

## Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today has two pages of news, plus a full page from **Pharmacy 4 Less**.

## AHPRA offices closed

**THE** ACT Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) office will be closed today for Family and Community Day, while the WA AHPRA office is closed for the Queen's Birthday holiday, with both offices scheduled to reopen tomorrow.

## NSW to fund \$100 co-pays

**THE** NSW government yesterday announced it would cover the co-payments for public hospital patients receiving Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs and Section 100 injectable and infusible chemotherapy medicines.

The move is effective from this Thu 01 Oct, with state health minister Jillian Skinner saying it will save patients an average of \$1,400 per year.

She said it was the fulfilment of an election commitment to people living with complex illnesses "who are suffering enough without the stress of having to fork out for essential but expensive medication".

The co-payment will be paid for eligible patients regardless of whether prescriptions are filled at NSW public hospital pharmacies, NSW community pharmacies or through pharmacies used by NSW public hospital oncology clinics.

It will apply to public non-admitted patients, outpatients or day patients, inpatients on discharge from public hospitals and privately referred non-admitted

## FDA diabetes ticks

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has granted approval for Tresiba (insulin degludec injection) and Ryzodeg 70/30 (insulin degludec/insulin aspart injection) to improve glucose control in adults with diabetes.

Tresiba is a long-acting once daily insulin analog injection designed to improve glycaemic control in adults with type 1 and type 2 diabetes, with dosing individualised based on the patients' needs.

Ryzodeg 70/30 is administered once or twice daily in combination with mealtime insulin.

Both medications are made by Novo Nordisk.

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## Pradaxa antidote

**THE** European Medicines Authority has fast-tracked a recommendation for a marketing authorisation for Boehringer Ingelheim's Praxbind (idarucizumab) as a specific antidote to the new generation anticoagulant medicine Pradaxa (dabigatran etexilate).

Praxbind is to be used when a patient taking Pradaxa needs to undergo an emergency surgery, or when life-threatening or uncontrolled bleeding occurs.

## Paul Grundy to present at APP2016

**PAUL** Grundy, a US-based world renowned expert on integrated health care, has been confirmed as the third international speaker to headline at next year's Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference on the Gold Coast in Mar.

It will be Grundy's third trip to Australia to present at APP, and he will speak on global health care transformation and the "patient centred medical home".

APP chairman Kos Sclavos said the announcement was particularly timely, given the huge media attention given over the weekend to the Medicare Review initiated by health minister Sussan Ley.

The review is a response to the unsustainable growth in Medicare spending, with Sclavos saying he believes there are a "huge number of opportunities for pharmacy if indeed the MBS review aims to build a better and more cost effective health system".

Grundy's previous APP presentations have spoken about the unique position pharmacists have in an eHealth enabled health system, in which data makes it possible to focus on high risk patients.

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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.**



### More than a useful tool for therapeutic decision-making

**IN AN** era of significant demographic, economic and technological challenges, it is incumbent upon healthcare professionals to achieve the safe and optimal use of medicines. Achieving these optimal outcomes for our patients remains our therapeutic goal. Our challenge then becomes managing uncertainty with the sheer volume of medicines information published each year in the biomedical literature. The number of medical journal articles has quadrupled from 200,000 in 1970 to more than 800,000 in 2010. With the current number of articles published annually in medical literature, someone who reads two articles every day would be 1,225 years behind at the end of the first year. It is against this backdrop that the principles of accessibility, accuracy, currency, immediacy, relevance, reliability, validity and usability become fundamental cornerstones in the provision and retrieval of medicines information. Integrating evidence-based medicines and consumer information in an aesthetically-appealing format recognises these principles. But are these principles of equal weight? Healthcare professionals may vary in their preferences for sourcing medicines information; however, their requirements share the principles outlined above. Resources such as the device-responsive AusDI website combine accessibility and functionality to integrate comprehensive medicines information that is being updated continuously, and thereby supports the needs of healthcare professionals as a primary reference point. It is more than a useful tool for therapeutic decision-making.

## Basel Statements revised

**GLOBAL** standards of practice used by hospital pharmacists around the world, known as the 'Basel Statements,' have been revised by the Hospital Pharmacy Section of the International Pharmaceutical Federation.

FIP said the revision reflects the "rapid development of hospital pharmacy practice and the most current evidence," in order to continue to encourage practice development across the world.

First published by the FIP's Hospital Pharmacy Section (HPS) in 2009 the Basel Statements cover six main areas of hospital pharmacy: procurement, influences on prescribing, preparation and delivery of medicines, medicines administration, monitoring medication, and human resources & 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," said HPS secretary, Lee Vermeulen.

Significant changes have also been made to reflect FIP's definition of 'responsible use of medicines' adopted in 2012, and the joint FIP-World Health Organization Guidelines on Good Pharmacy

Practice, Vermeulen added.

The wording has also been simplified to make them clearer and more easily applicable, with the revision process involving a "consensus exercise" which collated the opinions and experience of hundreds of hospital pharmacists from across the globe.

"The result is an authoritative resource that reflects ideal practices for hospital pharmacy worldwide," Vermuelen said.

"We believe that the statements provide a key roadmap for hospital pharmacy practice".

There are now a total of 65 Basel statements - to view a video see [pharmacydaily.com.au/videos](http://pharmacydaily.com.au/videos), and for more details see [fip.org](http://fip.org).

## £5.7b UK NHS fraud

**FALSE** allowance claims, overcharging, 'ghost claims', unjustified free prescriptions and dental and optical care as well as claims for more drugs that were dispensed are some of the main examples of fraudulent behaviour dogging the UK National Health Service (NHS), according to a report summarised by the BBC.

The pharmacists, GPs, dentists and patients committing fraud have cost the system an estimated £5.7b a year, the report said.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**HERE'S** a tip if you want to beat a lie detector test - have a big drink of water and don't go to the loo before you take the polygraph.

Researchers at California State University have found that people who were busting for a wee were more able to lie convincingly.

They were investigating the so-called "inhibitory spillover effect," which happens when a focus on a particular task makes another activity easier.

Participants in the study were asked to drink a certain quantity of water, and then either lied or told the truth to an interviewer.

Observers watched the interaction and had to report whether the volunteers were lying or not.

Apparently people who had full bladders were much more convincing liars than those who didn't need to spend a penny.

"Liars displayed significantly fewer behavioural cues to deception, more behavioural cues signalling truth, and provided longer and more complex accounts than truth-tellers," the study's abstract reads - probably because these subjects were concentrating on not wetting their pants.

**AND** while we're on the theme of toileting, environmental officials in Norway have asked hikers to collect samples of any bear poo they come across.

It's part of an investigation into the Norwegian bear population, with the duly collected excrement to undergo DNA analysis.

Once picked up - using the time-honoured inside-out plastic bag method - it's best to freeze the samples until they can be delivered, wildlife officials said.

An instructive brochure comes complete with graphic photos of the poo - see [www.rovdata.no](http://www.rovdata.no).

## Win with MILKY FOOT



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What differentiates Milky Foot Active from the original Milky Foot?

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**Sydney** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October

**Newcastle** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October

**Canberra** Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October

**Western Australia** Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November

**Queensland** Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November

For more information or to book  
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