



Pharmacy Board updates guidelines

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia yesterday released revised guidelines for pharmacists on a range of issues, with the updated documents taking effect on 07 December 2015.

Developed after wide-ranging consultation, key changes include the removal of the former section dealing with extemporaneous dispensing which has now been published separately as *Guidelines on compounding of medicines*, while the guidelines also add new information on dose administration aids, the treatment of electronic data and the provision of complementary and alternative medicines.

Pharmacy Board chair William Kelly urged pharmacists to read the new documents which are: ([click](#))

- **Guidelines for dispensing of medicines**
- **Guidelines on practice-specific issues**
- **Guidelines on dose administration aids and staged supply of dispensed medicines**; and
- **Guidelines for proprietor pharmacists**

Kelly said pharmacists are expected to review the new guidelines and familiarise themselves with all changes to ensure they comply in their practice from 07 Dec.

Titles of guidelines have been renamed to better reflect their content, while the documents have also been restructured to make them easier to read.

Other key changes in the dispensing guideline include a new section on protection of electronic data,

which addresses the specific risks to pharmacists' electronically stored data, as well as further guidance on the use of scanners when dispensing medicines in Guideline 10.1 *Scanners*.

The practice-specific issues guideline updates pharmacists on provision of complementary and alternative medicines, including guidance that only products of proven safety and quality should be offered and patients should be provided "relevant accompanying advice" to help them make an informed choice, and where appropriate pharmacists should record the supply.

Additional guidance is provided regarding dose administration aids, covering labelling, packing of DAAs by a third party and supply of oral cytotoxic and other hazardous medicines in DAAs.

There's also guidance about the initiation of periodic administration of a dispensed medicine.

The updated guidelines for proprietor pharmacists reflect current legislative requirements in regard to registration, with a fact sheet detailing what's needed in each jurisdiction.

There's also additional guidance on the responsibilities of proprietor pharmacists, including those relating to advertising, and facilitation of employee pharmacists to meet the Board's registration standards - for full details see pharmacyboard.gov.au.

Paracetamol recall

APOTEX, in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration, has initiated a recall of a batch of APO-Paracetamol 500mg tablets, due to potential contamination with pieces of latex.

The tablets, from batch number X40466 with expiry date 05/2016, are sold in bulk to pharmacies and health facilities which then dispense them in dose administration aids.

Apotex has warned that any tablet from the batch could contain small pieces of latex - likely from a latex glove - potentially posing an allergy risk for some consumers.

The company says it initiated the recall after one customer complaint, and believes it was an isolated incident but recalled the entire batch as a precaution.

The impacted paracetamol was first distributed to the market on 02 Mar 2015, with pharmacies urged to check their stocks of the product and quarantine any from the relevant batch.

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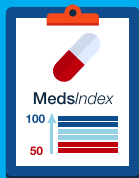
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'Big Data' at ASMI

THE upcoming Australian Self-Medication Industry annual conference, taking place in Sydney during November, will feature a presentation from Tim Trumper, director of Australian data and analytics company Quantum.

Trumper will explore the current trends driving the use of so-called 'big data' to enable better decision making and gain competitive insights.

Analysing the rich information now available can help suppliers determine the impact of price on customers, what the primary drivers of "adoption and defection" are, and "what is the most profitable use of incremental capital".

The conference takes place Wed 11 Nov 2015 from 10am at the Waterview Convention Centre, Sydney Olympic Park.

PBS updates

THE Health Department has updated the PBS website with further examples of the criteria for 'No Reduction Items - Low Volume/Low Discount' in the fact sheet on 2015 price disclosure arrangements.

The Listing Steps have also been updated to include an invitation for comments in relation to making an originator brand determination.

For full details see the website at www.pbs.gov.au.

OA paracetamol risk

MANY Australians with osteoarthritis (OA) or other chronic conditions may be putting their health at risk by inadvertently self administering too much paracetamol in attempts to manage their pain, according to a University of Wollongong School of Medicine study of 254 arthritis patients published in *The Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*.

