

'Doc around the clock'

IN A JOINT venture between Telstra Health and Swiss telemedicine provider Medgate, a new 'ReadyCare' 24-hour seven-day GP telemedicine service has gone live from a purpose-built facility in Sydney's Alexandria.

As well as eventually targeting consumers, the business has signed a major corporate contract with travel insurance firm Cover-More, which insures 1.8 million travellers and handles 35,000 medical episodes annually.

ReadyCare has employed registered Australian GPs for the service, with a key differentiator being that they will be able to write prescriptions and have them faxed to a patient's nearest pharmacy for dispensing.

Telstra Health is also a major shareholder in pharmacy software group FRED IT.

MA pushes transparency

MEDICINES Australia (MA) has launched an awareness campaign to ensure healthcare professionals are aware of and understand the effects of new transparency enhancements contained in the updated 18th Edition Code of Conduct.

The new arrangements come into play 01 Oct forcing all exchanges of value to healthcare professionals from industry to be disclosed online and made available to the public.

Educational material explaining the rules will be provided to healthcare professionals' member organisations, colleges and other stakeholders.

MA ceo Tim James said, "Our members are proud of the work that we do to ensure that the public can continue to have confidence in our local medicines industry.

"Transparency is a key component of the bond of trust with the Australian public.

"A strong working relationship and the ongoing exchange of knowledge between the medicine makers and healthcare professionals are critical to better patient outcomes," James added.

He said expert advice from

FDA ticks Orkambi

ORKAMBI (lumacaftor 200 mg with ivacaftor 125 mg), for cystic fibrosis has now been approved for marketing by the US Food and Drug Administration.

The combination product is directed at treating the cause of the disease in people who have two copies of a specific mutation, and received orphan status in Australia from the Therapeutic Goods Administration on 22 Sep last year.

July Pharmacist

THIS month's *Australian Pharmacist* includes an update on bullying in the workplace, reflecting new measures due to changes in the Fair Work Act which came into effect last year.

The publication also includes an article on climate change challenges to health - see selected excerpts by [CLICKING HERE](#).

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Four PD pages today

TODAY'S issue of *Pharmacy Daily* has two pages of news plus two full page additions.

Pharmacy Solutions Australia is highlighting its services buying and selling pharmacies on **page three**.

And **API** is reminding pharmacies to order 2016 calendars on **page 4**.

Deprescribing pilot

ELDERLY patients attending a multidisciplinary out-patient clinic designed to improve transitions of care and decrease re-admission risk, had a significant reduction in medication count and tablet load reports a pilot study called *Targeting Hospitalization Risks in Vulnerable Elders* (THRIVE).

Reconciliation of medicines for 17 patients was performed by a clinical pharmacist and a physician.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the abstract.

WHO Diazepam alert

THE US Food and Drug Administration has warned consumers purchasing Diazepam online that there is a potential the drugs may be counterfeit.

The alert follows an update from the World Health Organization which has reported 700 adverse events from patients in Central Africa taking "mislabelled Diazepam" which was actually the anti-psychotic drug Haloperidol.

The affected patients suffered acute facial muscle contractions, with the FDA saying the counterfeit tablets are light yellow, scored across the centre on one side with the letters AGOG on the other side.

PHARMAC widens vax

NZ'S PHARMAC has broadened access to some vaccines: influenza, diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis, hep B, pneumococcal, papillomavirus and measles/mumps/rubella.

Earlybird extended

CPD Conferencing has extended their Earlybird Registration offer to the end of July, offering specially negotiated rates for conference delegates at its upcoming events in Borneo (Sep) and Utah (Jan).

Prices start at \$2,140 for a seven night package for two at the new year's conference which takes place 03-10 Jan at Canyons/Park City, the biggest ski resort in the USA.

For info contact Ben or Lorraine on 02 9233 6466 or see the website www.cpdconferencing.com.au.

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Guild Update

6CPA transition underway

WITH the commencement of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement, pharmacies are undergoing a gradual transition in arrangements, some of which come into place immediately while others are scheduled to take effect over the first year.

Importantly, the optional discount of up to \$1 off the patient PBS co-payment has been legislated by the Federal Government to take effect from 1 January 2016. It cannot by law be applied before that date.

Confirmation of this starting date is available on page eight of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

It says: "From 1 January 2016, approved pharmacists may (but are not obliged to) discount the PBS patient co-payment by a maximum of \$1 per PBS supply."

