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Amneal joins GMiA

THE Generic Medicines Industry Association has welcomed its newest member, Amneal Pharmaceuticals.

GMiA chairman Mark Crotty said the expansion of membership "recognises the prominent role of the GMiA and its strength in representing its members with government".

Amneal md Gavin Uptier said the company has introduced a progressive offering for customers since its launch last Aug.

"Joining GMiA is part of Amneal's plan for growth and complements our business philosophy," he said.

Crotty said GMiA looks forward to welcoming further new members in the coming months.

Another kids' recall

APOTEX Pty Ltd has announced the immediate recall of batch IA500453 of Terry White Chemists Ibuprofen Children's Suspension.

The recall of the 200mL bottles containing 20mg/mL oral liquid with expiry date 06/2017 is due to a risk of the threading on the bottle neck breaking off when opening, resulting in a potential choking hazard for young children.

The impacted batch was supplied with Symbion Pty Ltd as sponsor on the labelling.

The Terry White recall follows similar action taken earlier in the week (**PD** 06 Jul) in which Symbion undertook a consumer-level recall of batches of Chemmart and Pharmacy Choice Ibuprofen Children's Suspension and Chemmart Children's Paracetamol.

Pharmacy proves cheaper

PHARMACIES have proven to be less expensive than supermarkets in a comparison of a number of common OTC medicine categories.

The survey undertaken by consumer group CHOICE looked at painkillers (ibuprofen, aspirin and paracetamol); sinus medications (phenylephrine); cough, cold and flu; hayfever (Claratyne, Zyrtec and Telfast); products for heartburn or reflux (Mylanta, Zantac); diarrhoea (imodium); and low-dose aspirin.

CHOICE said in general pharmacies "equalled or beat supermarkets on price when comparing brand for brand."

"With larger pack sizes available in pharmacies, the price per dose was even cheaper," the report said.

Larger discount-style pharmacies and online pharmacies "tended to be cheaper than smaller pharmacies," but for people not

Hand sanitiser risks

HYGIENE with alcohol-based hand sanitiser, while a valuable tool in the fight against spreading disease, has also proven to be a serious risk in the case of a three-year-old child left alone to play with the product, reports the *MJA* in a case report.

Upon admission to hospital the child was found to have acute ethanol toxicity with five times the legal level of alcohol for drivers.

She had developed depressed mental status and hypotension but after treatment was discharged within 24 hours.

CLICK HERE to read the report.

bothered about spending a little more "supermarkets offer the convenience of one-stop shopping and often extended hours".

Moreover pharmacies were found to often sell cheaper brands (generics) than the name brands sold in supermarkets, offering greater savings.

Generic ibuprofen was found to be cheaper in supermarkets.

Pharmacies were also superior in availability of more effective active ingredients, stronger doses and a broader range of medicines for many conditions.

Interestingly, while the CHOICE survey didn't look at customer service issues, the authors noted that "in the pharmacies we went to we were often offered assistance, usually by more than one person".

The Pharmacy Guild welcomed the CHOICE report, with executive director David Quilty saying it "exposes the ideologically-driven claims that community pharmacy is not competitive."

"The take-out from this report is clear - community pharmacies are an altogether better option than supermarkets when it comes to purchasing open-seller, over-the-counter medicines," he said.

Quilty said it was clear from the CHOICE survey that consumers can put their health care first, without being out of pocket, by making their local pharmacy their "first and preferred port of call for all their medicine needs".

Ivabradine advisory

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has completed a safety review of Coralan (ivabradine) and as a result the Product Information has been updated to reduce the risk of cardiovascular events in patients taking the medicine for angina.

Coralan is a heart rate lowering agent, and the changes to the PI state that patients taking it for angina must have a resting heart rate above 70 beats per minute (was 60bpm) before treatment.

Also, ivabradine should not be taken in combination with verapamil or diltiazem, while an existing warning about a possible interaction with grapefruit juice has been strengthened.

'Quit' project success

PHARMACIES involved in a new pharmacist-led smoking cessation program have told the Pharmacy Guild the initiative is helping staff engage their patients to help quit or cut-back their smoking habit.

Launched in April with a Healthy Canberra Grant and conducted by the Pharmacy Guild ACT Branch, the \$138,000 Community Pharmacy Smoking Cessation Counselling Services Project aims to support those looking to quit for good.