Those most at risk, according to the study, included patients with low functional health literacy who were not always able to recognise paracetamol to be an active ingredient in several prescription or over-the-counter pharmaceutical products.

Those described as at "even greater risk" were those patients who had borrowed or shared their prescription and OTC pain medications, the authors said.

Health professionals, especially pharmacists and pharmacy staff were identified in the study as the ideal communicators to help educate consumers about how to identify the active ingredients, maximum doses allowed and the potential risks associated with multiple combination paracetamol products.

CLICK HERE to access the study.

FDA Varubi approval

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Varubi (rolapitant) for the treatment of nausea and vomiting due to chemotherapy.

Varubi works by inhibiting the CYP2D6 enzyme and is contraindicated with the use of thioridazine.



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Avenova into NZ

NOVABAY Pharmaceuticals this morning announced a new partnership with Ophthalmic Instrument Company, which will see its Avenova prescription daily eyelid and lash hygiene product marketed in New Zealand.

Avenova contains NovaBay's proprietary pure hypochlorous acid Neutrox, which has been shown to be effective at killing microbes and neutralising bacterial enzymes and toxins contributing to common eye conditions.

Crestor battle over

THE High Court yesterday agreed with a previous ruling that AstraZeneca's patent for Crestor (rosuvastatin) lacks the necessary "inventive step," bringing to an end a long-running court battle in which AZ has been attempting to block generic alternatives to the product.

The court dismissed AZ's appeal, with the generic suppliers likely to seek damages from the company.

Registration fees up

THE Pharmacy Board general registration fee for Australian pharmacists for 2015/16 has been set at \$320, with the cost increase limited to be less than the consumer price index of 1.3%.

Effective 09 Sep 2015 the higher fee will cover the registration period for most pharmacists of 01 Dec 2015 to 30 Nov 2016.

Guild wins ad gong

PART of a national Pharmacy Guild advertising campaign highlighting the expanding role of community pharmacy in Australia has taken out the Gold Award in the Direct Mail Promotion category of the Australasian Promotional Product Association 2015 Awards.

The video mailer, sent to every representative of federal parliament, played the 30 second "Discover More. Ask your Pharmacist" TV commercial, along with a message from 2014 Pharmacy of the Year winner Samantha Kouritis talking about the expansion of her services and asking for support for community pharmacy - to view see pharmacydaily.com.au/videos.

Judges said the promotion "cleverly reinforces the brand," with strong production values, quality and high retention appeal.

As well as highlighting community pharmacy to consumers, the Discover More campaign played a role in the Guild's wider lobbying strategy to remind the government of its long-standing investment in the community pharmacy model.

The overall campaign was also hailed as a success after research found customers who use a pharmacy less frequently were more likely to consider pharmacy for advice or treatment after seeing the commercial.

Recognition of the Gold Cross logo also surged over the course of the campaign, rising to 54%.

GUILD



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ENTRIES CLOSE 14 OCTOBER 2015

Win with DESIGNER BRANDS

This week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away a prize pack each day containing products from the Designer Brands Special FX Collection including a DB Contour Kit (RRP \$9.99), Instant Face Bronzer (RRP \$12.99) and Invisible Lip Liner (\$8.99).

The Designer Brands Contour Kit comes with step-by-step instructions on the back of the palette to help you contour like a pro! Featuring a highly blendable and buildable formula, it's perfect for contouring and highlighting the face. Sculpt, shape and define your features with this trio of contouring and highlighting shades.

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

What is the price of the kit?

Need a hint? **CLICK HERE**

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Joan Lawrie from Terry White Chemists.



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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Spring is sprung!

Luxury Lodges of Australia has a suite of exciting Spring specials on offer.

For example, combine a Yarra Valley weekend escape with a Spring Masterclass Cooking School Package with Alla Wolf-Tasker and a range of options starting from \$870 per person.

