



Vic vax 'missed opp'

THE Pharmacy Guild Victoria branch president Anthony Tassone said every month passing that does not legislate to allow pharmacist-administered vaccinations was a "significant opportunity missed".

Tassone said the Guild welcomed the state government's decision to reintroduce free vaccinations for whooping cough for parents of newborns and expectant parents, after a 58% increase in cases last year compared with 2013.

He told **PD** the Victorian branch was continuing to advocate for pharmacist-administered vaccinations.

In response to a query about allowing pharmacist-administered vaccinations in the state, the Victorian Department of Health told **PD** it was providing funding for 24 hour, seven days a week clinics, with registered nurses (**PD** 14 Jan).

New NPS members

NPS MedicineWise has appointed three new honorary members following a call for nominations.

Mary Hemming, Professor Gillian Shenfield and Associate Professor Andrea Mant were invited to become honorary members.

NPS MedicineWise board chair Dr Janette Randall said the three members had dedicated themselves over many years to the quality use of medicines in their chosen fields.

New labelling TGO backed

PHARMACY sector groups have backed a new Therapeutic Goods Order (TGO) for the labelling of medicines, which would see the names of active ingredients highlighted, a space for a dispensing label and warnings related to use by pregnant women.

The consultation on medicine labelling, which proposes a new TGO to address consumer safety risks posed by issues such as the active ingredient not always being easy to find and medicine names that looked and sounded alike, received 80 submissions.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) submission said it strongly supported a new TGO and recommended a two year transition period for pharmaceutical companies to ensure products complied, with the total cost of change per year over 10 years estimated to be \$3m.

The active ingredient should be placed first on labels, above the medicine name, the PSA said.

While supporting the new TGO, the Pharmacy Guild said the mandatory space for a dispensing label should also apply to containers, and that all primary packs and containers should be large enough to display this without obscuring other label requirements.

NPS MedicineWise said it agreed with the creation of a new TGO but said consumer testing of the

proposed changes would better inform decisions.

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia's submission supported a two year transition period and said rather than being an impost on business, informative, consumer-friendly labelling should be seen as an opportunity to differentiate a product in the market place.

The TGA said timeframes for implementation of the TGO, of first quarter 2015, had been deferred.

CLICK HERE for the submissions.

Call for 6CPA funding

PROFESSIONAL Pharmacists Australia (PPA) has called for an increase in Home Medicines Review (HMR) funding in the next Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA) to meet the current need and the expected cost increases.

Even if there was no change in numbers of HMRs claimed as of the end of the 2014 financial year, the absolute minimum allocation in the next CPA would need to be \$104m, calculated at 25,000 per quarter by four quarters by five years by \$208 each, PPA president Dr Geoff March wrote in a professional services update.

"There has been a 66% increase in HMRs claimed under 5CPA, so it would be reasonable to expect a similar increase in 6CPA."

This would see 42,000 HMRs claimed each quarter, leading to a minimum required allocation of \$175m, he said.

CLICK HERE for more information.

Onelink wins NSW distribution deal

EBOS Group Limited subsidiary Onelink has won the contract for warehousing and distribution of medical consumables for all public hospitals in NSW (**PD** Breaking News yesterday), which would see the company service more than 300 locations.

A new distribution centre would be built in West Sydney, and be up and running by late this year, ceo Patrick Davies said.

MSF calls on GSK, Pfizer to reduce vax \$

MÉDECINS Sans Frontières (MSF) is calling on GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Pfizer to reduce the cost of the pneumococcal vaccine to US\$5 per child for three doses in developing countries, and urging the Australian government to back this call.

This comes ahead of the Gavi vaccination donor conference on 27 Jan, where countries would be asked to donate a further \$7.5b for vaccines in poor countries over the next five years, MSF said.

More than one third of this would pay for the pneumococcal vaccine, which accounted for about 45% of the total cost to vaccinate a child in the poorest countries today, it said.

MSF Access Campaign director of policy and analysis Rohit Malpani said taxpayer money would go further to vaccinate more children if vaccines were cheaper.

Australia donated \$250m to Gavi over the past five years, MSF said.

MSF also released a new report which said it was now 68 times more expensive to vaccinate a child than it was in 2001.

A Pfizer spokesperson said the company participated in Gavi's Advance Market Commitment (AMC), with 60% of the world's poor children covered, providing pneumococcal conjugate vaccines at a price determined by the AMC Implementation Working Group which was a "more than 90% reduction" of the price per dose paid by some industrialised nations.

"Pfizer has also committed to providing Prevenar 13 until 2025 at a reduced price to countries who no longer qualify for Gavi-AMC support."

