

How are you feeling about the future of your pharmacy?



Fearful



Worried

The harsh reality of PBS reform is making every pharmacy owner contemplate the future prospects of their business.

With almost 500 independent pharmacy members, at Pharmacy Alliance we have built up the strength and influence to support each one of our members in facing the challenges of today and in the future.

Through our innovative programs and selective, long-term industry partnerships we provide our members with leading tools to tackle price cuts, competition and the growing consumer demand for value, plus also future proof their business.

If you're fearful or worried about the future of your business, call us to find out how we can help access the right information for your business' needs.



Happy

Be confident about the prospects of your business with our 'profit increase' guarantee*.

*'Profit increase' guarantee relates to your new baseline profit results post PBS SPD

Going to APP2015? Book a confidential appointment to discuss your business with

Darren Dye
CEO
0434 310 879

Scott Carpenter
GM Operations/
Business Development
0430 320 098

Simon Reynolds
Executive Chairman
0412 558 845

Paul Sidhom
Director
0409 657 477



Level 4, 111 Coventry Street
South Melbourne VIC 3205
P +613 9880 3300 | F +613 9820 5009
E enquiries@pharmacyalliance.com.au



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, a page of Health and Beauty, a front full page from Pharmacy Alliance plus a full page from

- MIMS Updates

PSA oral health plans

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), the Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch (ADAVB) and Dental Health Services Victoria have launched a joint position statement, including that the PSA supported pharmacists advising patients on preventative measures and reinforcing dentists' advice, while the Victoria branch would provide ongoing professional development for pharmacists in oral health.

'APHS' now DoseAid

APHS packaging has been rebranded as DoseAid. Symbion retained the name APHS Packaging when it acquired the business, but subsequent development of the product called for new branding to more accurately reflect the product, APHS Packaging national manager Seth Grantley said.

ComCom nods infant formula restrictions

THE NZ Commerce Commission has given a draft decision that it will allow members of the Infant Nutrition Council (INC) to restrict advertising and marketing of infant formula for children under six months of age by authorising the INC's Code of Practice.

The Commission said while the Code might lessen competition, this was likely outweighed by public benefits.

TPPA 'risks inc med costs'

THE Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) risks increasing the cost of medicines and so, expenses for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), a report has said.

Conducted by researchers from the UNSW Australia, Sydney University and La Trobe University, and led by the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), the health impact assessment is based on leaked documents of potential provisions and formulated policy scenarios from the negotiations, which are conducted in confidence.

A group of 27 health practitioners recently called for the release of the full draft TPPA text (PD 16 Feb).

The report said in the Intellectual Property chapter, the US sought to include provisions that would expand and extend patent monopolies, keep drug prices high for longer periods and delay generic availability.

These included provisions to lengthen the period during which generic manufacturers could not use clinical trial data by the manufacturer to obtain marketing approval for a generic version of the drug, and patent term extensions to compensate for delays in issuing patents or in obtaining marketing approval.

Such provisions could lead to an increase in the costs of medicines, resulting in greater expenses for the PBS, it said.

In the past, the PBS had increased patient co-payments to deal with rising costs, the report said, which had been shown to have negative impacts on patient health.

Recommendations included that the Australian government not agree to provisions that could potentially increase the cost of medicines, or if included, that

monopoly rights of pharmaceutical companies not be extended further.

Report author Dr Deborah Gleeson said in a PHAA release that it was difficult to predict what the impacts could be, given there were no publicly available drafts.

"But the only way to properly assess the risks is to allow a comprehensive health impact assessment to be conducted on the final agreement before it gets signed by Cabinet."

Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Robb said that he had made it "repeatedly" clear that the government would not support outcomes that would increase the prices of medicines for Australians or adversely affect the health system, "end of story."

"Nor would we accept outcomes that undermine our ability to regulate or legislate in the public interest in areas such as health."

A Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade spokesperson said once the TPPA text was agreed, it would be tabled for 20 joint sitting days to facilitate public consultations and scrutiny by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties before any binding treaty action was taken.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the report.

Fearful for future?

IF YOU'RE feeling worried or fearful about the future of your business, Pharmacy Alliance invites you to call to find out how to access the right information for your business' needs.

See the **front page** for details.

APC new brand



THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has a new brand (pictured).