For more, contact **Lake House** on +61 (03) 5348 3329 or at info@lakehouse.com.au.

Also from Luxury Lodges, Celebrate World Champagne Day on Friday 23 Oct with an indulgent weekend getaway.

Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley will host a magnificent champagne dinner in partnership with The Champagne Bureau and guest chef Russ Lusted from Sydney's The Bridge Room, from \$1,999 per person twin share.

See oneandonlyresorts.com.

Outrigger Mauritius Beach Resort

Fly with **Air Mauritius** and **Virgin Australia** and spend six nights at Outrigger Mauritius Beach Resort from \$2,435 per person with the option of an upgrade to a Beachfront Club Room from an additional \$140 per person.

Contact **Asia Escape Holidays**, phone 1800 462 254 or email info@asiaescapeholidays.com.

Stroke prevention Blooming

DESCRIBED as "a good first port of call to determine your risk of stroke", Blooms the Chemist pharmacists have been tagged by the Stroke Foundation Australia as the ideal first assessment point using the Stroke Risk Assessment during this Stroke Risk Awareness Month (September).

Blooms the chemist pharmacists are conducting Stroke Risk Assessments throughout major metropolitan and regional areas of NSW, Qld and in Melbourne.

Former Australian cricket star Steve Waugh and his wife Lynette (**pictured**), a stroke survivor, are championing the cause.

Although stroke is most widely associated with the elderly, Steve Waugh said that Lynette experienced a stroke at the age of 40, without warning.

"One-in-six people will have a stroke during their lifetime," he said, drawing on Stroke Foundation Australia research data.

"While stroke currently has no cure, importantly, the most common type of stroke can be



prevented," he added.

From the pharmacist's assessment, individuals at risk will be referred to their doctor with a referral form identifying the issues, all with the aim of prevention.

The assessment takes about 10 minutes and includes a blood pressure reading and a series of simple questions designed to gauge the overall risk of stroke.

For more information go to strokefoundation.com.au.

Valeant acquisition

VALEANT Pharmaceuticals is on the acquisition trail again, overnight announcing a deal to purchase precision optical surgical device supplier Synergetics USA.

The definitive agreement, worth more than US\$160 million, aims to increase the global presence of Valeant's Bausch & Lomb offshoot in "the rapidly evolving field of vitreoretinal surgery," according to Valeant CEO J. Michael Pearson.

The board of Synergetics has unanimously approved the deal which includes an up-front payment of US\$6.50 per share, plus milestone payments.

Other recent Valeant acquisitions include Sprout Pharmaceuticals.

DISPENSARY CORNER

SPF500+ sun protection was definitely needed by anyone in the vicinity of a London skyscraper, which achieved worldwide infamy in 2013 after melting parts of a car parked in the street below by focusing the sun's rays in a concentrated beam.

The 37-storey building at 20 Fenchurch Street was last week awarded the not-so-prized Carbuncle Cup which highlights "architectural horrors" each year.

Initially nick-named the Walkie Talkie due to its curved shape, the edifice in the City of London soon became known as the Walkie Scorchie because of its ability to act like a giant concentrator.

Carbuncle Cup judges, from the UK *Business Design* magazine, described the building as a "gratuitous glass gargoyle".

As well as the vehicle-melting incident, other local businesses reported paint damage to their shops, while a TV crew famously broadcast an egg being fried in the reflected sunbeams.

Eventually the facade was fitted with horizontal fins to diffuse the energy from the sun.

A 75-YEAR-OLD New Zealand man has been forced to eat soft food for a week, after a payment dispute with his dentist.

Ramon McDonald says the bill was twice the amount originally quoted, and refused to pay - with the dentist in turn withholding the patient's lower denture.

Ramon's wife took the matter to a higher authority, claiming failure to return the denture was a human rights violation.

Eventually the dentist returned the false teeth after legal advice from the New Zealand Institute of Dental Technologists that it was wrong to withhold the false teeth without a signed contract.