

Weekly Comment

Welcome to PD's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is

Adriana Tiziani from Monash University.



Pharmacy and wound management

THE pharmacy is often the 'first port of call' and as such, a community pharmacist will often be asked to advise on wounds such as burns and scalds, lacerations, abrasions, skin tears, bites and leg ulcers. These are the most common wounds that people present with and the challenges for the pharmacist include identifying what the wound is, deciding what product to use and knowing when to refer on to either the GP or emergency department.

Deciding what product to use is not only dependent on the pharmacist's assessment but also what is stocked in the pharmacy. While there are currently more than 200 dressing products available on the market, pharmacies generally stock a limited range including film or foam dressings, non-adherent products, hydrogels, tapes and bandages. It is important that the pharmacist familiarize themselves with the products available including recommended use, wear time, cost and any contraindications. Wound dressing products are often expensive so the pharmacist may need to think laterally about balancing cost and effectiveness of the product. Furthermore, it is important to enquire about any allergies to adhesives (as many products have adhesives) and whether the person has previously used dressing products successfully or not. Referrals should be considered in burns and scalds (especially in the elderly or young), bites (both human and animal) as tetanus prophylaxis is required and if there are any signs of infection.

Fresenius Kabi Slade sale

FRESENIUS Kabi has announced the sale of its oncology compounding business in Australia, with pharmacy group Slade Health to take over the company's TGA licenced facilities in Queensland, NSW and Victoria.

The deal will also see Slade become the exclusive supplier of compounded parenteral nutrition products to Fresenius Kabi Australia.

While David and Graham Slade will continue to independently own and operate all existing Slade Pharmacy businesses after the deal is settled, Slade Health is also set to join the Icon Consolidated Holdings group of companies, in a broader arrangement that will "bring together the procurement and back of house activities supporting Icon Cancer Care, Epic Pharmacies and the Slade Group.

Slade md David Slade said the Fresenius Kabi acquisition boosts the company's presence in the sterile TGA compounding market across Australia's east coast.

"Fresenius Kabi has built a

fantastic business across Australia, with great people, facilities and significant customer relationships.

"The acquisition will expand our product range and bring our compounding services closer to our customers in NSW and Queensland to ensure the continued supply of critical medications," he said.

Slade intends to retain the staff currently employed at the Fresenius Kabi facilities.

Fresenius Kabi said it remains strongly committed to Australia, and will focus on its core product areas of infusion solutions, IV drugs, clinical nutrition and medical devices.

"Fresenius Kabi will continue to be a reliable and trusted partner for medicines to help care for critically and chronically ill patients and will continue to provide high quality products to Australian hospitals and healthcare facilities," said Fresenius Kabi country manager Australia/NZ, Juan Villar.

Antimicrobial action

THE latest report from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, on antimicrobial prescribing practices in Australian hospitals, has highlighted that there is "room for improvement in antimicrobial use".

The 2014 report summarises the results of a voluntary annual audit of 248 hospitals (197 public and 51 private) from across Australia resulting in a data set of almost 20,000 prescriptions.

The report showed that about one-quarter (24.3%) of the 19,944 prescriptions surveyed were non-compliant with guidelines, while 23% were considered to be "inappropriate".

The most common prescribed antimicrobials were cefazolin, ceftriaxone and metronidazole.

CLICK HERE for the report.

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Pharmacy Choice aid

SYMBION is inviting pharmacies to join the Pharmacy Choice team which offers 25+ Key Account Managers - see **page two** for details.

English pharmacy vax scheme hailed

PHARMACY bodies, groups and individual community pharmacists have praised the UK government for commissioning a national flu service to be administered across England through pharmacy.

The agreement between the UK Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) and NHS England will kick off in Sep, paying pharmacists a fee of £9.14 per vaccination.

However the PSNC failed to reach agreement with NHS England on the implementation of a national minor ailments scheme, which the committee said was a "massive missed opportunity for the NHS".

MA Facts Book

MEDICINES Australia has published the fourth edition of its "Facts Book" which provides details on key statistics and trends in the Australian medicines industry.

As well as highlighting data on R&D, registration, manufacturing, sales and biotechnology, the Facts Book includes details of reimbursement and new trends in drug development - download at www.medicinesaustralia.com.au.

Teva Allergan deal

TEVA Pharmaceutical Industries is believed to be in talks with Allergan over a potential US\$45 billion deal in which Allergan's generic drug operations would be spun off and combined with Teva.

If the merger proceeds it would see Teva withdraw its offer for Mylan (PD 08 Jul), with the Allergan combination creating the world's largest generics supplier.



SAN Francisco has taken a major step towards improving public hygiene with a new paint which aims to reduce public urination.

So-called "Ultra-Ever Dry" paint is being tested on walls in public areas which are commonly used by drinkers relieving themselves in the street.

The "superhydrophobic coating" has been created to repel liquids.

"The urine will bounce back on the guy's pants and shoes...the idea is they will think twice next time about urinating in public," said a spokesperson for the SFO Public Works Department.

Nine walls have been painted so far around popular bars, along with signs in English, Spanish and Chinese which warn potential urinators to "Hold it! Seek relief in an appropriate place".

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