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## Hep C tops the \$ list

**THE** annual release of the *Australian Prescriber's* top ten subsidised drugs in Australia for 2015-16 has seen the new hepatitis C listed drugs taking the very high profile position as highest cost to government, in spite of relatively low patient numbers compared to the script number rankings.

Hepatitis C treatments Harvoni (ledipasvir and sofosbuvir) costing around \$90,000 for 12 weeks therapy and Solvaldi (sofosbuvir) both from Gilead, topped the costing list, billing the government almost \$1b for 43,000 scripts since listing in Mar this year.

Immunosuppressant Humira (adalimumab) from AbbVie, macular degeneration therapy Lucentis (ranibizumab) from Roche and its competitor Eylea (aflibercept) from Bayer were next on the funded top ten.

Top script volume products come as no surprise with anticholesterol and reflux medicines dominating.

Atorvastatin and rosuvastatin took positions one and three, while proton pump inhibitors esomeprazole and pantoprazole sit at two and five respectively, with paracetamol taking the fourth spot.

Antihypertensives in the form of ACE inhibitors and calcium channel blockers, stalwart diabetes therapy metformin, neuropathic pain treatment pregablin and respiratory support products salbutamol, fluticasone and salmetrol fill out the top ten by volume.

The figures are drawn from PBS and RPBS data for Jul 2015 to Jun 2016 - access the lists at [nps.org.au](http://nps.org.au).

## Review financial survey

**PHARMACIES** across Australia are being invited to express their interest in taking part in a targeted survey with the aim of directly obtaining "relevant financial data from a broad cross section of Australian community pharmacies".

The survey was flagged last month by Stephen King, chair of the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation (PD 01 Nov), who issued an update on Fri extending an open invitation to participate.

"The Panel is aware of a number of similar financial studies of community pharmacy," he wrote.

"However we feel that these do not provide the level of detail (pharmacy location and business model) or reach (coverage of all pharmacy types and membership bases) to build the

best understanding of the current, and possible future, operating environments for pharmacy in Australia," King said.

The online survey will gather readily available financial data, with all details de-identified and maintained in the strictest confidence.

1,500 individual pharmacy owners and managers will be personally invited to participate, with selections based on a representative spread of community pharmacies across metropolitan, regional and remote areas covering all PhARIA categories and operating models.

Participating pharmacies will be provided with a personalised summary report allowing them to compare their own data with aggregated data from other pharmacies on key financial and PBS-related measures.

The survey will be available to complete until 16 Jan 2017, and pharmacies wanting to register their interest in taking part can email their address and contact details to the secretariat via [pharmacyreview@health.gov.au](mailto:pharmacyreview@health.gov.au).

## Shortages resolved

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised that a shortage of ampicillin injection and amoxycillin injection, first flagged in May 2015, has now been resolved.

All brands including Alphapharm, Juno Pharmaceuticals and Aspen Pharmacare are once again available - see [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## FDA Jardiance tick

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has approved a new indication for Jardiance (empagliflozin) to reduce the risk of cardiovascular death in adult patients with type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

## Today's issue of PD

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

## Pharmacy vax success

**A NEW** University of Sydney study has shown pharmacists can successfully administer influenza vaccine in the community pharmacy setting, and that the practice has wide public acceptance.

Professors Peter Carroll and Jane Hanrahan presented the results of their work at the 2016 Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association Annual Conference yesterday.

Pharmacists who had completed the Guild accredited vaccination training course in Apr and May this year totalled 59.

They all took part in the study documenting the demographics of the 2,256 patients receiving the vaccines in 47 pharmacies.

Females vaccinated were 61% of the total, 73% received the quadrivalent vaccine, and 18% had never had a flu vaccine before.

While 470 people (21%) could have received a free influenza vaccine from their GP, they chose to pay to have it in the pharmacy.

No adverse events were recorded, with Carroll saying the study found consumers "clearly appreciated and supported" the vaccinations.

