

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus full pages from: ([click](#))

- Sigma
- Mater Mothers' Hospitals

Vic Authority to communicate

THE Victorian Pharmacy Authority has committed to publishing a communiqué after each meeting.

In its first, following a meeting on 10 Mar, the Authority said it had issued guidelines around facilities used to provide immunisation in pharmacies, effective immediately.

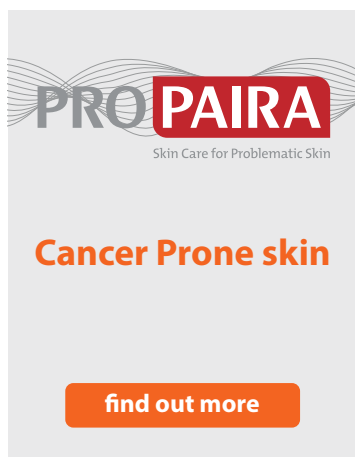
This was to make sure consistent advice was available and came in response to an increase in the number of pharmacies enquiring about or having immunisations take place on site, an Authority spokesperson said.

These guidelines included that the room used meant the immunisation was not visible or audible to other people and that seating be available for a patient after receiving the immunisation.

The Authority said two panel hearings had been held last month.

One resulted in a reprimand being issued to a pharmacy proprietor who had failed to ensure S8 transaction records showed the "true and accurate balance" after each transaction.

A condition involving quarterly audits to be submitted to the Authority was placed on the proprietor's license, the communiqué said.



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'No evidence for homeopathy'

THE National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has concluded that there is no good quality evidence to support the claim that homeopathy is effective in treating health conditions.

The statement comes following a review described by independent expert University of Adelaide Pharmacology senior lecturer Dr Ian Musgrave as having some limitations but being overall, a wide ranging, carefully interpreted study (**PD** 19 Dec 14).

1,800 papers looked at more than 1,800 reviews, of which 225 studies met criteria to be included.

It found "no good quality, well-designed studies with enough participants" to show homeopathy worked better than a placebo, the organisation said.

"Although some studies did report that homeopathy was effective, the quality of those studies was assessed as being small and/or of poor quality.

"These studies had either too few participants, poor design, poor conduct and or reporting to allow reliable conclusions to be drawn on

Coroner calls for S8 security evaluation

THE Coroner for the inquest into the deaths of 14 residents of the Quakers Hill Nursing Home in the deliberately lit fire on 18 Nov 2011 has made a recommendation to the NSW Minister for Health that the case be referred to the Poisons Advisory Committee to re-evaluate the security protocols for S8 drugs in nursing homes.

Roger Dean, the nurse found guilty of deliberately lighting the fire, was found to be addicted to S8 drugs and had lit the fire to destroy incriminating evidence of his stealing of the drugs.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the findings.

RGH E-Bulletin

THIS week's RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin is concerned with the Citalopram on Agitation in Alzheimer Disease trial.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access.



JUST 1 TEASPOON OR 4 CAPSULES DAILY

Research suggests the correct dose of fish oil needed to help reduce the joint inflammation associated with mild arthritis is 2.7 grams of omega-3 daily.

ETHICAL NUTRIENTS
PROFESSIONAL NATURAL MEDICINES

Proud supporters of **Arthritis AUSTRALIA**

Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist consult your healthcare professional.

the effectiveness of homeopathy."

Ceo Professor Warwick Anderson said people who chose homeopathy could put their health at risk if they delayed or rejected treatments with good evidence for safety and effectiveness.

Health practitioners should "always" offer treatments based on the best available evidence, he said.

Anderson has previously said it was a "shock" to see, as a profession based on evidence, some pharmacies offering homeopathy products (**PD** 11 Dec 14).

He said it was important to note the process was "thoroughly consultative" and the public was invited to submit evidence.

Complementary Medicines Australia (CMA) reiterated its concerns that there were flaws in the methodology of the review, including that a homeopathic expert was not appointed to the review panel and that randomised controlled trials had been excluded (**PD** 17 Dec 14), with ceo Carl Gibson saying no valid conclusions could be drawn from the review.

Friends of Science in Medicine president Professor John Dwyer called on the government to stop subsidising homeopathy therapies through student loans for these and similar courses.

"The government should also not subsidise health funds offering cover for pseudoscientific electives of this kind."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read Musgrave's assessment of the review's methodology and [HERE](#) for the NHMRC statement.

MARC curbs codeine

THE NZ Medicines Adverse Reactions Committee (MARC) has finalised recommendations resulting from its 04 Dec meeting restricting the use of cough and cold medicines containing codeine and bromhexine for adult use and for children over specific ages.

Bromhexine medicines can only be used in children over six years and codeine over 12 years of age.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

APP on location

PHARMACY Daily is on location at APP 2015.

