

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news, plus a full page from **Sigma**.

Managing Dr Google

WITH a 2016 survey revealing almost 80% of Australians saying they consult "Dr Google" or other internet sources to manage their health, up from around 30% in 2012, NPS MedicineWise is urging consumers to consult with their healthcare professional for valid advice.

NPS MedicineWise spokesperson and pharmacist Aine Heaney says that finding good medicines information is important, and that being medicinewise means asking questions, asking the right people, and knowing how to source reliable information.

"Having the right information will help you to get the most out of your medicines—and to make better health choices for you and those you care for," says Heaney.

"Take charge of your health and your medicines, and work with your health professionals, such as a doctor, nurse or pharmacist, to better understand your health and any medicines, tests and treatments you might need," she added.

Other services are available such as the NPS Medicines Line: 1300 633 424, where you can phone to seek medicines information from a health professional, said Heaney.

Remuneration survey open

THE highly anticipated Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation's online questionnaire, to which Health Minister Sussan Ley referred, hoping for 40,000 responses, has been posted on the Health Department's PBS website.

Ley told the PSA 2016 conference in Sydney (**PD** 29 Jul 16) the consumer survey to be conducted by the Consumer Health Forum as part of the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation will be a key part of the process.

She urged the "entire pharmaceutical supply chain - including consumers" to provide input to the review via the survey.

The 20 minute questionnaire is available to all stakeholders - including pharmacists and consumers - who may wish to complete it "in lieu of or in addition to providing a formal written submission to the Review panel".

After identifying a respondent's role in the pharmacy chain, questions revolve around what factors should impinge on remuneration to pharmacists for their professional service.

Systems are also under review, with input sought around methods of sourcing payment, with Medicare, PBS and other options.

The survey also examines the vexed question of the extent to which pharmacists' advice is valued by consumers, followed by a question on how appropriate the

level of remuneration is.

While seeking to address perceptions in the pharmacy community, one question challenges with: *Identify your level of agreement/disagreement to the statement, "Providing community pharmacists with a flat-fee payment for dispensing medicines supports undesirable outcomes such as high volume dispensing and the absence of appropriate patient advice"*.

There are also opportunities to comment on the \$1 discount option, location rules, technology impacts and whether parties other than the Pharmacy Guild of Australia should be involved in negotiations with the government.

With many questions using a 1-8 Likert scale or a prioritising number, statistical data will be able to be extracted and graphically understood.

The Review Panel Discussion Paper released last month (**PD** 27 Jul 16) is open for submissions until 23 Sep 2016, while the questionnaire will be open for responses until 30 Sep 2016.

The final report will be provided to the Minister for Health by Mar 2017, the department said - see health.gov.au/pharmacyreview.

ETHICAL NUTRIENTS
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NATURAL MEDICINE
FOR TODAY'S PHARMACIST

INTEGRATING NATURAL MEDICINES WITH PHARMACEUTICALS

BRAY COHEN

BPharm, DipCouns, DipAdultEd
Pioneer of pharmacy and
complementary medicine
integration



Workforce strategy

THE Pharmacy Guild says it welcomes the ongoing debate about the future of the profession, including a focus on the current levels of pharmacist remuneration.

Guild executive director David Quilty, writing in *Forefront* this week, said all Guild members are pharmacists, and "before becoming owners, they trained to be pharmacists, the vast majority worked as employees, and most owners continue to practice in their pharmacies on a regular basis."

Consequently, he said, members are aware the success of their business depends on the skills of their staff, so "it is in the interests of the broad pharmacy sector to develop a coherent workforce strategy that focuses on financially sustainable solutions".

Quilty highlighted the current relevance of the Workforce Summit organised by the Monash Pharmacist Project last year with present broad debate on the issues, as well as international support for the concept by FIP (**PD** 22 Jul 16).

Chris Walton, ceo of union group Professional Pharmacists Australia welcomed the Guild's "change of heart", calling for "action and support for our work value case" before the Fair Work Commission.

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ED drugs dealer jailed

ATILLA Fodor, aged 38 years, of Datchet, Slough (34 km west of London) was sentenced to ten months in prison at Reading Crown Court, for the illegal importation and sale of erectile dysfunction (ED) medicines, the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has announced.

Fodor's computer revealed he had sold more than 451,000 doses of unlicensed ED medicines which had netted him more than £27,000.

MHRA investigators found more than 267,000 doses of unlicensed ED medicines stored in a garden shed, with an estimated value of more than £500,000.

