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## Reform Pharmacy deal

**REFORM** Management is inviting pharmacies Australia wide to join their 1,900-strong network to take advantage of the deals on offer. See **page three** for details.

## Friday comp winner

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Emma Brady from Symbion, who was the lucky winner of an Aromababy gift pack in Fri's issue of **PD**.

## Cancer clarification

**THE** call for pharmacies to participate in the BowelScreen Australia program (**PD** 25 Jun) has come from Bowel Cancer Australia.

The program aims to fill the age gaps not covered by the free govt campaign, and is jointly delivered with Clinical Genomics, who make the test and manage the process.

## Early bird specials

**EARLYBIRD** registration rates for the upcoming Canyons Ski/CPD conference in the USA close tomorrow, 30 Jun, with prospective attendees urged to sign up before the end of the financial year.

Places are also still available for the Borneo conference in Sep - see [www.cpdconferencing.com.au](http://www.cpdconferencing.com.au).

## Changes to S100 programs

**NEW** "community access arrangements" for Highly Specialised Drugs are set to be introduced as part of changes to some S100 programs recommended by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

Affected areas include Botulinum Toxin, Clozapine, the Growth Hormone Programme, HIV and Hepatitis B medicines and drugs used for IVF.

According to new "frequently asked questions" sheets published on the PBS website, the changes for PBS-subsidised botulinum toxin will apply from 01 Sep, with the product not to be supplied through community pharmacies but rather via PBS prescriptions and "hospital pharmacy coordination points".

New community access arrangements apply to selected medicines in the Highly Specialised Drugs programme, including HIV retroviral medicines, medicines used in the treatment of Hepatitis B and clozapine when being used in maintenance therapy.

Clozapine can continue to be prescribed and dispensed under existing hospital arrangements, but authorised GPs may also now prescribe it for dispensing in

community pharmacies.

Clozapine scripts and repeats written prior to 01 Jul will need to be dispensed from hospital pharmacies in accordance with the previous arrangements.

For growth hormone there's a stronger role for community pharmacies from 01 Sep, with PBS co-payments to be charged at the usual amounts and dispensing software updated to reflect the changes.

And for IVF medicines, pharmacies will see PBS Authority scripts being presented for dispensing from 01 Jul, with all PBS-approved pharmacies able to dispense the items which will be available from wholesalers.

## Promote quitting to avert prostate cancer

**PHARMACISTS** have yet another motivation to promote quit-smoking campaigns with new research showing smoking can almost double the risk of prostate cancer returning after surgery, according to new work published in *European Urology*.

So apart from respiratory problems, erectile dysfunction, cardiac, skin and other negative effects, males who have undergone surgery for prostate cancer now have the fear of cancer recurrence to motivate them.

Data from 6,538 patients, one third never having smoked, one third formerly being smokers, and the other third being smokers, were followed up for up to more than 10 years to find that those who had quit for 10 years or more had similar risk profile to non-smokers, while others had 63% to 80% greater risk of recurrence.

**CLICK HERE** for the abstract.

## Keytruda PBS funded

**MORE** than 1,100 Australians and their families each year will benefit from the Federal Government's listing of melanoma treatment Keytruda (pembrolizumab) from MSD, the Health Department has announced.

The breakthrough medicine currently costs patients with metastatic melanoma up to \$156,130 per year, but under the PBS funding each patient will only pay up to \$37.70 per month.

The listing is effective 01 Sep.



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## Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Norman Thurecht, Partner at JR Pharmacy.**



### Protecting your wealth

**Have** you planned how your wealth is shared and protected after you pass away? Most find the topic uncomfortable or consider it "too-hard", but your plan can have a huge impact on family, tax outcomes and maintaining family wealth.

Ineffective or lack of planning burdens your family – usually at the worst time of grieving – causing stress and leading to disputes - not the legacy most want to leave behind.

