

Today's issue of PD

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

- MIMS

Poor preparedness for resistance war

A **SURVEY** conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) found at least one country in each WHO region surveyed has a national laboratory with capabilities to undertake surveillance for antimicrobial resistant organisms, however access to quality medicines was mixed and misuse of antimicrobials was widespread, complicated by many counterfeit drugs.

A total of 133 of the 194 WHO Member States contributed to the survey.

Member States will receive a draft global action plan at the 68th World Health Assembly, to be held on 18 to 26 May in Geneva.

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

Asthma meds underused

ONE or more respiratory medications were dispensed to 2,042,104 (9.1%) people in 2013, but most people only used them occasionally, a report by the Australian Centre for Airways disease Monitoring (ACAM) has found.

Inhaled corticosteroids were dispensed to 6.3% of the population in 2013, but among people aged 65 and over, only 30% were dispensed the medication with a frequency consistent with regular use, recommended by guidelines for management of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the report said.

This was lower for 35 to 64 year olds at 15.8% having dispensing patterns consistent with regular use, and for 15 to 34 year olds at 7.3%.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare said for people with asthma, lack of regular use of this type of medication "substantially"

increased the risk of a severe flare-up.

However, the Institute said the report suggested over-use of some respiratory medications, with 36% of adults dispensed inhaled corticosteroids receiving only one prescription, and of these, 59% dispensed no other respiratory medication, suggesting they did not have obstructive airways disease, it said.

ACAM director Professor Guy Marks said it was concerning both that some respiratory medications were not being taken regularly by people who would benefit from doing so, and that there seemed to be unnecessary prescribing for others.

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

Former Health Minister Peter Dutton announced a new national asthma strategy would be developed by the National Asthma Council to address the effects on the lives of Australians with asthma (*PD* 31 Oct 14), to be ready in 2016.

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Charging for extra pharmacy services

THE Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand has said community pharmacies "like any business" need to be able to charge appropriately for provision of services that are not covered by government.

In response to a TV ONE *Breakfast* show discussion where the fairness of pharmacists charging for services on public holidays was questioned, Guild ceo Lee Hohaia said not all services were fully subsidised by the government.

"If pharmacies do not recoup costs for these services from the patient, the sustainability of pharmacy service provision will be threatened.

"This is especially relevant on public holidays where overheads are higher, due to higher staff costs."

Hohaia said patients needed to be made aware of additional costs by signage in pharmacies.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

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Guild: recognition for brain cancer

THE Pharmacy Guild has said there needs to be more recognition and awareness of brain cancer and it supported Gold Logie winner Carrie Bickmore's comments.

Bickmore used her acceptance speech to pay tribute to her late husband, a brain cancer sufferer.

The Guild said it would continue to raise awareness of the condition in partnership with the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation, a collaboration announced earlier this year (PD 03 Mar).

60th Chemsave Phcy

WITH the 60th fully branded Chemsave pharmacy coming on board, Chemsave said that now almost half of the brand's 125 members are now fully branded, with more in the pipeline.

The newest fully branded pharmacy was Chemsave Parkmore Central Pharmacy, Victoria.

Chemsave said it aimed for 150 stores by the end of this year.

US Medicare US\$103b spend

US MEDICARE Part D data relating to prescription drugs has been released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the first time, revealing that branded drugs easily took out the top 10 spots in total drug cost versus generics in 2013.

CMS said the data covers more than one million health care providers who collectively prescribed about US\$103b in prescription drugs and was part of an Obama Administration effort to make the healthcare system more transparent, affordable and accountable.

All top 10 branded drugs cost more than US\$1b each, totalling almost US\$19b, while the top 10 generics totalled US\$4b.

The top 10 brands prescribed, by cost, were Nexium, Advair Diskus, Crestor, Abilify, Cymbalta, Spiriva, Namenda, Januvia, Lantus Solostar and Revlimid.

The top 10 drugs by claim count were all generics, ranging from 21m to 36.9m claims, the data found.

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Call for feedback

STAKEHOLDERS including healthcare professionals are being asked to take a survey to give feedback to the National Boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency on the regulatory principles launched in July.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia said the survey was comprised of 11 questions and would serve to inform the implementation of the principles, which described the Boards' and Agency's approach to regulation.

The survey closes on 18 May.

CLICK HERE to complete the survey.

TGA RASML labelling changes supported

THE Australian Self Medication Industry and Johnson & Johnson Pacific have both supported the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) amendments and minor changes to Required Advisory Statements for Medicine Labels (RASML 1 and 2) (PD 14, 15 Apr).