A GSK spokesperson said around 80% of its vaccines, including the pneumococcal vaccine, were provided to developing countries at a "substantial discount" to Western prices, with lowest prices offered to Gavi and UNICEF.

For Gavi-eligible countries, the pneumococcal vaccine was provided at a "deeply discounted" price, the spokesperson said.

Both companies said the vaccine was one of the most complex to manufacture.

CLICK HERE for the MSF report.

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Omega Pharma Australia** are giving readers the chance to win a great prize pack including a BALANCED Intimate Daily Wash, the latest addition to the Omega Pharma portfolio. Winners will also receive an Audiotclear Ear Cleansing Wash and a Silence Anti-snoring Spray.

Verona is a dermatologically & gynaecologically tested intimate wash range for everyday use. Its pH balanced formula is enriched with a blend of natural L-Lactic Acid and replenishing ingredients, helping to protect the natural microflora of a woman's intimate area, all day, every day, Omega Pharma says.

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

What is lactic acid?

Need a hint? verona.com.au



Congratulations to yesterday's winner **Kathrina Casella** from **Ayr Health Service!**



Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly 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



DISPENSARY CORNER

OF LEECHES, cocaine toothache drops, miracle elixirs and tonics. In days of yore, the pharmacist or apothecary was as likely to sell "love-drawing powder", gold-plated pills or opium-soaked tampons as herbs and minerals for health, the *Guardian* has reported, following a visit to the New Orleans Pharmacy Museum.

Tampons were apparently commonly used to deliver therapies such as opium or belladonna to relieve pain and relax the vagina, the author said.

The New Orleans Pharmacy Museum, which opened in 1950, celebrates the business of the first licensed pharmacist in the US, Louis J Dufilho Jr, who was educated at the College of Pharmacy in Paris and opened his own pharmacy in 1823 in a classic Creole-American townhouse.

Many therapies involved 25% (or higher) alcohol together with opiate, a museum spokesperson told the *Guardian*.

Let us know if you are aware of interesting displays in Australia of the early art and science of the apothecary.

LORD of the Dance.

Should a man start a dance party in your pharmacy, you may be witnessing the work of Australian social artist Peter Sharp, who started a dance party in a department store recently, in a bid to make people "buy less and live more", the Telegraph reported.

Sharp has form - last year he started a dance party on a Perth train, the YouTube video of which has racked up more than 1.7m views.

That's one way to encourage healthy life styles!

CLICK HERE to view the video (and dance along).

The eyes have it with Optrex ActiMist

Optrex ActiMist, from Reckitt Benckiser, is the UK's top selling eye care treatment brand delivering artificial tears. It is a quick and easy way of treating dry, sore and irritated eyes, the company has said. Optrex ActiMist suits people who don't like using eye drops because it's sprayed onto the closed eyelid. In addition, Optrex ActiMist is promoted as safe to use with contact lenses and over eye make-up.

Stockist: 1800 226 766

RRP: \$19.99

Website: www.rbhealthhub.com.au



Bronze Booster Glow-Boosting Season-to-Season Bronzer



Physicians Formula Bronze Booster Glow-Boosting Season-to-Season Bronzer is a multi-coloured bronzer that features four bronzing tones to create a customised bronze glow on the skin. The formula features kapi kachchu seeds and polysaccharides to moisturise, ceratonia siliqua to enhance a bronze glow and bronzing micro-pearls to deliver a flawless, luminous finish. The compact contains a second compartment to store a bronzer brush designed to apply one shade or blend all four shades together.

Stockist: 03 9509 4511

RRP: \$29.95

Website: www.physiciansformula.com

Sharon Lee Glam Glosses

Sharon Lee Glam Glosses, teasingly named Tramp, Trash and Trouble, are lemon-scented. These yellow-based shades suit every complexion and have a rich, creamy texture with real staying power. The genuine Swarovski crystal encrusted cap contains a wind-up super soft lip liner matched perfectly to the gloss, ensuring you're ready to go at a moment's notice. A matte grip handle and a fine flat brush ensure a precise application every time.

Stockist: 1300 769 011

RRP: \$29.00

Website: www.sharonleeinc.com



Fusion ProGlide Styler by Gillette

Gillette Fusion ProGlide Styler is a three-in-one styling tool designed to help trim facial hair evenly, shave closely and edge accurately. The tool features Fusion ProGlide Blade technology, a Braun-Engineered Power Trimmer that can be set to three custom lengths, a Precision Edging Blade and a compact handle with ergonomic grips for maximum control. Every man can be perfectly groomed with the Gillette Fusion ProGlide styling system in bold black and blue livery.

Stockist: 02 8864 5000

RRP: \$29.95

Website: www.gillettefusion.com.au

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