Parkinson's on rise

THE Parkinson's Disease (PD) market across eight major countries is estimated to reach US\$4.7b by 2022 according to global research and consulting firm GlobalData in a report just released.

The eight countries involved in the study were US, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the UK, Japan and Brazil with analysts saying the growth would be driven by both an aging population and increasing disease prevalence.

Most promising PD treatment products are Newron's Xadago and Impax's Rytary for early and advanced patients, and Acorda's CVT-301 for advanced patients, the report said.

CLICK HERE to access the report.

Assistants break records

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has cited a strong response to the 2015 Pharmacy Assistant of the Year awards, with more than 450 pharmacy assistants nominated.

In response to the nominations a whopping 260 assistants entered the award, up 25% year on year, with each submitting an entry detailing their experiences and showcasing their knowledge.

Guild national president George Tambassis said he's thrilled to see pharmacy assistants recognised.

"Pharmacy assistants are the frontline of community pharmacy and the contribution they make to each store is vital," he said.

"It's wonderful to see the encouragement these pharmacy assistants have received from their employers, colleagues and the wider pharmacy industry, to keep up the good work."

Hospital pharmacists' views on med safety

EFFORTS to improve medication safety incident reporting by hospital pharmacists should focus on their behavioural and control beliefs about the reporting process according to a study on the subject published in the *International Journal for Quality in Health Care*.

The authors, based in UK's Manchester Pharmacy School, said that focusing on the process, not the people, would instil greater confidence about the benefits of reporting and not harming professional relationships with doctors, provide greater clarity about what/not to report and ensure a simpler reporting system.

270 hospital pharmacists (response rate = 45%) from 21 general and teaching hospitals in the North West of England were surveyed around their attitudes, intentions and the ease or difficulty of the process of reporting.

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

The process, which is sponsored by GuildSuper, sees finalists selected in each State who will be invited to a Workshop Training Day in their respective capital cities.

From there, a state winner will be chosen who will represent their state or territory in the National Finals held at the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference which will take place on the Gold Coast in Oct this year.

The overall winner will take home more than \$10,000 in cash and prizes, including a Guild Training course of their choice.

PBAC summary docs

THE Public Summary Documents from the March 2015 meeting of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee have been released, detailing 39 product presentations - **CLICK HERE**.

There's also a new document on Type 2 Diabetes from the PBS Drug Utilisation Sub Committee (DUSC) which summarises analysis of de-identified data from DUSC and the Medicare records, looking at the use of first, second and third line drugs to manage the condition.

See www.pbs.gov.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

AN APPLE a day keeps The Pharmacy in play...

We're not actually sure of the pharmaceutical link, but a new radio show on the new Apple Music streaming service is titled "The Pharmacy".

Hosted by former rapper Dr Dre, The Pharmacy focuses on "West Coast Jams" according to Apple, with the inaugural session in the dispensary dedicated to another rap producer, the late J. Dilla who died of lupus in 2006.

Dr Dre said he had decided on the pharmacy-based title because "what I need right now is just a dose of Dilla".

SCIENTISTS working in Africa on sleeping sickness are feeling blue - and that's a good thing.

They have found that the tsetse fly which spreads the disease have an affinity for the colour blue.

35,000 blue "targets" have been erected near swamps and rivers in Uganda with the aim of attracting the insects - but when they land on them black netting is attached which covers them in insecticide - reducing populations by 90%.

WIN with Hydralyte

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Hydralyte are giving away a Hydralyte pack each day.

FACT: Dehydration is the biggest health risk associated with vomiting and diarrhoea.

FACT: Vomiting and diarrhoea will often reach its peak in late winter/early spring.

Be prepared this gastro season and always keep Hydralyte on hand with Ice blocks in the freezer, pre-mixed drinks in the fridge or the convenient effervescent tablets and powders in the first-aid cupboard. Visit www.hydralyte.com.au for more information. Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist consult your healthcare professional.

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

What are the most common symptoms of dehydration?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Dee Watson from Complementary Medicines Australia.



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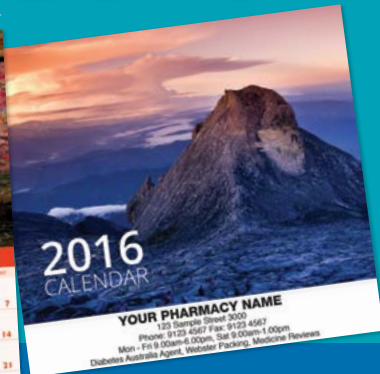
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