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Vic chemo initiation

THE Department of Health and Human Services in Victoria has published the *Guidelines for timely initiation of chemotherapy*, intended to help health services in timely commencement of chemotherapy to optimise patient outcomes, improve experience of care, as well as improve the consistency, performance and efficiency of health services in delivering chemotherapy services.

Several Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia members were involved in developing the guidelines, which SHPA has endorsed.

CLICK HERE to access the guidelines.

Are you freezing?

EARLYBIRD registration for the Canyons Ski/CPD Conference in January and Borneo CPD conference in September closes 31 Jul.

Orangutans like Henry (pictured) look forward to entertaining you in the warmth of the pharmacy conference in Kota Kinabalu, Borneo.



Visit cpdconferencing.com.au or contact Lorraine on 02 9233 6466.

Woolworths for HERO

AUSTRALIAN condom brand HERO has secured national distribution via Woolworths.

HERO also distributes through several pharmacy groups and other supermarket groups.

The company has a 'one for one' mission which sees one condom donated to a developing country for every HERO condom sold in Australia.

Another pharmacy IT deal

PHARMACY Alliance has announced a new IT partnership deal with Z Software, which will see an integrated front and back of shop solution provided to the group's 504 members.

The news comes hot on the heels of the announcement of the Fred NXT rollout across the Advantage Pharmacy network (**PD** yesterday).

Pharmacy Alliance ceo Darren Dye said the Z Software system would also allow the Pharmacy Alliance Member Support Office in Melbourne to better support the group's members.

"I am extremely excited that we can provide our 504 members with a best-in-class, simple dispensing solution, with advanced patient management that is fully integrated into a POS system that incorporates advanced reporting and analytics," Dye said.

He said Pharmacy Alliance had selected Z Software following a rigorous Request for Proposal process under which existing and relatively new pharmacy sector

software vendors were invited to participate.

The implementation and rollout plan for the new solution will be presented at Pharmacy Alliance member meetings to be held nationwide next month.

Z Software director Nam Pham said the company was "confident that we will be able to deliver a solution to Pharmacy Alliance members that not only meets pharmacy business requirements today, but will also be responsive to future requirements as well."

"We have also worked with Pharmacy Alliance to structure a fee that will deliver significant cost savings compared to current software fees," he said.

RA, OA comorbidities

THREE quarters of people with some form of arthritis (rheumatoid, RA or osteo OA) are also affected by at least one other chronic condition according to a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

Of the 3.3 million Australians, that is one in seven, reporting with an arthritis in 2011-12, 2.4 million (72.7%) also have another chronic condition.

Cardiovascular disease was the most common comorbidity, occurring in 44% of people with arthritis, followed by back problems (29%), mental health issues (23%), asthma (14%) and diabetes (13%).

AIHW also identified other interesting relationships: people with arthritis were more likely to be current smokers (23% compared with 16% without arthritis), physically inactive (21% compared with 18%) and obese (32% compared with 22%).

CLICK HERE to access the report.

ASMI Diamond Award

The Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) has announced that entries are now open for the 2015 ASMI Diamond Awards for marketing and sales excellence.

ASMI marketing and business development director Filomena Maiese said the Awards, which are open to all ASMI members, honour manufacturers and suppliers who excel in consumer healthcare marketing and sales.

"The Marketing Awards recognise Quality Use of Medicines (QUM), innovation and marketing best practice," she said.

"They recognise and reward companies for innovative and leading-edge creative work."

"The ASMI Diamond Awards for marketing excellence offer entrants the opportunity to highlight their creativity and effectiveness by showcasing innovative aspects of their brand campaigns such as the campaign challenge, strategy, execution, health literacy focus and outcomes."

Entries close 28 Aug.

CLICK HERE for details.

Checking prostate takes balls (peeballs)

THE AFL Coaches' Association in conjunction with Chemist Warehouse has launched a new Men's Health Week initiative focussing on men's health issues in the AFL industry and in the broader community, with a light-hearted approach to prostate checking.

