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More kids' analgesic medicines recalled

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has extended its recall for a number of children's medicines, which have been supplied in bottles where the grooves that secure the lids can break off during opening.

Similar recalls occurred some months ago (**PD** 06 Jul, 10 Jul, 04 Aug), with the latest issues affecting several products including Terry White Chemists branded children's paracetamol syrup.

Apohealth children's paracetamol as well as Apohealth children's ibuprofen have also been named, along with additional batches of Terry White Chemists branded ibuprofen children's suspension.

Last night the TGA site also detailed some similar Chemmart and Pharmacy Choice products but this info has now been removed.

The TGA says if the grooves break off there is a small risk that pieces of plastic could be ingested, posing a potential choking hazard.

Particular batches of each product are impacted, all in 200ml bottles, with consumers advised to return the items to the place of purchase for a refund or replacement.

United real-time system call

AUSTRALIA'S peak pharmacy, medicine and consumer health organisations have today united in a joint call for the "urgent implementation of a national system for the Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs".

The Pharmacy Guild, Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia, Australian Medical Association, Royal Australian College of Physicians, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Medical Software Industry Association and the Consumers Health Forum have written to all state and territory health ministers as well as Sussan Ley, Federal Health Minister, saying that the absence of such a system means "avoidable deaths involving prescription medicines continue to occur at an alarming rate".

Coroners across the country have repeatedly called for the urgent implementation of a real-time prescription monitoring system, while the so-called ERRCD would provide clinicians with a crucial tool, enabling them to better address the serious problem of addiction to controlled drugs.

The ERRCD is currently at various stages of implementation

in different jurisdictions after Commonwealth funding was provided in 2010 as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

"However this roll out has been extremely slow due to a range of technical issues," the letter states, noting that at this stage only Tasmania has such a system in place.

"We call on all jurisdictions to agree on a clear implementation plan and timeline for a national ERRCD system at the next COAG Health Council meeting, and to remove any roadblocks to achieving this outcome," the letter states.

All signatories to the joint letter have promised to "stand ready to work in partnership" to ensure the national roll out of the system, which would collect information on all prescribing and dispensing events related to controlled drugs consistent with state and territory legislation.

The proposed ERRCD would have a secure web portal for both prescribers and pharmacists, with capacity to integrate with pharmacy dispensing systems and prescribing software to give access to the controlled drugs history for a particular patient.

It would also allow state and territory health departments access to monitor and manage the system, and to direct responses as required to alerts raised by the software.

Eylea now on PBS

BAYER'S Eylea (afibercept) has been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme effective 01 Oct for the treatment of diabetic macular oedema (DME) in adults.

Eylea has also been PBS listed from this month for the treatment of visual impairment due to macular oedema secondary to central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO).

PARA'KITO goes pink

PARA'KITO natural mosquito repellent is inviting pharmacies to stock its new Pink Bands in store, to help raise awareness and funds for the National Breast Cancer Foundation - for details see the **last page** of today's *Pharmacy Daily*.

Today's issue of PD

PD today has two pages of news, plus full pages: (**click**)

- Pharmacy 4 Less
- PARA'KITO Pink Bands

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Pharmacy DAILY

Thursday 08 Oct 2015

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Travel Specials

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Vibe Hotel Canberra opening special

The brand new **Vibe Hotel Canberra Airport** is offering 25% off as part of an opening special for the property which debuts at the beginning of next month.

Located about ten minutes from the heart of Canberra, the 25% savings offer valid on selected dates includes daily breakfast for two and a \$50 dining credit at the in-house Helix Bar & Dining.

Valid for stays through until 31 Jan 2016, prices start at just \$112 per night - for more information see www.tfehotels.com.

CMA welcomes TPP deal

COMPLEMENTARY Medicines Australia has hailed the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement between Australia, the USA and other countries, saying it will have "positive implications" for Australia's vitamins and minerals manufacturing sector.

CMA ceo Carl Gibson told *Pharmacy Daily* advantages of the deal include more low or no tariff markets and potentially greater market access across the region.

"Australian complementary medicines are highly regarded because of the focus on quality and efficacy - Australian products are clean and green and we are experiencing an export boom to

Asia," Gibson said.

He said the TPP provided simpler and clearer access requirements and operating conditions in countries including Malaysia, Mexico and Vietnam.

MEANWHILE the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association has also welcomed the TPP provision which does not extend the data exclusivity period for medicines beyond five years.

In contrast, Medicines Australia has warned that this is a "disappointing outcome and a missed opportunity to stimulate and grow the Australian biopharmaceutical industry.

MA said the five year period lags behind key global competitors and collaborators such as the US, Canada, the EU and Japan.

Hooper heads NPSA

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals ceo Mark Hooper has been elected President of the National Pharmaceutical Services Association.

The wholesaler representative group counts Sigma, Symbion and National Pharmacies as members, with Hooper taking over from EBOS ceo Patrick Davies who has led the organisation since 2010 and will continue to sit on the NPSA board.

Hooper said the next milestone for the NPSA is the upcoming review of pharmacy regulation and remuneration, "and we look forward to being an important part of that process".

e-Health survey

THE Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) is conducting a survey seeking feedback on what should be included in the new national My Health Record education and training package for health providers.

The AHHA is developing the training on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Health, with pharmacists invited to participate by **CLICKING HERE**.

DISPENSARY CORNER

HUMAN memories are getting worse, according to a new study which blames an over-reliance on computers and search engines for the phenomenon of so-called "digital amnesia".

According to Dr Maria Wimber from the University of Birmingham, the easy availability of internet look-ups "prevents the build-up of long-term memories".

The memory habits of 6,000 adults in Europe were surveyed, with more than 33% saying they would turn to a search engine to recall information, the *BBC* reported.

UK adults were the worst offenders, with more than half saying they would "search online for the answer first".

Dr Wimber said the process of remembering things is a "very efficient way to create a permanent memory.

"In contrast, passively repeating information, such as repeatedly looking it up on the internet, does not create a solid, lasting memory trace in the same way".

Only 51% of people in the UK could recall their partner's phone number, in contrast to almost 80% of Italians.

Gene patent denied

THE High Court has ruled in favour of a Brisbane woman who was fighting an attempt by US firm Myriad Genetics to patent the BRCA-1 and BRCA-2 genes which increase the chance of developing breast and ovarian cancer.

Medicines Australia said the decision to disallow patenting of isolated genetic materials could "undermine the development of innovative medicines".

Win with DESIGNER BRANDS

This week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away each day a pack of all five shades of Longwear Matte Lip Gloss.

The newly launched and extremely popular Longwear Matte Lip Gloss provides 24 hour, highly pigmented lip colour. The innovative formula contains Aloe Vera Extract, Peptide Complex, Green Tea Extract and Vitamins A, C and E to keep your lips looking and feeling flawless. It's available in five shades. Visit www.dbcosmetics.com.au

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

Name two shades of the Longwear Matte Lip Gloss.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Belinda Morris from AFS Pharmacies.



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