The TGA also confirmed no change would be required for any currently approved medicine label.

Products involved were nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in children and other drugs including indomethacin, ketoprofen, selenium and hydroxyanthracene derivatives.

CLICK HERE for more detail.

Ampicillin, Amoxycillin shortage

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised that certain ampicillin injections and amoxycillin injections are in short supply, due to supply disruptions and the inability to meet increased demand.

CLICK HERE for a list of specific injections.

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#Listing N391

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Mylan

PotY 14 winner at PSA15

PHARMACY of the Year 2014 winner Samantha Kourtis and Paul Jones of Moodie's Life Pharmacy will present at PSA15, organisers have said.

Kourtis has said pharmacy is its own "rate limiting step" when it comes to new opportunities (**PD** 15 Mar).

Guild Update

Privacy Awareness Week

GUILD members have been asked to think about how to protect their patients' privacy as part of the Privacy Awareness Week's (PAW) theme of 'Privacy everyday'.

The Privacy Awareness Week (held between 03 to 09 May) emphasises the need for organisations to embed privacy practices into business as usual processes.

As pharmacists have access to privileged and confidential patient information everyday, it's important to know how privacy laws affect your pharmacy.

This is a good time to familiarise yourself with the new set of Australian Privacy Principles that covers the handling of personal information which were introduced a year ago.

The Guild, in consultation with the PSA, has produced a set of key guidance resources that assist members with their privacy obligations.

Our new privacy resource, 'Privacy and pharmacy: What does it mean for you?' is available on the Guild website.

Guild members simply need to log-in at the Guild member portal at guild.org.au > LOGIN > then go to: Business Support > Privacy 2014.

SDA order app to be discussed

THE Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association (SDA) application to the Fair Work Commission for an order to produce a report cited by the Pharmacy Guild (**PD** 01 May) will be discussed at a teleconference on Thursday to determine whether it would be approved and could therefore be actioned, a spokesperson for the Commission has said.

The Guild has said if such an order were to be made, it would apply to have it dismissed, as existing timelines should be allowed to stand.

Mayne finalises Mylan Oxy deal

MAYNE Pharma Group Limited has said it has finalised its agreement with Mylan Inc to end distribution of Oxycodone products in the United States from 01 May.

Mayne had begun marketing and shipping of these products under its own label and would control manufacture, marketing and distribution, it said.

Mayne had also taken back methamphetamine tablet distribution rights in April, it said.

CLICK HERE to read more.

PSA: 6CPA team advocating views

IN HIS opening speech at the 2015 Offshore Refresher Conference, PSA national president Grant Kardachi said a Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA) team, with the PSA board, had been advocating the organisation's views as the sector moved into the "signing phase" of the Agreement.

Kardachi said the 6CPA framework should be structured around making sure of the pharmacy network, safe and quality dispensing of PBS medicines, optimising medication management for consumers, with a chronic disease focus, and improving public health.

"PSA's position on 6CPA is that it should be signed in the context of it being the cornerstone of pharmacy's contribution to the provision of a comprehensive suite of primary healthcare services for the community."

RGH E-Bulletin

THE RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin this week gives a preliminary overview of suvorexant, a medication used in the treatment of insomnia.

To access the E-Bulletin, **CLICK HERE**.

WIN WITH PLUNKETTS

This week, **Pharmacy Daily** and **Plunketts** are giving away a Vita E prize pack including Vita E Cream, Vita E Oil and Vita E Ointment.

New Plunkett's Intensive Vita E ointment with extra high levels of vitamin E plus rich rosehip oil is your new best friend. The handy tube softens dry lips, rehydrates cuticles, tames eyebrows, calms stressed skin, treats burns and grazes and even relieves nappy rash. It's a First Aid Kit and Beauty Fix in a tube.

For more info visit www.plunketts.com.au.

To win, be the first from **QLD** to send the correct answer to the following question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

How much Vitamin E does Plunkett's Vita E Ointment contain?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Juliana Kobryn** from **Blooms the Chemist Springwood**.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

GREY, charcoal and ash.

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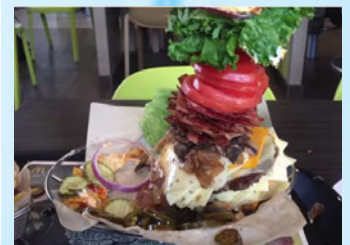
It could be part of the latest trend that involves emulation of the 'silver fox' look.

Apparently, Amazon has reported an 80 pence (A\$1.54) spike in the sale of grey hair dye, with vice president of retail Xavier Garambois telling the *Telegraph* grey hair has emerged as the latest beauty trend.