AFLCA ceo Mark Brayshaw said at the launch that men's health issues continue to be a priority.

The Pee Ball, sold with proceeds to Prostate Cancer Research, is a tool which men can use to assess their prostate patency by seeing how quickly their flow can break it up in the urinal.



IF YOUR CUSTOMERS ARE TAKING A COURSE OF ANTIBIOTICS

a probiotic such as Inner Health Plus may assist in maintaining the balance of good bacteria.

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Always read the label. Use only as directed.

NPS targets UTIs and antibiotics

NPS MedicineWise and WebsterCare have developed a new report in the WebsterCare Medication Management Software highlighting the use of antibiotics for urinary tract infections in each residential aged care facility supplied by a pharmacy.

The new report aims to support appropriate prescribing, help prevent antimicrobial resistance and allow improvements to patient care, NPS said.

It's part of an initiative targeting antibiotic resistance in connection with UTIs in aged care facilities, with NPS MedicineWise also

releasing new activities on the topic which pharmacists can complete to achieve CPD points.

The free Medicines Use Review highlights best practice standards and guidelines to help pharmacists working in residential aged care facilities to "review, reflect and improve UTI management and help prevent antibiotic resistance".

Phase 1 is accredited for 16 Group 2 CPD credits, while Phase 2 offers a further 8 credits and pharmacists may self-record for 12 Group 3 CPD credits.

Other resources and professional development activities include a "blood pressure interactive challenge" and a range of Pharmacy Practice Reviews.

It's all detailed in the Jul 2015 NPS Pharmacist Update - for details see www.nps.org.au.

Online advice dodgy

GOOGLING or otherwise seeking advice online for your medical symptoms interpretation is dodgy with wide variations in accuracy of diagnosis and triage, according to Harvard Medical School researchers.

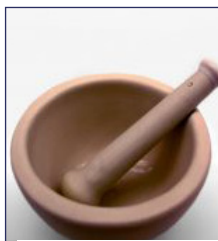
Medical scientists tested 23 online "symptom checkers" - run by brand names such as the Mayo Clinic, the American Academy of Pediatrics and WebMD, as well as lesser-knowns such as Symptomate and found that "as a whole they were astonishingly inaccurate."

Symptom checkers provided the correct diagnosis first in only 34% of cases, and within the first three diagnoses only 51% of the time, the researchers said.

PHARMAC feedback

PHARMAC is seeking feedback on a proposal relating to the funding of the TNF-inhibitor medicines adalimumab (Humira) and etanercept (Enbrel), both used to treat people with various autoimmune and immune-mediated conditions, and gabapentin (Neurontin), used to treat epilepsy & neuropathic pain.

The proposal is designed to create savings of more than \$20 million over 5 years, PHARMAC said.



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Blooms disability support



BLOOMS The Chemist yesterday launched a major new partnership with House With No Steps, with the organisations joining forces to boost support for people living with a disability along with their families and carers.

Blooms The Chemist gm of operations, Jason Blanchard, said the "mutually beneficial community-focused partnership will enhance the overall health, wellbeing and quality of life of Australians living with a disability".

Under the alliance Blooms The Chemist will be the "First Call Pharmacy Professionals" for members of the community living with a disability requiring pharmacy services and support on an ongoing basis, Blanchard said.

Pharmacists and staff in all 87 Blooms The Chemist outlets will offer dedicated service as well as a range of in-store HealthChecks such as sleep apnoea, cholesterol, blood pressure and stroke risk

assessments & diabetes monitoring.

They will also offer free Dose Administration Aids and delivery of medications where possible.

House With No Steps md Andrew Richardson said the partnership would help the organisation strengthen its support for several thousand people across NSW, Qld and the ACT.

"It's about thinking differently and stepping outside our traditional comfort zone, to the benefit of those whom we support," he said.

