

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a full page from Monash University.

More kid's analgesics recalled

THE saga of faulty packaging for children's medicines continues, with the Therapeutic Goods Administration yesterday advising of additional affected products.

The items are being recalled because they have been supplied in bottles where grooves that secure the lids can break off during opening, leading to a risk that pieces of plastic could be ingested and a potential choking hazard.

The latest affected items have all been supplied by Cipla Australia as sponsor and Sigma as brand owner, and include two batches of Amcal children's paracetamol elixir, two batches of Amcal children's paracetamol suspension, three batches of Amcal ibuprofen suspension for children, and one batch of Amcal cetirizine oral solution for 1 to 12 years - all supplied in a 200ml bottle.

Other Sigma brands impacted include one batch of Guardian children's paracetamol elixir for 1 to 5 years, two batches of Pharmacy Care ibuprofen suspension for children, and one batch of Pharmacy Care cetirizine oral solution for children.

In all cases consumers are being advised to return the items to the place of purchase for a refund.

Full details of the affected batches are online at www.tga.gov.au.

Obesity in-store audit call

FORMER Pharmacy Guild national president Kos Sclavos believes there is a significant opportunity for pharmacies to play a leading role in addressing the "growing epidemic" of obesity in Australia.

Sclavos, who's now APP chairman and vice president of the Qld Guild, told **PD** pharmacists can also be part of managing perceptions around the condition, in the light of a new expert panel obesity statement which urges a change in the public portrayal of obesity.

Obesity is now being described as a complex and multifactorial medical condition with environmental, psychological and physiological aetiological factors according to the statement issued after the Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society (ANZOS) Scientific Meeting last week.

Sclavos gave the example of the well-evolved approach to mental health where depression has lost much of its stigma and guilt associations, becoming a more readily discussed and empathised topic with accessible resources.

EMA ticks Imlygic

AMGEN'S new genetically engineered treatment Imlygic (talimogene laherparepvec) for unresectable metastatic melanoma has been recommended to the European Medicines Agency (EMA) for marketing under specific circumstances.

If it receives final approval it will be a first in class novel agent to receive marketing authorisation.

There are many resources within the Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society training modules for pharmacists and their staff to develop their expertise around obesity he said, but it needs to start with an assessment of each individual pharmacy's needs.

In-store signage, for example, can direct people to interrupt the pharmacist for a discussion, Sclavos said, so that the conversation doesn't just stop at the product level, such as diet shakes and other weight loss products.

As well as in-pharmacy language and imagery management, the pharmaceutical industry needs to get on board with more empathetic respectful communication approaches, Sclavos added.

He said as the most accessible health profession, pharmacists can be key to helping mitigate the many elements and comorbidities of obesity, helping individuals through their life journey.

Taste for compliance

WHEN it comes to therapies for constipation, after establishing that the product works, a significant deciding factor will be taste, which will definitely affect compliance, according to experimental psychologist John Prescott.

Presenting at an event held in the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney last week, Prescott highlighted individual reactions to taste.

Sponsored by Norgine's Movicol brand, the presentation is available on video by **CLICKING HERE**.

6CPA phcy trial forum

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has reinforced its support for the Pharmacy Trial Program detailed in the 6th Community Pharmacy Agreement, at a Health Department convened stakeholder forum held in Canberra yesterday.

Guild executive director David Quilty and Pharmacy Viability Group executive Fiona Mitchell attended and presented an opening statement, highlighting the Guild's commitment to and support for the program, saying it "provides an excellent opportunity to deliver better and more cost-effective health outcomes to consumers".

Services proposed included screening, early intervention and medication adherence, a Minor Ailments Program, Prescription Renewal, a Basic Health Check, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medicines Review, and an Anti-Coagulation Monitoring Service.

Core principles were defined, focusing on targeting services to those in need, ensuring relevance, QUM, safety and quality of services and a culture of integration and improved communication between community pharmacy and other health care providers such as GPs.

Services also need to be recorded and linked to electronic records while being viable for pharmacies to provide in a sustainable way, the statement added.

Jointly developed between the Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the services are all evidence-based, already trialled either in Australia or internationally and therefore not requiring further research before commencement.



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Scholarships open

RURAL and remote pharmacy students are now able to apply for the Rural Pharmacy Scholarships for 2016, with 30 full time scholarships worth up to \$40,000 each on offer.

Supported by the Australian Government and the Pharmacy Guild, applications opened yesterday and close 31 Jan 2016.