Come and say hi to the team, editor Alex Walls and sales, production and marketing executive Magda Herdzik, and keep an eye on our Twitter feed for live coverage at [@pharmacydaily](#).

APP kicks off this morning with the State of the Industry Symposium, with speakers including Generic Medicines Industry Association chair Mark Crotty and Guild national president George Tambassis, while at 12pm the Pharmacy of the Year will be announced.

Another highlight of the day will be the keynote address by Minister for Health Sussan Ley in what organisers have described as her first major address to community pharmacy - stay tuned!



PKF
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The PKF Lawler & Instigo master class is designed and presented by pharmacy specialists for pharmacy owners and retail managers.

You will receive guaranteed strategies to ease the pain and ensure your business can manage the impacts of PBS reforms.

We guarantee at least 5x ROI from this event.

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Don't miss out - places are limited!

Sydney:
Thursday, 11 June 2015

Newcastle:
Tuesday, 21 April 2015

For information and tickets visit [Proticket.com.au](#)

Prostate cancer death highest in Australia

WHILE Australians were less likely to die from lung or colorectal cancer, researchers are not clear why the mortality rate for prostate cancer is falling at a slower rate than other countries, according to a comparative study in the *World Journal of Urology* and as first reported by *SMH*.

The research evaluated prostate cancer incidence and mortality in Canada, England, Australia and the US for the period 1994 to 2010, revealing that 10,895 excess prostate cancer deaths occurred in Australia compared with the US.

CLICK HERE for the study.

TWC back in black for first half FY15

TERRY White Chemists Group Investments Limited (TWC GIL) has posted net profit after tax of \$149,000 for the first half of the 2015 financial year.

This is up from a loss of \$550,000 year on year.

The company posted a statutory loss of \$2.8m for the 2014 full year, following an impairment charge from the sale of Pharmacy Direct brand assets (*PD* 25 Sep).

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) for the half was \$764,000, up 113% year on year, while total operating revenue was up 16% year on year to \$22.9m.

The results had been driven by increased revenue streams from ownership of the TWC brand, increased efficiencies in management, including investment in and implementation of Enterprise Resource Planning software, and the contribution made by the Value Retail strategy made to the performance of pharmacies, TWC GIL ceo Anthony White said.

"The Strategy was a significant undertaking but we are now seeing a range of improvements particularly in terms of growth in script and other sales."

TGA within budget

THE half year report from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on its achievement against key performance indicators (KPIs) for the period July to December 2014 has shown that the organisation has operated within budget.

The eight KPIs measured included stakeholder communication, education and satisfaction, pre- and post- market business operations, international cooperation and financial performance.

CLICK HERE for the TGA report.

Call for failed drugs' transparent research

IN A study aimed at quantifying the proportion of unpublished trials for unsuccessfully licensed drugs, it was found that much of the information collected in unsuccessful drug trials is inaccessible to the broader research and practice communities, leading the authors to call for greater transparency, accountability and ethics in clinical research.

The study, published in the *BMJ*, drew on data relating to 20,135 patients showing only 37% of failed drugs' studies were published versus 75% of successful drugs.

CLICK HERE for the research.



DISPENSARY CORNER

NOW that's a useful politician.

With discussion for the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement underway, and the mud slinging occurring over the audit of the Fifth Agreement's administration, we can expect to see more from politicians about pharmacy.

But will we see politicians offering their services as free taxi drivers?

A town councillor in Georgia has taken this step to show he really is serving the public, *BBC News* reported.

Zurab Sepiashvili is on the council of Gurjaani but spends four hours every Sunday giving residents a free ride, footing the bill for fuel and even giving members of other political parties a ride, the publication reported.

Now that's some useful politics!

'FOR a good time'.

Pharmacies already have the 'advice' part of a store down, but for an honest liquor recommendation, look to US comedian Jeff Wysiaski, who added some straight up recommendations to the shelves of his local bottle shop, the *Telegraph* reports.

These included on a Chardonnay:

"More like ChardonYAYYY I'm drunk at work AND IT FEELS GREAT anyone wanna wrestle? NO SARAH I WILL NOT STEP INTO YOUR OFFICE.

Pairs nicely with: Unemployment'.

A Merlot sported the tag: 'Doing an ancient death ritual, but don't have the blood of your enemies?'

Dip your demon blade into this Merlot instead.

Pairs nicely with: REVENGE!'

CLICK HERE to read more.

Travel Specials

Easter at Quay West Suites Brisbane

QUAY West Suites Brisbane has an Easter package available priced from \$229 per night.

The offer for a two-night minimum stay includes a continental breakfast for the whole family and an Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday in the City Botanic Gardens for the kids.

