

Global registrations management system

SAN Francisco technology firm Veeva Systems has announced the launch of "Veeva Vault Registrations," a new system which will help pharmaceutical manufacturers manage product registration data across the globe.

Veeva said a large life sciences company could have as many as 400,000 registrations around the world for different products, indications, packages and formulations.

Typically regional affiliates use multiple tools to manage registrations resulting in potential errors or duplications, with the new cloud-based solution providing a "global single source of truth".

IsoWhey competition

ISOWHEY Sports says there's still time for retailers to participate in an in-store competition which launches next week.

From 18 May-30 Jun entrants in the competition will be in the running to win a trip for two to Queenstown, NZ valued at up to \$10,000 including flights, accommodation and activities.

Pharmacies interested in being part of the promotion are invited to email myiw@fit.net.au for details.

Baxter acquisition

BAXTER BioScience has confirmed the US\$900 million purchase of the Oncaspar (pegaspargase) product portfolio from Sigma-Tau.

The deal will increase Baxter's presence in oncology markets for rare and orphan diseases.

Oncaspar is used to treat acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) and currently records sales of US\$100m.

"Oncaspar is a strong strategic fit for our rapidly expanding oncology business, as it complements our R&D programs in haematologic cancers," said Baxter head of oncology, David Meek.

The company said it would also investigate potential new indications for Oncaspar.

Baxter plans to spin off its BioScience division later this year into a separate firm named Baxalta.

PSA hails Medicare review

THE Federal Government's planned review of services provided under the Medicare Benefits Scheme (**PD** 23 Apr) has the potential to "create opportunities for investment in evidenced-based pharmacist services," according to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

In its formal budget response, the PSA said it was revealed during the budget lockup that of the current 5,700 services covered by Medicare, only 3% had ever been assessed for effectiveness.

"PSA advocates for evidence-based services and this review is a strong step in that direction for the MBS which could see substantial savings," said PSA acting national president Michelle Lynch.

The budget also included the announcement of a Primary Health Care Advisory Group, with the PSA saying it would expect to see pharmacists as integral members of this new body.

The PSA also urged that proposed incentives for GPs to participate in the re-invigorated eHealth system (**PD** Mon) also be made available to pharmacists.

"The government's review of eHealth records identifies that the majority of savings to be realised through this measure is through more appropriate medication management - so participation of

pharmacists in the development of this budget measure will be critical," the PSA said.

Similarly a government announcement of a refocusing of after-hours primary care funding only provides for GPs to be involved in these services via practice incentives.

"This ignores other key primary health professionals such as pharmacists who are an integral part of after-hours care".

CHF budget warnings

THE Consumers Health Forum has warned that Tue's Federal Budget "does not go far enough to ensure Australia is on the front foot when it comes to preventing illnesses".

In its budget response, CHF said Australia is already struggling under the weight of preventable illnesses, diverting funds away from other needed community programs.

"Under this budget, preventable chronic conditions will continue to plague Australia and the health system, driving up costs in the future," the CHF said.

The Forum also highlighted the proposed safety net increase, saying it would strongly resist changes to the PBS co-payments that result in higher out of pocket costs for consumers.

The CHF praised the budget's Medicare review, commitment to primary care reform and PBS measures such as providing the shingles vaccine to 70-79 year olds and access to life-saving drugs for cancer and macular degeneration.

Metoclopramide consultation

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has released details of two submissions in response to its consultation on the proposed advisory statements for medicines containing metoclopramide.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Australian Self Medication Industry both supported the proposed advisory statement "Do not use in children and adolescents aged under 18 years" as well as "Tell your doctor or pharmacist before use if you are taking other medicines".

The third advisory statement "Do not use if you have epilepsy (fits)" was supported by both respondents, but one also suggested using the term 'seizures' instead of 'fits'.

The TGA said it considers that the statement should be amended to allow for either term - for details see www.tga.gov.au.

Trivalent flu vaccine or quadrivalent?

NPS MedicineWise has summarised the issues around choice of influenza vaccine available this year.

The trivalent vaccine is free for certain at-risk groups eligible under the National Immunisation Program.

The new quadrivalent vaccine is not government-funded, so there is a cost involved, said the NPS.

Eligibility and availability criteria are listed on the NPS MedicineWise site - [CLICK HERE](#).

Schizophrenia week

SCHIZOPHRENIA Awareness Week will take place 17-24 May, with new research released showing 44% of Australians have no or limited understanding of what schizophrenia is, despite 23% knowing someone with the illness.

Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia ceo David Meldrum said schizophrenia costs the Australian economy up to \$28.6 billion a year in both direct costs and loss of productivity.