MHRA head of enforcement, Alastair Jeffrey, said illegal drugs can pose a health risk and "MHRA will continue to track down and prosecute those who put the public's health at risk."

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* When compared to standard cow's milk;
Source: Urashima and Taufik, 2010.

New MedAdvisor NDSS tool

AUSTRALIAN digital medication adherence company MedAdvisor has announced a collaboration with Diabetes Australia (DA), to launch a new tool that helps people with diabetes order their consumables and ensure accurate supply in pharmacy.

Under the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) administered by DA, all NDSS consumable products such as blood glucose strips, insulin pen needles and pump consumables are now only available through pharmacies.

MedAdvisor has now created customised features which enable people to reserve NDSS products remotely for collection from their MedAdvisor Network Pharmacy of choice as well as track their usage.

MedAdvisor ceo Robert Read highlighted that the company has more than 35,000 people living with diabetes already on its



platform.

DA ceo Adjunct Professor Greg Johnson said, "Diabetes Australia's mission is to minimise the impact of diabetes.

"We can do this by supporting self-management and innovative services.

"We believe that the MedAdvisor platform offers a great solution that will empower people with diabetes to better manage their health."

Diabetes has reached epidemic proportions, MedAdvisor said, with around 1.2 million diagnosed cases of type 1 and type 2 diabetes in Australia adding up to 100,000 who have developed diabetes last year alone making it the biggest healthcare challenge in the country.

Laxative refresher

THE Guild Pharmacy Academy today announced a clinical refresher for pharmacists on the use of stimulant laxatives.

With constipation estimated to affect 15-20% of the population, the condition gives pharmacists the opportunity to engage with their patients and provide them with a range of medicines and advice, according to the head of Guild Pharmacy Academy, Sue Bond. The online course, supported by Boehringer Ingelheim looks at current evidence on the use of laxatives and helps dispel misconceptions about their use.

The course attracts 0.75 hours of Group 2 CPD credits - myCPD.org.au.

Anti-counterfeiting technology

NSW-BASED Universal Pharmaceuticals has signed a deal with drug anti-counterfeiting technology provider YPB Group to help trace products as they are exported across Asia.

Under the contract YPB will provide its "invisible covert tracer" system to Universal items, with the solution to be used within the supply chain to verify the original product and detect the presence of counterfeit goods.

Universal Pharmaceuticals has undertaken to apply YPB's tracer to one million items during 2016, with a longer term relationship expected to develop after the initial rollout.

The YPB Connect Platform will provide online authentication of the products, with the company saying this will help Universal increase brand confidence and loyalty via "ongoing direct engagement with its customers".

Universal Pharmaceuticals clients include Guardian, Soul Pattinson and Amcal while the company's own brands include Wealthy Health, Goodlife Nutrition and Shelano.

Device AE reporting

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has posted a set of slides on its website outlining the issues around adverse event reporting including identification and reporting of adverse events, recognising avoidable errors and the difference in reporting requirements for SAS and clinical trial devices - [CLICK HERE](#).

Pharmacy sales dip

THE Pharmacy Guild says the latest edition of its annual Digest indicates a "downward trend in overall sales" which have declined 2.51% year on year.

The Digest is collated via a survey of Guild member pharmacies, and presents a snapshot of pharmacy operations in Australia for 2014/15.

The results show prescription sales dipped 4.59%, while gross margin declined 5.3%.

Total expenses declined by nearly 2% in dollar terms, the Digest found, but increased as a percentage of revenue to 35.3%.

The Digest has also tracked trends over the last decade, noting the changes in the operating environment due to growing regulatory and competitive pressure.

"The community pharmacy landscape has evolved from small, independent pharmacies to more sophisticated banner groups operating in a more competitive environment," it says.

The full Guild Digest, based on a sample of 313 community pharmacies, is available to Guild members at www.guild.org.au.



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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Aged Care** - Central NSW (Job# 200013247)
Attention 2 Detail + personality essential in this aged care role.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Goulburn Valley region, VIC (Job# 200013226)
Be the cornerstone of the town's healthcare services; excellent salary.
- **Pharmacist** - Toowoomba, QLD (Job# 200011954)
2nd Pharmacist - modern buzz pharmacy - sponsorship available.