Available for stays from 02 to 18 Apr, call 07 3853 6000 to enquire.

Fiji's Finest

OUTRIGGER Enterprises Group is offering the Fiji's Finest package, where guests will receive a bonus F\$600 resort credit per room.

For a minimum four-night stay at Outrigger on the Lagoon Fiji combined with a minimum three-night stay at Castaway Island, the credit would be split between the properties.

Available from 01 Apr 2015 to 31 Mar 2016, rates start from F\$453 per night at Outrigger on the Lagoon and F\$1,140 per night at Castaway Island.

CLICK HERE for more.

Win with DESIGNER BRANDS



This week *Pharmacy Daily* and *Designer Brands* are giving readers a prize pack containing a new look Mineral Eye Shadow, Beyond Amplifying Mascara and two Kohl Pencils*.

Eyes are often the focal point of make-up and Designer Brands' All About Eyes promo celebrates their hottest selling on-trend eye products, a must for every makeup lover. Designer Brands' Beyond Amplifying Mascara has a new formulation with Argan Oil and Lash Food Complex, the company says. The prize pack also includes new look Mineral Eye Shadow, and two Kohl Eye Pencils.



*Shade will be chosen at random

To win, be the first person from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the following question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

How many shades are in the Kohl Pencil range?

Need a hint? [Click here.](#)

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Lorraine Brouard from Symbion.

Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

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Travel Daily

CRUISE
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travelBulletin

business events news

Pharmacy
DAILY

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Sigma Financial Services Launched

To support pharmacists improve their financial management and increase the profitability of their business, Sigma has officially launched Sigma Financial Services. The key objective of this new service to all its members is to provide financial products and services that support our pharmacists throughout the lifecycle of their professional journey – from purchaser, growth, consolidation, succession planning to retirement and exit.

The initial launch of Sigma's financial services program includes the following products and services:

- 1** Payment options for pharmacists providing BPAY, Visa / MasterCard and now Amex credit card payment options.
- 2** Financing assistance and referral assisting customers with the preparation of financing proposals for their pharmacy and referring these on to Sigma pre-qualified supporting banks.
- 3** Business and fit outs, quick, low cost fit out finance. From small refurbishments to full fit outs through a Sigma facilitated process with pre-qualified supporting financiers.
- 4** Revitalised Sigma Rewards Loyalty program, now with the added option of up to 30 days extended credit.
- 5** Sigma can perform a desktop or detailed profit & loss and balance sheet review identifying opportunities for consideration by the owner that may improve financial performance or stability.



Sigma Launches New Buying Guide

Sigma has launched a new nationwide buying guide at the 2015 Amcal and Guardian National Retail Conference currently underway on the Gold Coast. This guide will assist all pharmacies in the Amcal, Amcal Max and Guardian group with accessing best buys via an easy online connection offering greater accessibility.

All members across all pharmacy brands that achieve 80 per cent plus brand standards will have access to the new buying guide which will offer better buying opportunities.

Suppliers welcomed the new buying guide as part of their ongoing partnership with both Sigma and all the members and believe it will prove a win-win for everyone, improving compliance and improving the buying process.

The new buying guide enhances the relationship between suppliers and members as key Sigma partners of choice.



Sigma Announces SIGNAL

Sigma has released a powerful new innovative analytical platform called SIGNAL, created by technology partner NostraData, at the Amcal Guardian Conference to the delight of members present. SIGNAL will enable Amcal, Amcal Max and Guardian pharmacies to simplify how they operate and improve in-store productivity.

This new tool will allow members to better measure and monitor the results of each of the unique pharmacy offers, including professional services, category and private label management and as well as the newly launched Sigma Generics Program.

SIGNAL is a web and mobile-based product that will help evaluate the relative performance of retail zones within each pharmacy on a daily basis by pin-pointing key areas to improve activity by benchmarking performance against similar sized pharmacies for easier clarity to enhance in-store productivity.

This technology is already industry leading and in coming months will be further enhanced with new features to the benefit of all members.

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Mater Mothers' Hospitals maternity + baby care products



Shop our APP 2015 offer now!

We are delighted to offer **22% off** wholesale list price on all orders from now until 23 March 2015. To shop this great offer, simply click **HERE**

If you are not attending APP 2015, you can still access our great trade offer via the same link – just email or fax us your order.

Be the first to try NEW Mater Nappy Balm

Visit Mater Mothers' Hospitals at **Stand 344** to collect your sample of NEW Mater Nappy Balm.

Mater Nappy Balm was formulated to closely replicate the vernix – the naturally occurring substance produced in the womb which coats and protects the baby. This unique to market innovation provides more comfort for baby and peace of mind for mum.

The Caring Continues



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