So far 45 pharmacies have engaged, with face-to-face training workshops for staff on how to counsel customers to quit smoking, access to Smokerlyzers and various other quit-smoking resources.



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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.

- 10-12 Jul:** Clinical Pharmacy Practice Seminar (foundation); Mercure Hotel, Sydney; details at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 14 Jul:** Making the most of your aged care services; St Leonards; details at: www.guild.org.au
- 17 Jul:** Effective Workplace Relationships workshop; AIM Brisbane; more info at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 31 Jul-2 Aug:** PSA15; Sofitel Sydney Wentworth; visit: www.psa.org.au/psa15
- 7-8 Aug:** Critical Care Seminar (advanced); Rydges Sydney Central; further details at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 15-16 Aug:** Medication Review Skills in Primary Care; Novotel Brisbane; more info at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 15-19 Aug:** Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2015; more details at: www.medici.com.au/event/pharmacy-snow-business
- 20-21 Aug:** Pharmacy WA Forum; Pan Pacific Perth: www.pharmacywa.com.au
- 4-5 Sep:** The Friendlies' Conference - 2015; Stamford Grand, Glenelg; more info at: pharmacyconference.com.au
- 3-10 Jan 2016:** Education Vacation, Canyons/Park City USA more info from www.cpdconferencing.com.au

WA pharmacy vax success

WESTERN Australian pharmacy group Friendlies Pharmacies says it has just completed a highly successful 2015 influenza vaccination program, with strong customer satisfaction and a lack of adverse events showing that pharmacies can "safely provide vaccination services and in the process increase the uptake of vaccinations in the community".

The Friendlies group implemented a robust program once the WA Health Department paved the way for pharmacist vaccinations (PD 18 Dec 14), with comprehensive training for all pharmacists and store staff, appropriate consulting rooms, in-store collateral and an on-line booking system.

Friendlies also enlisted the support of health fund HBF, with

an extensive consumer awareness campaign to ensure the public were informed of the benefits of getting the 2015 vaccination.

HBF also "quickly moved to allow payment of a benefit under many of their policies," according to Friendlies operations manager, Daniel Walsh.

Thirteen Friendlies outlets completed over 10,000 vaccinations between Apr and Jun, with the program exceeding all expectations.

An in-depth post event consumer survey showed the program had attracted many new customers, with a satisfaction rate of over 94%.

Walking with Children's Ground

BIOREVIVE has become an official partner of 'Children's Ground', which provides tailored support programs to Aboriginal families so they can raise resilient, happy children.

A \$20,000 donation coincides with NAIDOC Week, with a Biorevive spokesperson saying the organisation's philosophy is "simple yet underpinned with so much love:" 'hold my hand so we can walk this path together'.

TGA: Bushen illegal

BUSHEN Famous Men capsules have been examined by the Therapeutic Goods Administration and been found to contain the undeclared substance sildenafil, making them illegal to supply in Australia.

The product poses a serious risk to health, the TGA said.

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 **VIC** or **TAS** to send the correct answer to the following question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

True or false: in a case of vomiting and diarrhoea and adult should consume 200mL of Hydralyte every 30 minutes.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Sandra White from Iron Pharmacy Group.



DISPENSARY CORNER

ROCKHAMPTON Zoo in Queensland is taking practical action in response to the world's burgeoning obesity crisis.

At issue is the growing weight of some of the wombats at the zoo, who zoologists say have adapted with alacrity to a new exercise regime.

The program, which sees the marsupials leashed and taken on walks like dogs, started as a way for a 20-year-old southern hairy nosed wombat named Donna to shed some kilos.

But the regimen has now expanded to the stage where six of the zoo's wombats have "adapted to daily harness walks".

The walks were introduced because other measures just didn't work for Donna (**pictured**).

"She's quite a lazy wombat," said team leader Yvette Fenning who is reportedly close to completing a master's degree in wombat husbandry.

"We tried putting her food bowl at the other end of her den, but decided we needed to be more proactive," she said.

However in a clear case of "don't try this at home," she warned against confusing the "calm and tolerant" southern hairy nosed wombats with their "common wombat" cousins.

While the hairy-nosed wombats are social creatures, "the common is solitary and tends to be territorial and aggressive.

"We've got one common wombat...we did try to walk him on a harness once," Fenning said.

"it ended up with four of us running for our lives," she added.