Effective planning involves addressing important considerations. Do you have:

- Clear and current wishes? (i.e. regularly updated for changes)
- An enduring power of attorney? (for situations where you become unable to manage your own affairs)
- A complex family situation? e.g. children with extra needs or blended family
- Sufficient insurances in place to ensure burden of debts do not pass to your family?
- An Executor (administrator) for the estate who accepts the serious legal responsibilities?
- Understanding of the tax implications of different assets?
- A plan covering your superannuation benefits?
- A business succession plan that adequately compensates your family
- A desire to leave a gift to the community?

You spend much of your time worrying about your staff and customers' wellbeing. You need to spend some time considering your family's future should something happen to you. Avoiding unfortunate outcomes is important. It is necessary to involve both your lawyer and accountant in these discussions as they understand business' structures and associated tax implications

## UNE students welcomed



**THE** University of New England (UNE) has welcomed the latest batch of pharmacy students to the profession in the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) sponsored ceremony which includes presenting all first-year students with their white practice shirts (above).

The practice shirts, presented by PSA's NSW branch director Steven Drew, are a symbolic nod to the classic white jacket historically associated with the profession.

The 60 new students were also treated to a presentation by

UNE Pharmacy alumnus and NSW Intern Pharmacist of the Year Laura Norman, who will be competing for the title of Australian Intern Pharmacist of the Year at the upcoming PSA national conference, being held in Sydney from 30 Jul.

Drew used the occasion to affirm PSA's commitment to the pharmacists of the future, describing the ever growing development of new pathways for their careers.

"It is a competitive environment for young pharmacists and at PSA we take very seriously our role of helping to guide these young people as they pursue their careers," he said.

### Mayne secures funds

**MAYNE** Pharma Groups says a successful round of refinancing will provide it with further capacity for expansion of the business.

The company has taken a revolving US\$125m debt facility maturing in Jun 2020 as well as a further A\$10m line of working capital, and will refinance its current US\$45m outstanding debt.

### AusPARs additions

**NEW** Australian Public Assessment Reports have been uploaded for GSK's Anoro Ellipta (vilanterol trifenate and umeclidinium bromide) for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Ariad Pharmaceuticals' Iclusig (ponatinib) for certain leukaemias and Merck Sharp and Dohme's Belsomra (suvorexant) for treatment of insomnia.

**CLICK HERE** to access.

### Vic consultation

**THE** Victorian Pharmacy Authority has released its draft Guidelines 2015 for review and is inviting feedback from interested persons and organisations by close of business on 31 Jul.

The Authority said it will consider the consultation feedback on the draft Authority Guidelines before finalising them for publication on its website - **CLICK HERE** to access the draft guidelines.

### Orion PHARMAC deal

**ORION** Laboratories has won the contract to supply the New Zealand Pharmaceutical Medicines Agency (PHARMAC) with lidocaine cream.

The product will be listed in a 30gm pack and a 5 x 5gm pack from 01 Aug.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

### FROZEN in time.

An UK bioethicist has declared that all 18-year-old males ought to freeze their sperm for use in later life, as an ethical urgency to avoid fathering children when their sperm are older.

The scientist calling for the controversial move, Dr Kevin Smith from Abertay University in Dundee, wrote in the *Journal of Medical Ethics* that sperm errors increase with age, risking autism, schizophrenia and other disorders - meaning sperm-banking should become "standard procedure".

Apparently the average age of fatherhood in the UK has increased from 31 in the 1990s to 33 years now, the *BBC* reports.

**DON'T** blame the chlorine for those red eyes after swimming.

According to a new report by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it's actually because of urine in the water.

As well as wee, other contaminants including swimmer sweat bind to the chlorine in the water creating a compound which causes eye irritation.

The CDC said the problem is sometimes worse in indoor swimming pools because a lack of ventilation also sees the same contaminants accumulating in the air.

"Fresh air is important...super-chlorination can be an effective way to rid the pool water of these by-products, but it will not work if the air is saturated with irritants".

The report also warns that a strong chlorine smell at some pools is not an indication of clean water but actually the odour given off by the irritants.

Despite all the doom and gloom the CDC said that "swimming is an excellent way to get physical activity to stay healthy".





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