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Hosp phy standards

GLOBAL standards of practice called the "Basel Statements" used by hospital pharmacists around the world have been revised and released by the Hospital Pharmacy Section (HPS) of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

The updated standards cover procurement, influences on prescribing, preparation and delivery of medicines, medicines administration, monitoring medication and human resources and training.

"There are several totally new statements, many of them dealing with advances in information technology and the importance of pharmacists using electronic health records to improve the quality of medicines use by our patients," says HPS secretary Lee Vermeulen.

"Significant changes have been made to reflect FIP's definition of 'responsible use of medicines' adopted in 2012," Vermeulen said.

Wording has also been simplified and made more globally applicable. **CLICK HERE** to access the update.

ASMI call to speed access

THE Australian Self-Medication Industry (ASMI) is calling for the establishment of a "multi-stakeholder taskforce to undertake a comprehensive and coordinated review of the Australian scheduling environment, and to develop a switch agenda to meet future health needs".

In a statement issued last week ASMI said access to medicines is key to enhancing consumer self-care, urging Australia to keep pace in terms of access to the best and most affordable consumer healthcare medicines.

Access to medicines enables more people to obtain efficacious and safe non-prescription medicines from pharmacies and other retail outlets, with the potential to deliver significant public health, social and economic benefits, the statement said.

The peak self-medication industry body has identified what it calls "key foundational steps" toward increasing access

to medicines: policy development with key stakeholders, a list of disease categories to target with relevant medicines, broad access to information, community pharmacists with the skills and tools to manage conditions in collaboration with GPs and regulatory processes that facilitate medicine rescheduling.

Healthnotes boost

HEALTHNOTES has expanded its offering beyond medication adherence reminders via SMS, with the recent launch of a smartphone App and pharmacy professional services module which allows pharmacists to follow up on clinical interventions and Medschecks.

The SMS service reminds patients when their next repeat is due, as well as sending health tips, with almost 1,400 pharmacies across Australia having enrolled over one million customers - for more info call Saurabh Mishra 0402 326 232.

Instigo EasyClinic

INSTIGO is inviting pharmacies to examine its EasyClinic professional services platform, with an obligation-free assessment and consultation on offer.

EasyClinic aims to effectively market professional services, boost dispensary returns and develop staff for appropriate professional roles - see **page three** for details.

S6 & S7 retail storage

A **NATIONAL** guideline for the retail storage of Schedule 6 and Schedule 7 poisons has been posted by the TGA, including an alert about conditions relating to innovative packaging or delivery systems.

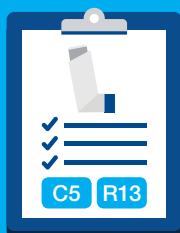
Practical interpretations of the mandatory requirements are also featured - see tga.gov.au.

Today's issue of PD

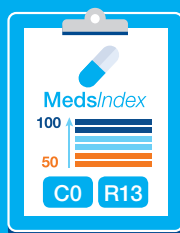
Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from **Instigo**.

Even More CI Opportunities

GuildCare makes it easy! Tick boxes pre-populate Clinical Intervention information across various Professional Services programs.



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Correcting a patient's inhaler technique qualifies as a CI.



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C5 R13

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1. Asthma Foundation Australia. Always use your professional discretion. GuildLink Pty Ltd. MAR-197 Sept 2015

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Diana Bicopoulos, Managing Editor of Medical Director.**



The role of pharmacy in minimising medication-related adverse events

MEDICATION errors can occur at any point in a patient's medication management journey. Aside from potentially devastating clinical outcomes, the financial implications are daunting. It has been estimated that 190,000 medication-related hospital admissions occur per year in Australia, with estimated costs of at least \$660 million¹.

Technology plays a vital role in helping to address this problem via the delivery of decision support in electronic medication management (eMM) systems, yet surprisingly, it's only recently that hard evidence has emerged to support this conclusion in Australia. Johanna Westbrook and her team at the Australian Institute of Health Innovation published a landmark study earlier this year, which concluded that significant reductions in medication errors could be gained, and costs saved, by the implementation of eMM systems within hospitals².

Pharmacy dispensing software systems already incorporate some form of drug interaction screening although the quality of this screening varies and often the patient's full current medications (including OTC products), are not in the system. This highlights the importance of access to a reliable evidence-based drug interactions resource and other drug safety screening as part of a full medication review. Community pharmacy has a vital role to play in identifying potential problems and minimising medication-related adverse events.