20% of Australians identify as having some sort of disability, and a significant proportion of those require ongoing access to medicines.

Pictured above celebrating the partnership are, back row from left: Jason Blanchard, Blooms; Richard Cabarita, House With No Steps; and Kurt Smith, Blooms.

Front row: House With No Steps ceo Lyn Ainsworth and Blooms The Chemist ceo Phil Smith.

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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted 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

Dreambaby new range of step stools with sure-grip surface

The new range of Dreambaby Step stools include the **Multi-Purpose Step Stool** and the **2 Up Step Stool**. They are just the solution you are looking for in your home to help young ones to reach up with confidence, be it at the bathroom sink at teeth brushing time (pictured) or at the kitchen bench as "Assistant Chef". The steps come in white with aqua sure-grip dots.

Stockist: 02 9386 4000

RRP: \$13.95 for 2 Up Step Stool, \$8.95 for multi-Purpose Stool

Website: www.dreambaby.com.au



SensationNail Gel Polish and Gel Polish Removal Tool

SensationNail **Gel Polish** is a gel nail polish that applies quickly, dries in 60 seconds and lasts for up to two weeks. The formula resists chipping, peeling and fading and is available in a variety of colours. SensationNail **Gel Polish Removal Tool** is a tool used to easily remove gel polish at home. Designed with an easy-to-hold handle and an angled tip, the tool smoothly lifts and gently pushes away gel polish.

Stockist: 1300 650 981

RRP: \$19.99 for Gel Polish, \$9.99 for Removal Tool

Website: www.sensationnail.com.au

Age Proof CoQ10 Eye Recovery Concentrate by Trilogy

Trilogy **Age Proof CoQ10 Eye Recovery Concentrate** produces energy at the cellular level to strengthen and revitalise skin cells, boosting collagen and elastin production. The Co-enzyme Q10 helps to decrease wrinkle depth, prevent, repair and even reverse free radical damage. Caffeine in the formula stimulates microcirculation helping to tone and tighten the skin, diminishing dark circles and decreasing puffiness so skin around the eyes is smoother and tighter. Horse chestnut is known to aid microcirculation and minimise dark circles and puffiness.

Stockist: 1800 651 146

RRP: \$36.95

Website: www.trilogyproducts.com



BB Cream SPF 20 from NP Set

NP Set **BB Cream SPF 20** is a multi-tasking beauty balm with beauty support, skin nourishment and skin protection from the harsh sun. The lightweight BB cream evens skin tone, adds a hint of colour, and works to nourish and protect the skin. It is ideal for low-maintenance coverage and the universal shade suits all skin types making it ideal for everyday application.

Stockist: 1300 721 699

RRP: \$29.00

Website: www.npsetcosmetics.com

DISPENSARY CORNER



DO you need 10,000 calories?

Well here it is, made to order but you'll probably have to wait in line due to its popularity.

The Farmers Arms public house is a quaint little country pub in a little known area of the country called Burscough, West Lancashire, UK, but according to *LADbible*, is presenting to the world the 10,000 calorie burger to beat all burgers and appetites.

Social media has apparently played a big hand in popularising to more than 2.5 million Facebookers the venue and its special fare, lovingly named "The Haystack" (pictured).

In case you desperately want to add a few inches to your waistline, but can't travel to Burscough, simply knock together a 40 oz beef burger, melted cheddar cheese, eight onion rings, eight rashers of bacon and a few extras such as fat-dripping chips.



PORTLY pugs, chubby chihuahuas and bulging bassets.

Now we know who is eating those burgers - it's British dogs.

About a quarter of the canines competing in Crufts, the world's largest dog show, are overweight.

Researchers from the University of Liverpool reported in the journal *Veterinary Record* that after studying 1,000 images of 28 dog breeds placed between first and fifth during competitions from 2001 to 2013, 74% were in ideal condition, but the rest were a little podgy - mostly pugs, Basset hounds and Labradors.