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Events Calendar

WELCOME to Pharmacy Daily's events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

27-28 Aug: 2016 Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar; Crowne Plaza Coogee, Sydney; details at: www.pharmeducation.com.au

27-28 Aug: Cardiology Seminar; Rydges Sydney Central; see: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

6 Sep: Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Brisbane; for more info call: 1800 777 648

7 Sep: Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Sydney; for more info call: 1800 777 648

9-11 Sep: Pharmacy Connect; Four Points by Sheraton Darling Harbour Sydney; see: pharmacy-connect.com.au

9-10 Sep: The Friendlies Conference 2016; Old Woolstore Hotel, Hobart; visit: pharmacyconference.com.au

12 Sep: Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Melbourne; for more info call: 1800 777 648

14 Sep: Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Launceston; for more info call: 1800 777 648

15 Sep: CMA Annual Conference; Doltone House Sydney; more info at: www.cmaustralia.org.au

20 Sep: Making the Most of your Aged Care Services; St Leonards; more info at www.guild.org.au

21-25 Sep: The Pharmacy Alliance 2016 Members' Forum; Queenstown, New Zealand; visit: pharmacyalliance.com.au

Mayne profit jumps 379%

MAYNE Pharma this morning released its financial results for the year to 30 Jun, with the business reporting "growth at both the top line and bottom line as well as across all operating segments," according to ceo Scott Richards.

Revenue rose 89% to \$267.3m, while the reported net profit after tax was \$37.4 million, up a whopping 379%.

Richards said key achievements included the launch of dofetilide, the company's first generic product

to be awarded 180 days of market exclusivity, achieved a 100% return on investment in its first week following regulatory approval.

Sales in the Generic Products Division jumped 84% to \$106.8m, driven by the launch of dofetilide and further market penetration by Mayne's oxycodone, hydrocodone and methamphetamine products.

Mayne's Specialty Brands Division recorded sales of \$77.8 million, in line with previous guidance and the Doryx brand achieving US\$2.7m in average monthly earnings.

The company's Metrics Contract Services segment added 18 new clients during the year.

The outlook for Mayne Pharma "remains very positive," Richards said, with the recently announced product acquisitions from Teva and GSK (**PD** 28 Jun) set to provide a stable base of revenue and earnings for the business.

He said Mayne would also continue to look at further opportunities to in-license or acquire complementary assets to expand its portfolio and pipeline.

PBAC Nov agenda

THE agenda for the November meeting of the Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee (PBAC) is now available for scrutiny by interested stakeholders and input is invited.

Some of the drugs being considered for changes to their status include oxycodone with nalaxone for severe disabling pain, omalizumab for urticaria, irinotecan for metastatic pancreatic cancer, Edoxaban anticoagulant and many more - **CLICK HERE**.

Win with Dermal Therapy

This week Pharmacy Daily and Dermal Therapy are giving away each day a prize pack worth \$100.

Dermal Therapy is a clinically tested, therapeutic skincare range developed for people who suffer from common skin conditions such as dry skin, Eczema, Psoriasis and Dermatitis. Dermal Therapy Platinum Heel Balm has been clinically tested to provide visible results in one day. Each product is formulated with high quality ingredients and has been developed with a concentrated, moisturising emollient base to provide optimum hydration.

To win, be the first pharmacist or pharmacy assistant from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the following question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Fill in the blank: Dermal Therapy Very Dry Skin Cream is clinically proven to increase skin hydration by ___% in 14 days.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Anna Phan from Pooraka Compounding Pharmacy.

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Dispensary Corner

EXHIBITORS in the garden section of the Oregon State Fair in the USA this week took the concept of a pot plant too literally, with the event including a new section for the best marijuana specimen.

Oregon legalised cannabis for recreational use in 2014, but this will be the first time marijuana crops will be displayed at the fair.

"Cannabis is taking its rightful place next to tomatoes and other agriculture," said a spokesman for the Oregon Cannabis Business Council, while one of the exhibitors said it's just a matter of time before marijuana "is treated like any other plant - just like someone's prized daisy".

The marijuana display can only be viewed by visitors aged 21 and over, and the competition is being judged by Ed Rosenthal, who's also known as the "guru of ganja".



DOCTORS in the UK have warned wind musicians that playing the trumpet, saxophone or bagpipes could damage your lungs.

An article in the *Thorax* journal has described a "rare but fatal" case of a syndrome they're now calling "bagpipe lung" after the death of a 61-year-old piper who developed a bad reaction to mould in the moist interior of his instrument.

Inflammation led to scarring of his airways which ultimately caused his untimely death.

The authors recommend that players should regularly clean their equipment to prevent the build-up of pathogens.

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