¹ Semple Susan J, Roughhead Elizabeth E (2009) Australia and New Zealand Health Policy 6

² Westbrook JI, et al. J Am Med Inform Assoc 2015;0:1-12

CMA hails TGA CM ticks

APPROVAL by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of ten new ingredients for use in listed medicines has been welcomed by Complementary Medicines Australia (CMA) which has advocated for removal of redundant regulatory burden.

The listing notice, published by the TGA on Fri, includes preparations that contain ribose, calcium pyruvate, magnesium pyruvate, octanoic acid, *Terminalia arjuna*, *Berberis aristata*, co-methylcobalamin, choline dihydrogen citrate, *Lepidium meyenii*, *Trachyspermum ammi* and dimethylglycine hydrochloride as a therapeutically active ingredient.

CMA ceo Carl Gibson said: "We welcome this streamlining of ingredient approvals, resulting from recent work by the TGA towards greater collaboration with comparable international regulators and with industry."

"It is important to enhance competition and innovation in the industry by removing unnecessary regulation, whilst maintaining consumer confidence in the exceptional reputation of the Australian regulatory system."

With many ingredients found safe overseas previously unavailable

here, Australians "have been missing out on innovative new products," Gibson said.

"The complementary medicines industry is driven by consumers, meaning that the ability to innovate is vital to the sustainability of the complementary medicines industry, enabling companies to produce new products and meet consumer demands."

"With an appropriate regulatory environment, the Australian complementary medicines industry will continue to grow and support high skilled manufacturing and local jobs," he concluded.

Stroke week starts

AUSTRALIANS are being urged to "Be Aware, live healthy and get checked" with National Stroke Week kicking off today with over 3000 activities expected to be held across the country.

Friday's comp winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Anh Phung from bioCSL who won two HOYTS ticket passes in our Friday competition.

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Plunketts are offering daily foot care prize packs - see below.

Give your feet some love!

This week Pharmacy Daily and Plunketts are giving away a prize pack each day of NS-8 Heel Balm, NS-8 Foot & Leg Moisturiser and NS-8 Foot & Shoe Deodoriser.

Spring is here and it's time to make sure your feet are ready - soft, smooth and odour-free. NS-8 Natural Footcare formulations are based on carefully selected naturally active ingredients to deliver superior results. NS-8 Heel Balm is not greasy, so you don't need socks, and natural exfoliants gradually remove dry, thickened skin, so you don't need foot files. NS-8 Foot & Leg Moisturiser refreshes and moisturises hot, tired legs, softening and smoothing dry skin. NS-8 Foot & Shoe Deodoriser is a non-aerosol spray that kills odour causing bacteria on shoes and feet. Australian owned and made. Website: www.NS8.com.au

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

In which country are NS-8 products made?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



DISPENSARY CORNER



PSYCHEDELIC homeopathy.

A European conference discussing alternative medicines including homeopathy - which is generally considered at least innocuous - had unwelcome attention as 29 delegates were found in various stages of extreme reaction to a product they had ingested during the meeting.

The reactions ranged from violent convulsions to delusions and hallucinations.

"There must have been a multiple overdose," Torsten Passie, a member of a German government commission on narcotics, told *NDR television*.

"That argues against the people being aware what they were taking."

Doctors, as well as homeopaths and alternative medicine practitioners were reportedly among the victims of what proved to be a form of amphetamine banned in Germany last year.

A THAI doctor has saved the life of a female Chinese visitor to Bangkok, using a colonoscope to remove a massive foreign object from her large intestine.

However the woman may not be so happy about the outcome - because the item in question was a diamond worth over US\$250,000 that she had been accused of stealing from a jewellery fair.

According to *Associated Press* officers got to the bottom of the theft after arresting the woman as she attempted to leave the country, based on surveillance video from the fair.

The doctor was called in after "nature and laxatives" failed to produce any evidence - with a rock-hard case confirmed when the doctor pulled the 6 carat gemstone from the woman's digestive system.

Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

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Are you maximising your professional services income?

Our **EasyClinic Professional Services** program is currently operating in award-winning professional services pharmacies and is helping stores to:

- Maximise dispensary returns
- Focus and develop staff in appropriate professional roles
- Effectively market professional services

"We achieved results far beyond what we thought were possible. In two months we had increased professional services revenues by almost 30%. The system was easy to implement ...and the instigo team gave us some great advice and training."

Pharmacy Owner & EasyClinic Customer

"We introduced EasyClinic across our group of pharmacies. Our staff found it simple to integrate into our existing structure and we achieved some great outcomes." (65% increase in Clinical Interventions, 113% increase in MedsChecks & Diabetes MedChecks)

Group Pharmacy Manager & EasyClinic Customer



Call now for your complimentary, obligation-free 1 hour assessment and consultation with our EasyClinic General Manager.



Andrew Pattinson



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