1,000 Australians, including 54 carers, were surveyed to find that 84% would not tell an employer about a diagnosis and almost half of carers have lost friendships or had relationship breakdowns related to their caring role.



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EMA literature scan

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) has published the list of active substances and a reference to the journals that will be covered by its new medical literature monitoring service for industry.

The service rollout will extend from 01 July to September this year and will provide a guide, a training video and a document detailing the inclusion and exclusion criteria to be used.

The project aims to improve the safety monitoring of medicines, with 400 active substance groups to be covered by the scheme.

Travel Specials

SANCTUARY Retreats is offering a special deal following the mighty Nile from Aswan to Luxor, with savings of up to 30%.

Sanctuary Retreats' three intimate river cruisers provide the perfect combination of elegant surroundings, luxury service and cultural itineraries in three or four-night cruises.

Winter season starts from \$408 per person twin share, while summer starts from \$292, including all meals and sightseeing.

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See www.daydreamisland.com.

Qld pharmacist cautioned

THE Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal has issued a formal caution to pharmacist Malcolm Coghill, after an investigation by the former Pharmacists Board of Queensland into criminal offences.

Coghill was convicted of fraud under the Worker's Compensation and Rehabilitation Act in 2009, when he was working as a registered pharmacist and was the sole director and shareholder of a company which owned three medical centres and two pharmacies on the Gold Coast.

When the company's WorkCover insurance policy lapsed he failed to take out a new policy or lodge any employer statements with WorkCover.

He also made a false statement to a WorkCover officer investigating the company, and continued to operate the business after receiving a formal WorkCover notification.

The former Board investigated the matter, and initiated disciplinary proceedings on the grounds that the conviction related to Coghill's conduct as a practitioner.

After the national registration scheme was put in place, the Pharmacy Board of Australia referred the matter to the tribunal alleging that the convictions

were "unsatisfactory professional conduct".

However while the tribunal agreed that the Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation Act was related to the practice of pharmacy, it did not agree that his behaviour amounted to unsatisfactory conduct.

Coghill received a caution, and was advised to make sure that he, and any associated entities, comply with legislation relating to the practice of pharmacy.

Drugs in pregnancy

NATIONAL Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) researchers have developed evidence-based resources to assist primary healthcare providers in supporting pregnant women who use alcohol and other drugs.

A comprehensive booklet as well as a Quick Guide for identifying women at risk from alcohol, smoking or other drug use during pregnancy, are intended for a range of primary health care professionals including pharmacists who have significant and frequent contact with pregnant women for other support items.

The resources are available for download by [CLICKING HERE](#).



DISPENSARY CORNER

BLOOD parasites? Yes, there's an app for that.

A study published in the *Science Translational Medicine* journal has detailed the use of a smartphone to automatically detect so-called Loa Loa wrigglers in patient blood.

The system was trialled in Cameroon, where diseases such as elephantiasis and river blindness are prevalent, but require screening of patients for the parasites before treatment with the drug ivermectin.

Researchers from the US National Institutes of Health used a modified smartphone to automate the testing process.

A drop of blood was collected and loaded into a handheld box where the app moved the sample, took a video and then analysed the resulting images.

It's hoped the system could be adapted to test for other infections such as tuberculosis and malaria, the *BBC* reports.

A BRITISH man is feeling considerable relief, after sneezing out the rubber sucker from a toy dart which he lost up his nose more than four decades ago.

51-year-old Steve Easton said he had suddenly experienced a "very uncomfortable sensation," before the object worked its way out of his left nostril.

After later telling his mother about the dart's emergence, she recognised the object as part of a toy which had disappeared while he was playing with it at the age of seven or eight.

She had taken him to hospital at the time suspecting he had swallowed the toy, but returned home after X-rays didn't show anything out of the ordinary in his alimentary canal.

"All these years later, it suddenly shot out," she marvelled.

WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and **Designer Brands** are giving readers the chance to win DB's new Blur Primer (RRP \$14.99), new DB BB Lips (\$6.99) and CC Concealer Pen (RRP \$12.99).

Blur products or 'photoshop finish' products are the hottest trend right now, with women looking to get the airbrushed finish we see on red carpets and glamorous events. Designer Brands has all the hottest Blur products at the lowest prices. As well as the Blur Primer, Designer Brands is also giving away the new BB Lip Balm and the simple to use, multi-functional CC Concealer Pen (RRP \$12.99).

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

Is the range paraben-free?

For more info [CLICK HERE](#).

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Antonella Panajia from Main Street Pharmacy.

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