



guildcare programs

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Skills consultation

SERVICE Skills Australia is seeking input from pharmacy stakeholders on Community Pharmacy qualifications including the Certificate II, III and IV in Community Pharmacy; the Certificate IV in Community Pharmacy Dispensary and Units of Competency and associated Assessment Requirements.

The consultation is open until Fri 31 Jul, with the aim of ensuring that the nationally recognised qualifications are reflective of current and future workforce skills needs.

The qualifications can be reviewed at feedback.servicestills.com.au, with comments able to be provided to sue.bond@guild.org.au.

VPA Communiqué

THE Victorian Pharmacy Authority issued a communiqué yesterday detailing five Panel Hearings during Jun, in each of which proprietors received cautions over compliance with requirements for secure storage and record keeping in relation to Schedule 8 poisons.

Two of the licensees also had conditions imposed requiring quarterly submission of self-audits to the Authority.

The VPA also advised that email is now its primary mode of communication with pharmacists, who must notify the Authority when email addresses change.

Guild launches 2015-18 plan

THE Pharmacy Guild has released details of a new Corporate Plan which aims to provide "compelling member value and innovative business solutions to members".

A key target of the plan is to "secure the future of Guild member pharmacies, by making them less dependent on future community pharmacy agreements".

The plan, which lays out prospects for the next three years, has been built through a comprehensive process of consultation, according to Guild national president George Tambassis.

"Our Pharmacy Guild members are operating in an environment of transition as the 6th Community Pharmacy Agreement has commenced," Tambassis wrote in this week's *Forefront* update.

"Uppermost for many members are issues of financial viability and pharmacy business

transformation...as a result this Corporate Plan is firmly centred on providing compelling value to all members," he said.

Developed by a working group which incorporated feedback from Branch Committees, the plan is structured on goals of community pharmacy sustainability, business support and innovation.

"We will achieve this not only through the Guild itself, but through our Guild family companies who are working to provide innovative and practical solutions not only for member pharmacies, but also for their employees."

Elements include provision of high quality workplace relations support, increasing the uptake of e-health platforms, and promoting excellence in community pharmacy management and practice.

To view the plan **CLICK HERE**.

Self-care innovation

INNOVATING to a Self Care

Future is the theme of the Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) annual conference this year and the ASMI Diamond Awards Dinner follow the conference.

ASMI Marketing and business development director, Filomena Maiese, said ASMI's conference would put the spotlight on the key drivers of growth for consumer healthcare moving forward, namely delivering consumer healthcare innovation, healthcare regulatory reform, prescription-to-OTC switch, advances in evidence-based complementary medicines and how 'Big Data' is being used to better understand and meet the needs of the health consumer.

"International speakers will look at global trends and drivers in consumer healthcare; cutting-edge innovations in the industry; the changing complementary medicines sector, and prescription-to-OTC switch as an exciting growth driver for consumer healthcare," she added.

MHRA waves flag

THE UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is claiming to be at the "forefront of a global drive to improve public health", going "further and deeper in leading the international community to implement reforms" according to its own 'Triennial Review' of itself.

The Review links into MHRA's business plan including progressing work on key EU negotiations and implementation relating to clinical trials, falsified medicines and medical devices as well as closer collaboration with the UK Department of Health and partners in the health and care system, working towards common goals.

In addition the MHRA's agenda is also driven by the need to further develop excellence in science, including developing the capabilities of the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC) to ensure it remains a global leader in standardisation and control of biological medicines as well as improving and enhancing incident and safety reporting systems, principally the Yellow Card Scheme (*PD* 16 Jul).

CLICK HERE to access the report.

NPS Primary pact

NPS MedicineWise has launched a new partnership with national medical centre operator Primary Health Care, under which NPS will support the continuing professional development of the company's health professionals.

Primary Health Care operates a total of 71 medical centres across the country with about 1300 GPs, specialists and allied health workers within its network - along with imaging clinics and pathology labs.

The new partnership enables face-to-face educational visits with NPS MedicineWise clinical services specialists, who will provide independent, evidence-based learning which focuses on quality use of medicines and medical tests.

Primary Health Care facilitates 7.5 million consultations with GPs every year - comprising around 7% of national GP care.

