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Amneal guarantee

AMNEAL Pharmaceuticals is today highlighting its 100% fulfilment rate on orders which have eliminated costly out-of-stock dispensary situations.

For details see the **front cover** page of today's *Pharmacy Daily*.

RB PSA 'acid pocket'

RECKITT Benckiser is inviting delegates at this weekend's PSA15 conference at Sydney's Sofitel Wentworth Hotel to visit the RB exhibit between 5pm and 7pm tomorrow afternoon (Fri 31 July) to enjoy some welcome drinks.

An expert mixologist will "bring the 'acid pocket' concept to life with a Gaviscon-inspired cocktail creation" - surely something not to be missed.

RB is also reminding pharmacists to complete the Nuromol with Synchro-Tech training module by 31 Aug to be in the draw to win the ultimate cooking experience with Adriano Zumbo.

See rbhealthhub.com.au.

Real-time monitoring call

THE death of a nurse due to an accidental overdose of prescription drugs has led to a new call for real-time monitoring by Brisbane coroner Christine Clements.

Clements earlier this week released a report into the tragic 2013 death of 30-year-old Katie Lee Howman from an overdose of self-administered fentanyl.

Although never prescribed the drug, Howman had an escalating history of oxycodone and tramadol use which could have raised suspicions about dependency.

Among several recommendations the coroner urged the introduction of systems by which AHPRA could regularly monitor PBS records, in order to detect "doctor-shopping".

"The deficiency in the existing information systems is that they are reliant on a doctor or pharmacist forming a suspicion prompting a request for information, and the information is not available in real time," the coroner wrote.

She cited the undoubted "huge

human and fiscal cost in the way the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is currently being misused to source and subsidise controlled drugs and drugs of dependence".

Clements said statutory changes should be made to enable real-time access to relevant prescription and doctor attendance history.

She also highlighted the situation in Tasmania and the NT where real-time systems are helping to inform decision-making, and the NZ where information of concern is forwarded to the treating physician.

Adelaide phcy robbed

POLICE dogs and a police helicopter went into action early yesterday morning to track a man who had broken into a pharmacy in the Adelaide suburb of Firlie.

In spite of best efforts, at this stage, the man remains at large with police door knocking and set to review CCTV footage in order to track down the miscreant.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, a front full page from **Amneal Pharmaceuticals** plus a full page reminding pharmacies to order their **API Calendars**.

More UK pharmacy consolidation

BRITISH grocery chain Sainsbury's is selling its in-store pharmacy business to German giant Celesio, which owns the Lloyds Pharmacy group and was itself purchased by US health company McKesson two years ago (**PD** 25 Oct 13).

Under the £125m deal Celesio will operate all of the pharmacies within J. Sainsbury stores across the UK, and will pay rent for the locations where it operates.

Sainsbury ceo Mike Coupe said "working with a specialist operator like Lloyds Pharmacy will enable us to grow and extend our pharmacy services to customers, whilst realising value for shareholders".

5/6CPA



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EMA fast-track guide

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) has revised its guidelines relating to accelerated assessment and conditional marketing authorisation, two key elements of the European legislation to accelerate patients' access to medicines that address unmet medical needs.

With the EMA still seeking feedback on these guidelines, submissions can be made up until 30 Sep - **CLICK HERE** for details.

Travel Specials

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Raise orphan threshold call

TO MAKE allowances for population growth, the threshold for availability of orphan drugs should be calculated as a prevalence number such as 5 in 10,000, rather than as a fixed number of "not more than 2000 individuals", argued Medicines Australia (MA) in its submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) consultation on the matter.

Other recommendations from MA focused on incentives for sponsor companies and include maintaining the fee waiver to provide incentives for sponsors to invest in clinical development for orphan diseases, as well as developing a priority review mechanism, strengthening intellectual property rights and providing a period of market exclusivity and tax credits.

The current definition of orphan drugs was supported by MA as it allows for the current trend in targeted treatments to continue to be recognised as orphans.

Submissions by Novartis, Bayer, GlaxoSmithKline, Biogen, Biopharma, AbbVie and a number of stakeholder groups especially those with a haematology or oncology focus, sought related adjustments to

the Orphan Drugs Program.

A major theme of most submissions revolved around matching global standards in relation to each of the measures, along with incentives for sponsors who may otherwise not have reason to propose some drugs for rare diseases to Australia considering the small population.

CLICK HERE to access the submissions to the TGA.

New benzo GP guide

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has announced the release of a new guide on prescribing benzodiazepines, focusing on patient-centred care, accountable prescribing and harm reduction.

Almost seven million prescriptions for benzodiazepines are issued each year in Australia, with Valium and temazepam among the most common.

"It is vital GPs are aware of the issues benzodiazepines have created at a broad society level and among individual patients," RACGP president Dr Frank R Jones said.

CLICK HERE for the guidelines.



DISPENSARY CORNER

CANADA isn't the only place you can rent a chicken.

After reading our recent article (*PD* 23 Jul) Gareth Davidson, Sanofi Pasteur senior product manager travel & endemic vaccines advised there's a service based in Sydney called Rentachook which offers a similar service.

For \$100 plus a \$330 deposit rentachook.com.au will provide a coop, two hens, food and plenty of advice for a six week trial - so if you don't get on with the chooks you can just give them back.

Although Australian egg prices haven't soared the way they have in America, Davidson highly recommended the option, particularly once the chooks start laying and earning their keep.

PHARMACISTS keen to do some compounding at home should consider purchasing a house which has just gone up for sale in the US city of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The property was made famous as the residence of drug-dealing methamphetamine manufacturer Jesse Pinkman in the popular TV series *Breaking Bad*.

The real estate agents involved are making the most of the link to the show, with a special website at www.breakingbadhouse.com inviting prospective purchasers to "live like Jesse" before adding: "meth lab not included".

They are hoping to capitalise on the demand for memorabilia from the show which depicts the decline into depravity of a simple chemistry teacher, Walter White, who turns to drug making to support his family when he is diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Walter White's underwear - from the first series of the show - was auctioned some years ago for almost \$10,000.

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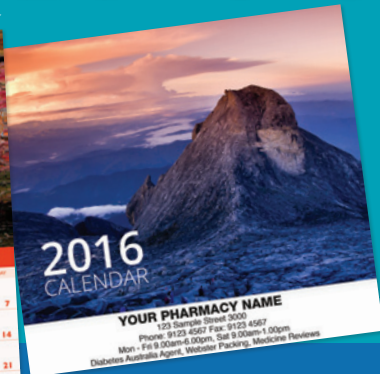
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