President John Low said the change was prompted by discussions with stakeholders.

The APC had realised its role was not always clear to stakeholders, and had developed a new communications and marketing plan, as well as a new brand, it said.

The transition will be complete by 30 Jun - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

RGH E-Bulletin

THIS week's RGH E-Bulletin summarises data around the longer use of antiplatelet therapy beyond the currently recommended 12 month post-stenting approach.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the Bulletin.

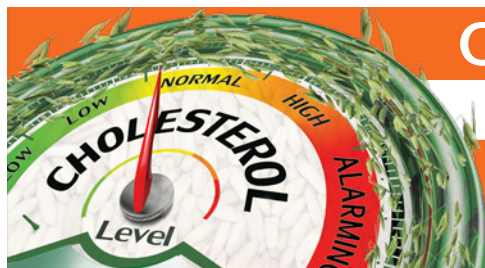
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Hep C public hearing; new meds access

THE House of Representatives Health Committee inquiring into hepatitis C will hold a public hearing with a focus on looking at the transmission of the disease in high risk groups.

Hepatitis WA, the WA Government, the Liver Foundation of WA, and a healthcare professional will present to the Committee.

CLICK HERE for more.

MEANWHILE Medicines Australia has said the Committee should recognise the positive outcomes of new medicines for the disease and ensure Australians with hepatitis C had timely access to these, as well as ensuring the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) remained fit for purpose.

The organisation said innovative treatments had been developed, but Australians did not have affordable access to them, as they were not currently funded through the PBS.

It emphasised collaboration in achieving access to new medicines.

CLICK HERE to see the submission.

Sun to buy GSK opiates biz

GLAXOSMITHKLINE (GSK) will sell its Australian opiates business to Indian pharmaceutical company Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited for an undisclosed amount.

GSK said its opiates business and portfolio of products, including opiate raw materials used in the manufacture of analgesics, with inventory, would transfer to a subsidiary of Sun Pharma.

Employees from both the Latrobe and Port Fairy manufacturing sites would be offered employment by Sun Pharma, GSK said.

The transaction allowed GSK to simplify its operations in Australia and allow it to focus on delivering its product portfolio, it said.

GSK opiates gm Steve Morris told **PD** the company had been in

talks with Sun Pharma for several months about the deal.

GSK Australia's footprint was quite large for a pharmaceutical company, and globally, while the opiates business was well-liked, it did not fit with the company's future strategic direction, he said.

Sun Pharma API business executive vice president Iftach Seri said the global opiates market held "good potential" and the addition of the GSK business would strengthen its positioning.

The deal is expected to close by August.

CLICK HERE to read more.

Complex compounding

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has advised that complex compounding does not involve monoclonal antibodies (**PD** 03 Mar).

Examples of complex compounded products include sterile preparations and preparations containing ingredients posing an occupational health and safety hazard.

CLICK HERE to read more.

Care needed with fentanyl exposure

NPS MedicineWise has reminded health professionals of the need to educate and remind people about appropriate use and disposal of fentanyl patches.

An article in *Health News and Evidence*, published last month, said infants and children were at a higher risk of accidental exposure to fentanyl patches through touching and tasting.

Fentanyl prescribing and accidental exposure to patches in children under five had increased over the last decade, NPS said.

CLICK HERE to read the full article by NPS.

Endometriosis Rx

BAYER Australia has announced the availability of Visanne (dienogest), a prescription medicine for the treatment of women with endometriosis.

CLICK HERE for the PI.

\$5 co-pay scrapped

MINISTER for Health Sussan Ley has confirmed the optional \$5 co-payment, including the proposed \$5 reduction to the Medicare rebate, will be scrapped.

However the Minister said to ensure Medicare was protected "for the long-term", the government would proceed with its four year freeze on Medicare rebates for GP and non-GP items (**PD** 16 Jan) while it worked with stakeholders to develop future policies.



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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

Clarifying Vitamin Shampoo and Conditioner by Green People

Green People **Clarifying Vitamin Shampoo** is a natural shampoo for all hair types. It cleans the hair, gives the scalp a nourishing treat and livens up tired hair with its mood lifting fragrance. Green People **Clarifying Vitamin Conditioner** enhances the shine in all hair types. It is rich and reconditioning and gets to the root of the problem by nourishing the scalp. The formula contains a selection of essential oils as well as organic avocado, seaweed, bergamot and mandarin.