The partnership will commence with NPS MedicineWise's latest educational program, "Blood Pressure: Measure, Manage, Monitor".

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Sale ends 31 Jul 2015, unless sold out prior and pricing is based on B-Pay payment direct to qantas.com with travel dates from 12 Oct 15 to 10 Jun 16 with blackout dates applying.

Accreditation fees

THE Pharmacy Council of Australia has advised of changes to the fee structure for CPD accrediting organisations.

Effective 01 Jan 2016 the annual accreditation fee will increase by \$50 to \$3,000, while the initial fee to become an accrediting organisation will decline from \$15,000 to \$9,000.

A \$60 fee will apply to activities of up to one day (journal articles, online modules, half-day workshops) while multiple-day activities such as conferences and workshops will cost \$300.

PHARMAC Shire deal

NEW Zealand's Pharmaceutical Management Agency (PHARMAC) is seeking feedback on a proposal to list icanitab based on a provisional agreement with Shire Australia.

The proposal would result in icanitab solution for injection 30mg in 3ml being funded in the community under Special Authority criteria and in DHB hospitals subject to restrictions.

Calendar orders

TODAY'S Pharmacy Daily includes two pages of news plus a page reminding pharmacies to order their **2016 API Calendars**.

AMA urges respect

AMA president Brian Owler has told the National Press Club that "we need to get back to recognising and respecting everyone's roles within the health system".

Owler said the AMA has problems with the 6CPA in relation to the roles of pharmacists "and what they might be paid to do in the future," adding that the issue is if pharmacists "take a more active role in doing some of the roles where it is really the GP's role".

He said the AMA "supports pharmacists to be pharmacists," and cited the PSA-backed proposal for non-dispensing pharmacists to work in GP surgeries.

"We recognise that there's an important role for pharmacists to play and they need to be supported to actually provide medications for patients in a timely and safe and effective manner," Owler said.

PBS calendar deadline

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) website has posted a summary of deadlines for 2015 PBS monthly listing and pricing process, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee cycle timeframe for this year and suitable dates for sponsors to meet with the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Branch.

CLICK HERE to access.



DISPENSARY CORNER

RENT-A-CHICK egg supply.

With US egg prices soaring some 85% last month after an outbreak of bird flu led to the culling of millions of laying hens, a Pennsylvania couple running www.RentTheChicken.com have been busily hatching their plans.

Jenn and Phil Tompkins have been renting out their chickens since 2013 to around 200 customers in 12 US states as well as Ontario and Prince Edward Island in Canada.

For \$400, customers get two laying hens producing around 14 eggs per week for the four to six warmer months of the year, together with a chicken coop, a guide book and the option of buying the chickens at the end of the rental period.

Some municipalities have relaxed suburban farmyard animal restrictions in recognition of the changing egg environment.

SURGICAL patients are being urged not to over-react after a US study into the safety of robots in operating theatres found they had been linked to at least 144 deaths and over 1,000 injuries since 2000.

The US study, which pointed out that these incidents were only a small proportion of the total number of robotic procedures, looked at adverse events such as broken instruments falling into patients' bodies, system errors, spontaneous loss of power and even electrical sparks causing tissue burns.

"Despite widespread adoption of robotic systems for minimally invasive surgery, a non-negligible number of technical difficulties and complications are still being experienced during procedures," the authors wrote, suggesting one improvement would be to train doctors in how to troubleshoot technical issues more quickly.

Win with MOR

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and **MOR** are giving away an Essentials Reed Diffuser each day, valued at \$34.95.

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To win, be the first from **SA** or **NT** to answer the following question. Send your answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What is in the Body Polish that leaves skin soft and nourished?

Need a hint? **CLICK HERE**.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Ali Schimdt from Wanneroo Discount Drug Store.

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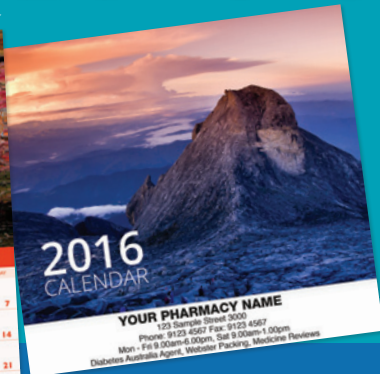
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