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MA code changes

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia says pharmacists should be aware of changes to the Medicines Australia Code of Conduct.

New requirements in the code, which become effective 01 Oct 2015, mean member companies must publicly disclose payments made to health professionals for their expert service, or when financial support is provided for education purposes - including airfares, accommodation and conference registration fees.

Byetta expansion

MORE diabetes sufferers will be able to access Byetta (exenatide) from today, with an expanded PBS listing making it available on streamlined authority as an add-on therapy to insulin plus metformin for patients with type 2 diabetes.

Pharmacist prescriber plan

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has issued a formal position statement on the integration of pharmacy into medical practices, urging the advancement of the scope of practice of pharmacists to work as prescribers.

The move follows last year's joint Pharmaceutical Society-AMA plan (PD 22 Jul 2014), which suggested the inclusion of pharmacists in the general practice health care team.

The Guild's proposal states that while doctors would continue to have the overall responsibility for diagnosis, the inclusion of a Pharmacist Prescriber would "increase the clinical capacity of general practice".

Under the Guild proposal in-practice Pharmacist Prescribers would meet a range of criteria including remaining professionally independent from GPs, not dispensing medicines, strengthening patient relationships with their community pharmacy, and "ensuring efficient use of limited health funding by not duplicating services already provided in the local community pharmacies".

The Guild says it's willing to

work with other organisations representing pharmacists and GPs to trial models of care integrating Pharmacist Prescribers into general practice, to "enhance patient care without duplicating existing services and support".

Funding for the pharmacist prescribers should come from outside the Community Pharmacy Agreement, the Guild added - see the statement at www.guild.org.au.

Hep C cure push

AN OPEN letter to Federal Health Minister Sussan Ley has been published by 27 medical associations and health advocacy groups, urging the immediate inclusion of breakthrough hepatitis C medications on the PBS.

Hepatitis Australia ceo Helen Tyrrell said it was time for Ley to intervene in the face of "protracted" negotiations with pharmaceutical companies.

She described the availability of the new drugs as "too good to miss," providing the opportunity to transform hepatitis C into a rare condition.

Cervical screening

NPS MedicineWise has issued a special edition of its NPS RADAR detailing changes to the National Cervical Screening Program.

Effective 01 May 2017, Pap smears will be replaced with HPV testing of cervical samples with partial HPV genotyping, and reflex liquid-based cytology on samples testing positive for HPV.

Until then it is business as usual, with NPS' Dr Robyn Lindner saying women should not delay testing under the current arrangements - and HPV-vaccinated women should still be tested because the current vaccine doesn't protect against all cancer-causing HPV types.

Under the new system, screening will start at age 25, the screening interval will be extended to five years and self-collection of a cervical sample will be available for under-screened women.



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Alison's off to South Africa

PHARMACY Choice is taking Alison Richards of Naracoorte Pharmacy in South Australia on the trip of a lifetime.

Her pharmacy came top in this year's Pharmacy Choice Incentive Program - just twelve months after joining, meaning as well as enjoying growth across all areas of the business, she will head off to Cape Town next month.

Each of the top ten winners will be part of the South Africa trip, with a further 20 top achievers heading to Hobart.

And a further twenty stores won auction items, including tickets to the Emirates Melbourne Cup Carnival by bidding with their incentive points.

The Pharmacy Choice Incentive Program is now in its eighth year.

Alison Richards is **pictured** receiving her coveted trophy from



Pharmacy Choice national manager
Luke McKinnon.

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Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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Regional France savings with Albatross Tours

Albatross Tours is offering savings of \$600 per couple on its new 15 day La Grande tour of France, which takes in the Loire Valley, the Dordogne, Languedoc Roussillon, Provence and the French Riviera.

Guests stay in chateaux and are hosted by an experienced tour manager, with a range of extras such as sightseeing, a Cote d'Azur cruise, excursions and entrance fees. The trip is priced at \$6,089 per person twin share when booked by 15 Jan - for more info call 1300 135 015.