Stockist: 02 8765 1100

RRP: \$19.95 each for 200 ml tube

Website: www.green-people.com.au



DISPENSARY CORNER

CAFFEINE in night cream?

Pharmacists have many responsibilities, but selling night cream probably doesn't rank too highly on the list, unless your consumer has a sleeping problem as well.

One very sharp retired chemist from Eli Lilly in the US picked up on her patient's problem and identified the caffeine in her night cream as a possible cause of her insomnia, according to a story in *The Buffalo News*.

The patient progressed from waking one hour after falling asleep at night and being unable to return to sleep easily, to her sleep being "much improved", the report said.

Apparently many moisturisers, eye creams, anti-ageing products and other cosmetics contain caffeine to reduce puffiness and according to the article, manufacturers are not required to declare how much.

NOT weed jar.

We're thinking medicinal cannabis is stored better than the 'recreational' marijuana stored by a man in Nebraska within a container labelled 'Not Weed'.

Police stopped the man's car in the weekend and found the plastic container during a search of the vehicle, *Associated Press* reported.

LETHAL Nutella.

Be very careful with any Nutella jars in your pharmacy's kitchen.

London firefighters have reported that sun rays refracted by a Nutella jar likely started a fire in February in southwest London, *Associated Press* reported.

Apparently, the jar was sitting on a window sill and refracted the sunlight onto the blinds, setting them alight, the publication reported.

Dettol No-Touch Hand Wash System

Dettol **No-Touch Hand Wash System** automatically senses the hands and dispenses a measured amount of soap that Reckitt Benckiser says kills 99.9% of germs. For use in the kitchen or bathroom, the antibacterial hand wash is enriched with moisturising ingredients to care for hands. The product is now available in three premium fragrances: Hydrating Cucumber Splash, Refreshing Grapefruit Essence and Cleansing Green Tea and Ginger.

Stockist: 02 9857 2000

RRP: \$19.99 including dispenser, 250 ml hand wash refill and 4 x AA batteries

Website: www.dettol.com.au



CELLULAR Anti-Age Night Cream by Nivea

Nivea **Cellular Anti-Age Night Cream** is designed to reduce the appearance of wrinkles, increase skin firmness and improve skin renewal. The nourishing formula supports important cell regeneration during the night, Nivea says. It contains short chain hyaluronic acid to increase skin's ability to retain water, magnolia extract to improve skin cells' resilience to oxidative stress and creatine to boost skin cells' energy.

Stockist: 1800 103 023

RRP: \$27.99

Website: www.nivea.com.au



Bronzeyed Girl Eyeshadow Palette by Australis

Australis **Bronzeyed Girl Eyeshadow Palette** features six shades in creative mixes of bronze, gold and copper. The palette includes shadows in earthy tones to enhance natural beauty. Whether it's for those lazy lunches with friends or the evening soirée where the eyes take command, the Eyeshadow Palette will create the illusion of deepset highlight.

Stockist: 1300 650 981

RRP: \$9.95

Website: www.australiscosmetics.com.au



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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

Publisher: Bruce Piper

Editor: Alex Walls info@pharmacydaily.com.au

Reporter: Mal Smith

Advertising and Marketing: Magda Herdzyk advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

NEW PRODUCTS

Abilify Maintena (aripiprazole) is an atypical antipsychotic. It has been proposed that its efficacy in schizophrenia is mediated through a combination of partial agonism at dopamine D₂ and serotonin 5-HT_{1A} receptors and antagonism at serotonin 5-HT_{2A} receptors. Abilify Maintena is indicated in the maintenance of clinical improvement in the treatment of schizophrenia. It is available as 300 mg or 400 mg powder for prolonged release suspension for injection in a one month convenience kit.