Silver haired hotties named as having inspired the trend include Dame Judi Dench and George Clooney, the publication reported.

DEFINITELY not healthy.

We hate to think of the antacids you'd have to sell the inventor of the Big Max burger, a creation made at a McDonald's create-your-own-burger kiosk which weighed about 1.7 kg.



Moshe Tamssot decided to test the limits of the kiosk concept, intended to let consumers have choice when it came to their burger, and created the 'Big Max', consisting of 10 of every kind of cheese, as well as bacon, sauce, lettuce and tomatoes - but only two patties, *Huffington Post* reported.

The manager apparently refused to make the burger first off, with a starting price of US\$890.80, but which ended up costing US\$24.89 due to a pricing bug, the publication reported.

Yes, of course there's a video of the feat, which you can watch by **CLICKING HERE**.

NEW PRODUCTS

Arzerra (ofatumumab (rmc)) is a human monoclonal antibody (IgG1κ) that binds specifically to both the small and large extracellular loops of the CD20 molecule epitopes on the human CD20 molecule on B cells. The binding of ofatumumab to the membrane proximal epitope of the CD20 molecule induces recruitment and activation of the complement pathway at the cell surface, leading to complement dependent cytotoxicity and resultant lysis of tumour cells. In addition, the binding of ofatumumab induces cell death through antibody dependent cell mediated cytotoxicity. Arzerra is indicated in combination with chlorambucil or bendamustine, for the treatment of patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) who have not received prior therapy and are inappropriate for fludarabine-based therapy. Arzerra as a single agent is indicated for the treatment of patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) refractory to fludarabine and alemtuzumab. Arzerra is available as a 100 mg/5 ml vial concentrate for infusion in packs of 3's and 1000 mg/50 ml vial in packs of 1's.

Nicorette Cooldrops Lozenge (nicotine) is a treatment-aid in smoking cessation. Clinical studies have shown that nicotine replacement from nicotine containing products can help people give up smoking by relief of abstinence symptoms associated with smoking cessation. It is indicated for the treatment of tobacco dependence by relieving nicotine craving and withdrawal symptoms, thereby facilitating smoking cessation in smokers

motivated to quit. In smokers currently unable or not ready to stop smoking abruptly, Nicorette Cooldrops Lozenge may also be used as part of a smoking reduction strategy as a step towards stopping completely. Nicorette Cooldrops Lozenge should not be administered to nontobacco users and should not be administered to children under 12 years of age. Nicorette Cooldrops Lozenge is available in icy mint flavour in 2 mg packs of 20's and 80's and in 4 mg packs of 20's and 80's.

Plegridy (peginterferon beta-1a (rch)) is recombinant interferon beta-1a conjugated to 20 kDa methoxy poly (ethylene glycol) using an -O-2-methylpropionaldehyde linker. Plegridy is produced by recombinant DNA technology. A definitive mechanism of action of Plegridy in multiple sclerosis is not known. However, as the biological effects of Plegridy are consistent with those of non-pegylated interferon beta-1a, the mechanism of action of Plegridy is likely to be similar. Plegridy is indicated for the treatment of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis. It is contraindicated in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to natural or recombinant interferon beta or peginterferon. The initiation of treatment is contraindicated during pregnancy, and in patients with current severe depression and/or suicidal ideation. Plegridy is available as a prefilled pen titration pack with two pens containing either 63 or 94 micrograms of peginterferon-beta-1a and a ready to use administration pack with two prefilled syringes containing 125 micrograms of peginterferon beta-1a.

Velphoro (sucroferric oxyhydroxide) works by binding phosphate in the GI tract. Serum phosphorus levels are reduced as a consequence of the reduced dietary phosphate absorption. Velphoro is indicated for the control of serum phosphorus levels in adult patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) on dialysis. It is contraindicated in those with haemochromatosis and any other iron accumulation disorders. Velphoro is available as a chewable tablet containing 2,500 mg of sucroferric oxyhydroxide (equivalent to 500 mg iron) in bottles of 90's.

NEW PRESENTATION

Cyklokapron (tranexamic acid) is now available as a 2000 mg/20 ml solution for injection in packs of 5 vials.

SAFETY RELATED CHANGES

Cimzia (certolizumab pegol) has been shown to reduce the rate of progression of joint damage as measured by X-ray, when given in combination with MTX.

Dorzolamide/ Timolol Sandoz 20/5 (dorzolamide (as hydrochloride) and timolol (as maleate)) is now contraindicated in severe renal impairment (CrCl < 30 ml/min) or hyperchloremic acidosis.

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.