The scholarships are valued at \$10,000 per year for up to four years, and studies must lead directly to registration as a pharmacist.

Applications can be made via the rural section on www.6cpa.com.au under "Rural Support Programmes" or **CLICK HERE**.

Guild Update

Pharmacy Location Rules Amendments

THE Federal Minister for Health, Sussan Ley MP, has made minor amendments to the Pharmacy Location Rules which take effect on 10 November 2015.

The amendments involve the removal of three obsolete provisions, changes to some definitions and clarification of some provisions, for example the removal of the provision which meant that a pharmacy, recommended to relocate in a town, was considered to be two pharmacies.

Any application made on or after 10 November 2015, to establish a new pharmacy or relocate an existing pharmacy, will be considered under the amended Rules.

To assist applicants in understanding the amendments, the Pharmacy Location Rules – Applicant's Handbook is being updated and will be available shortly on the Department of Health's website at www.health.gov.au/acpa

Medical marijuana support

MORE than 90% of Australians believe the use of cannabis for medical purposes should be legalised, according to a study conducted by Roy Morgan Research last week.

The strong response came from right across the community, the polling firm said, with men and women of different age groups in states across the country all supporting the move.

Interestingly the highest level of support for legislation came from the 50-plus age group where 94% of respondents were in favour.

Just 7% were against legalising the narcotic for medical purposes, while 2% were undecided.

Roy Morgan ceo Michele Levine

said the results bode well for the federal government's plan to legalise the growing of cannabis for medicinal purposes (**PD** 19 Oct).

She said that unlike some social issues, legalising medicinal marijuana was also widely favoured by voters of different political persuasions and age groups.

Interestingly, the same telephone survey found only about 33% of the population believe that smoking of marijuana for recreational purposes should be legalised.

Aspirin to foil cancer?

THE world's largest clinical trial to investigate whether aspirin is able to prevent cancer has commenced in the UK involving around 11,000 people who have had early bowel, breast, prostate, stomach and oesophageal cancer, according to **BBC News**.

The study is funded by the charity Cancer Research UK and the NIHR - the research arm of the NHS.

Different daily doses of aspirin will be compared against placebo over a five-year study period.

Side effects will also be evaluated, with researchers warning that the drug is not suitable for everyone.

New FDA approvals

THE US Food and Drug Administration has given the tick to Strensiq (asfotase alfa) as the first approved treatment for perinatal, infantile and juvenile-onset hypophosphatasia (HPP).

Also approved is Yondelis (trabectedin), a chemotherapy, for the treatment of specific soft tissue sarcomas (STS) – liposarcoma and leiomyosarcoma.

Win with Natura Siberica

This week Pharmacy Daily and Natura Siberica are giving readers the chance each day to win a Natura Siberica prize pack including Revitalising Bath Salts 600g, Nourishing Cream Soap 500mL and Lifting Hand Cream.

Natura Siberica is a new organic beauty range for hair, body and bath. Originating from the unspoilt continent of Siberia, this unique range is formulated from Wild Harvested herbs and flowers and exclusive natural and organic ingredients. Visit www.naturasiberica.net.au.

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

What makes the Plant Adaptogens used in Natura Siberica products so special?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Annie from Balmoral St Pharmacy.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

EMERGENCY first aid was required for a woman in the US state of Indiana last weekend after she was accidentally shot in the foot while hunting.

25-year-old Allie Carter apparently put her 12-gauge shotgun on the ground with the safety catch disengaged during a duck hunt at the Tri-County Fish and Wildlife Area, about 200km north of Indianapolis.

Unfortunately her trusty Labrador retriever stepped on the weapon which discharged at point blank range, causing injuries to her foot and toes.

Adding insult to injury, her dog is ironically named Trigger.

Carter was treated in hospital but is now hobbling around at home after being discharged.

Indiana Conservation Officers are using the unusual incident to highlight the importance of gun safety, reminding hunters to point firearms in a safe direction and always use the safety mechanism.

FIREFIGHTERS in New Zealand rushed to a laundromat in the town of Whanganui after a boy became trapped inside a washing machine last weekend.

Clearly not enthralled by the idea of watching clothes dry while at the laundromat with his dad, the youngster climbed into one of the front-loading machines and unfortunately the door swung shut, locking him inside.

The emergency workers' quick response meant the six-year-old was only inside for about ten minutes, with station officer Shane Dudley saying it was relatively easy to extract him with the help of some hand tools.

"We gave the locking mechanism a bit of a spin - he hopped out pretty quickly after we got the door open," he said.

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Applications close 30 November

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