HMRs.

The PSA estimated this could save the health system up to \$12m over five years, with a 2.4% reduction in readmission rates in high risk patients.

NSW Health was working to implement the Federally funded eRRCD system (*PD* 17 Nov 14) and the PSA had "made clear" to the Minister that this needed to happen faster, Carter said.

The PSA called for an investment of \$96,000 over five years by the



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state government, with a \$25,000 contribution from the organisation, to implement an eRRCD training and familiarisation program.

Other proposals include a call for the government to amend regulations to allow pharmacist immunisers, and to embed pharmacists in community mental health teams.

A spokeswoman for the NSW Minister for Health said the proposals were under consideration.

The Shadow Minister did not respond to requests for comment.

GMiA hails Hospira's biosimilar infliximab

HOSPIRA'S biosimilar monoclonal antibody infliximab (Inflectra) has now been approved for more European markets, an announcement welcomed by the Generic Medicines Industry Association (GMiA).

As the first of its therapeutic class to be approved in Europe, the product was able to take advantage of the patent expiry of reference product Remicade from Johnson & Johnson, for rheumatoid arthritis and inflammatory bowel disease, GMiA ceo Belinda Wood said.

"And this is a great sign for Australian patients.

"As the Therapeutic Goods Administration looks to Europe for guidance on biosimilar regulation, we look forward to Australian patients soon being able to access biosimilar infliximab."

CLICK HERE for more.

Guild: DAA services could be expanded

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has said the NPS MedicineWise annual evaluation report showed there was a need for Dose Administration Aids (DAAs) services to be expanded.

The report found 37% of those surveyed always, often or sometimes forgot to take medicines (*PD* 19 Feb), with Guild national president George Tambassis saying medicine non-compliance could cause serious health problems.

DAAs were a "vital service" which most benefited those on a number of medicines for long term conditions who likely had unintentional non-adherence.

DAAs reduced costs, but such services needed to be "properly funded", the Guild said.

Executive director David Quilty recently said the Guild was pursuing a "transparent" funding regime for such services in the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement negotiations (*PD* 12 Feb).

QML acquisition investigated

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is urgently investigating the acquisition by Primary Health Care (QML Pathology) from Healthscope Limited of pathology assets.

The ACCC said its investigation would focus on the impact of the acquisition on competition in the supply of community pathology services in Queensland.

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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.

22 Feb-1 Mar: Pharmacy Study Tour; Deer Valley/Park City, USA, more info at www.medic.com.au/events

1 Mar: Apply First Aid; Hawthorn; see: www.guild.org.au

6-8 Mar: Annual Therapeutic Update; Terrigal; for more details visit: www.psa.org.au

7 Mar: Better Pharmacy Futures Forum; Terrigal; more details at: www.psa.org.au

7-8 Mar: Oncology - Foundation Seminar; Melbourne; see: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

10 Mar: Cardiovascular Update: Dyslipidemia; St Leonards; see: www.guild.org.au

12-15 Mar: Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual National Conference APP 2015, Gold Coast - see www.appconference.com

15 Mar: Bridging the Gap Workshop; St Leonards; more details at: www.psa.org.au

21-22 Mar: Mental Health First Aid; Parramatta; for more details visit: www.psa.org.au

28-29 Mar: Paediatric Seminar; Adelaide; see: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

31 Mar: Cardiovascular Update: Atrial Fibrillation and Anticoagulants; St Leonards; more at: www.guild.org.au

18-19 Apr: Victorian Pharmacy Conference; Monash University, Parkville; visit www.psa.org.au/conferences

Immunising pharmacists

CANADIAN community-based pharmacists have expressed a broad acceptance of an extension of their pharmacy responsibilities to include adult immunisation programs, according to a survey of 495 practitioners published in the *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy*.

The internet-based survey resulted in 88% of respondents agreeing they believed it would increase public access to vaccination, with 88% convinced the service would improve rates

and 74% thinking it would be acceptable to the public.

Key issues pharmacists identified as barriers to be solved included education, reimbursement, and negative interactions with other providers, the authors said, recommending professional development and certification as a prerequisite to implementation.

CLICK HERE to access the abstract.

Electronic hosp meds management systems

AN ELECTRONIC medication management system in an Australian hospital cardiology ward was found to be more effective and less expensive than paper-based prescribing in an NHMRC sponsored study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association* and first reported by *Pulse IT*.

The Australian authors saw a 71% drop in the rate of potential adverse drug events with a possible annual economic benefit for this ward of up to \$102,000.

CLICK HERE to see the study.

Zovirax supply update

GLAXOSMITHKLINE has announced that Zovirax Ophthalmic Ointment (aciclovir 3%) continues to be impacted by a global supply constraint and is unlikely to resume supply in Australia prior to September this year.

The shortage is caused by a quality issue which triggered the original recall in October last year (*PD* 04 Nov 14), when metal particles were found in three lots.

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

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

What is the role of grape seed extract in Propaira eczema products?

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Congratulations to yesterday's winner Sharyn McElean from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia!

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If you can also afford the antacids and cholesterol, go for it.

POST-POT appetite passion.

With moves to establish a medicinal cannabis program in NSW (**page one**), it may pay to investigate the munchies as some neuroscientists in the country, as well as in the US and Germany, did, at least enough to conduct an analysis.

Tamas Horvath, a Professor of Neurobiology at Yale told the *Sydney Morning Herald*, "Everyone knows that if you smoke dope after Thanksgiving dinner you will still go back and eat more - sometimes much more."

Everyone?

Apparently though, the hypothalamic pro-opiomelanocortin (POMC) neurons, which promote satiety, are affected.

To find out how, **CLICK HERE**.

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