Femoston 1/10 (oestradiol and dydrogesterone) hormone replacement therapy is indicated in oestrogen deficiency associated with natural or artificial menopause in women with intact uteri; prevention of postmenopausal bone mineral density loss in women at high risk of osteoporosis and future fracture where nonoestrogen products are contraindicated or not tolerated. Femoston 1/10 is contraindicated in the following conditions: hysterectomy; untreated endometrial hyperplasia; oestrogen dependent neoplasia (e.g. breast, endometrium), progestogen dependent neoplasm (including suspected); active, chronic or history of liver disease if liver function tests are still abnormal; cerebrovascular accident or history associated with oestrogen use; venous thromboembolism (VTE); idiopathic VTE history; thrombophilic disorder including protein C, S or antithrombin deficiency; active, recent arterial thromboembolic disease, e.g. angina, myocardial infarction; undiagnosed abnormal genitourinary bleeding; porphyria; pregnancy (included suspected) and lactation. Femoston 1/10 is available as immediate release tablets containing 14 tablets (oestradiol 1 mg) + 14 tablets (oestradiol 1 mg/ dydrogesterone 10 mg) in blister strips.

Femoston Conti (oestradiol and dydrogesterone) hormone replacement therapy is indicated in oestrogen deficiency associated with natural or artificial menopause in women with intact uteri; prevention of postmenopausal bone mineral density loss in women at high risk of osteoporosis and future fracture where nonoestrogen products are contraindicated or not tolerated.

It is contraindicated in the following situations: hysterectomy; untreated endometrial hyperplasia; oestrogen dependent neoplasia (e.g. breast, endometrium), progestogen dependent neoplasm (including suspected); active, chronic or history of liver disease if liver function tests are still abnormal; cerebrovascular accident or history associated with oestrogen use; VTE; idiopathic VTE history; thrombophilic disorder including protein C, S or antithrombin deficiency; active, recent arterial thromboembolic disease, e.g. angina, myocardial infarction; undiagnosed abnormal genitourinary bleeding; porphyria; pregnancy (including suspected) and lactation. Femoston Conti (oestradiol 1 mg and dydrogesterone 5 mg) is available as a blister pack containing 28 tablets.

Triumeq (dolutegravir sodium, abacavir sulfate and lamivudine) contains an integrase inhibitor and two nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors respectively. It is indicated in the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection in adults and adolescents from 12 years of age who are antiretroviral treatment naïve or are infected with HIV without documented or clinically suspected resistance to any of the three antiretroviral agents (dolutegravir, abacavir or lamivudine) in Triumeq. Triumeq is contraindicated in combination with dofetilide or pilsicainide. Triumeq tablets (dolutegravir 50 mg, abacavir 600 mg, lamivudine 300 mg) are available in packs of 30's.

SAFETY RELATED CHANGES

Avastin (bevacizumab) in combination with paclitaxel, topotecan or pegylated liposomal doxorubicin is now indicated for the treatment of patients with recurrent, platinum resistant epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal cancer who have received no more than two prior chemotherapy regimens, and have not received any prior antiangiogenic therapy including bevacizumab.

Duro-K and Slow-K (potassium chloride) are now contraindicated in patients with gastric and/or intestinal ulcers.

Duro-K and Slow-K (potassium chloride) are now indicated for the treatment and specific prevention of hypokalaemia in patients who cannot tolerate oral potassium drinks or who find their taste unacceptable.

Eviplera (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, emtricitabine and rilpivirine) is now indicated in certain virologically suppressed (HIV-1 RNA < 50 copies/mL) adult patients on a stable antiretroviral regimen at start of therapy in order to replace their current antiretroviral treatment regimen. Patients must not have a history of resistance to any of the components of Eviplera.

Maxalon (metoclopramide hydrochloride) is now indicated in young adults and children over 1 year of age, and the use of Maxalon in patients under 20 years should be restricted to the following situations and only used as second line therapy: severe intractable vomiting of known cause; vomiting associated with radiotherapy and intolerance to cytotoxic drugs; and use as an aid to gastrointestinal intubation.

Maxolon (metoclopramide hydrochloride) is now contraindicated in children less than 1 year of age.

ERRATUM

In the MIMS January update, the published recommended age for the use of **Nasonex Allergy Aqueous Nasal Spray (mometasone furoate monohydrate)** was incorrect. The correct recommended age is as follows.

Nasonex Allergy Aqueous Nasal Spray (mometasone furoate monohydrate) is indicated for the treatment of symptoms associated with seasonal allergic rhinitis, perennial allergic rhinitis and prophylaxis of seasonal allergic rhinitis for up to 6 months in adults and children 12 years of age and older.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.