Stay three, pay two in Port Stephens

For a break closer to home, the **Shoal Bay Beachclub Apartments** in NSW's Port Stephens is offering a "stay 3, pay 2" deal for groups of up to six.

Rates start at \$169 per night, valid up to 18 December for a two bedroom Sea Spray apartment including school holidays and weekends.

The apartments are in the heart of Port Stephens, about 30 minutes from Newcastle Airport, where direct flights link the region to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

See www.portstephens.org.au.

New UTS international MPH

SYDNEY'S University of Technology is claiming an Australian first with the launch of a new Master of Pharmacy (International) degree - which includes a one year international clinical placement.

To be offered by the UTS Graduate School of Health from next year, the new degree promises to expose students to "national and international advanced practices in pharmacy, and a global health perspective".

School head Professor Charlie Benrimoj confirmed that the program is accredited by the Australian Pharmacy Council, allowing graduates to be eligible for registration in Australia.

It's been developed in response to demand from students for overseas placement experiences, with UTS academics leveraging their extensive teaching and

research networks overseas to give students the opportunity to study and practice alongside pharmacy leaders in Asia, Canada, Europe, South America and the USA.

Benrimoj said students undertaking the program would "have the advantage of developing international contacts that will be invaluable when building their careers in pharmacy".

He said the innovative degree is "intended to produce a new kind of pharmacy graduate," with the course part of the UTS strategic plan to provide practice-based education and produce pharmacists with experience that will enhance their career opportunities, employability and global competitiveness.

Reminders urged for pneumococcal vax

BIOSL says a survey of general practice nurses it commissioned has shown the importance of a patient reminder system in improving the rates of pneumococcal vaccination in Australians aged over 65.

Currently 54% of people in the target group are vaccinated, with a majority of GP practices waiting for patients to present with a health concern before recommending the pneumococcal vaccine.

Fair Work Act guide

EMPLOYMENT lawyers McDonald Murholme have issued a free guide which summarises the *Fair Work Act 2009* in a digestible format "so employees can quickly assess whether they are protected by the Act without paying for expensive legal costs".

The guide can be downloaded at www.mcdonaldmurholme.com.au.

Win with MILKY FOOT



This week Pharmacy Daily and Biorevive are giving away Milky Foot Active each day.

Milky Foot Active is an effortless at home pedicure treatment which combats foot odour and removes hardened dead skin through an intense peeling action - all in just one simple application. With Milky Foot Active, your feet can get a complete makeover; from rough and smelly to beautifully soft and fresh. Visit www.milkyfoot.com.au

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

What are the 2 ingredients in Milky Foot Active that work to exfoliate hardened dead skin from the feet?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Julie Sage from Chemmart Pharmacy.

DISPENSARY CORNER

THIS is the definition of ironic.

The owner of a pharmacy in the USA has been charged with felony grand larceny, after allegedly defrauding the New York State Health Insurance Program to the tune of US\$232,000.

62-year-old William Davis is claimed to have sent invoices for fake prescriptions and pocketed the reimbursements, using the name of at least one dead doctor to perpetrate the scam.

The irony comes from the name of his now-closed chemist shop - Davis (not-so) Ethical Pharmacy.

THE Welsh rugby team has confirmed the use of a cryotherapy chamber as part of its preparation for matches in the Rugby World Cup currently under way in the UK.

Cryotherapy involves exposing the body to extremely cold temperatures - around minus 160°C - and is claimed to help tired muscles regenerate faster.

However that may not be the case according to a Cochrane review, which found there was no proof that spending short spells in the cold reduced soreness or improved recovery compared to other treatment options.

Portsmouth University's Dr Joseph Costello said an exhaustive analysis of the literature found only four studies assessing the treatment "which is amazing when you consider that sports teams are investing in it.

"That's not to say it couldn't work, but there's no good evidence that it does," he said.

That hasn't deterred the Welsh Rugby Union, with a spokesman saying the organisation was aware there wasn't a lot of evidence around cryotherapy.

"But the club thinks it works and that's why we use it," he added.

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