"The fact that many people who received their vaccination from the pharmacist had never had an influenza vaccination before shows the potential for community pharmacists to greatly increase the influenza vaccination rate within the community," he said.

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## Dispensary Corner

**LOOK** forward to more of these.

NSW high profile pharmacist and tweeter **Rick Samimi**, also a National Councillor for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, has alerted **Pharmacy Daily** to a tongue-in-cheek Ranbaxy Sun Pharma promotion he received.

It is playing on the Trump phenomenon with the slogan **Make Pharmacy Great Again** (pictured).

Well Australia's pharmacies are already great, we say - isn't that the right response?



**MINCING** microbiome meddles maliciously with your sleep!

Well they may not quite be mincing or malicious but their regular, albeit small movements, take on a rhythmic nature in your gut and do impact on your circadian rhythm, according to new research published in *Cell*.

The researchers found that antibiotic treatment or disruption of circadian feeding behavior (as in international travel - jet lag) leads to disruption of microbiota diurnal rhythmicity, putting our circadian rhythm out of whack.

Under such circumstances the liver, which is sensitive to these changes, will for example, slow significantly its metabolism and detoxification of paracetamol.

So what? Treating your gut kindly and eating well leads to sleeping well and healthy living.

## CW raises \$1.2m for Liptember

**PHARMACY** mega-chain Chemist Warehouse (CW) has announced that it has raised an impressive \$1.2 million for the



Liptember Foundation throughout its 2016 campaign bringing the tally to more than \$3.3 million since it formed a partnership with the charity three years ago.

Liptember supports women's mental health focusing on treating men and women separately when it comes to depression and anxiety, with women statistically much more susceptible to these conditions.

Suicide is the biggest single cause of death for women aged 20-34 and one in three Australian women will suffer depression or anxiety during their lifetime.

In a cheque presentation at The Royal Women's Hospital on Tuesday this week, a \$400,000 donation was presented to both Lifeline and

the Centre for Women's Mental Health.

The remaining funds raised will go to other like-minded charities

supporting women's health, the company said.

CW chief operating officer Mario Tascone said, "Each year our devoted staff continue to make a difference that goes beyond the individuals we support."

"It is predominantly about continuing the conversation around women's mental health, education and providing further funding for research and support programs."

"Chemist Warehouse, My Chemist and My Beauty Spot are committed to Liptember and all its work in raising awareness of women's mental health," Tascione added.

**Pictured** are Liptember Ambassador, Silvana Philippoussis and Chemist Warehouse's Sam Gance getting his lippy on.



## Win with SkinB5

This week **Pharmacy Daily** & **SkinB5** are giving away each day the Skin Purifying 5 Minute Mask.

SkinB5 is an all-natural acne supplement that works from within to eliminate and stop acne on the face and all over the body. The SkinB5 acne treatment system is based on a potent dosage of vitamin B5, which is proven to increase skin health and reduce acne by regulating the skin's production of sebum, or skin oil. See [www.skinb5.com](http://www.skinb5.com) for more.

To win, be the first person from NSW or ACT to send the correct answer to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)



How long do you need to have the Skin Purifying Mask on to receive the full benefits?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

## Weekly Comment



Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Trent Ruprecht, Business Services** – Principal, PKF Sydney and Newcastle.



### Driving business performance

**HAVE** you ever wondered why some pharmacy businesses succeed yet others don't? Some people might attribute this to simple luck however in my experience advising pharmacy owners, luck has nothing to do with it.

Whether you are just starting out in a pharmacy business or have operated a pharmacy business for 20 years, it's never too late to start focusing on improving the performance of your pharmacy. At a minimum here is a checklist for all pharmacy businesses wanting to drive improved performance:

- Have a clear and defined strategy that is aligned to your personal goals;
- Implement an operating budget and consistently track actual performance against budgeted outcomes;
- Understand the key drivers of your pharmacy business including how you can influence each of these to improve business performance and profitability;
- Implement a structured and regular reporting framework aimed at measuring both financial and non-financial indicators.

If you are not savvy with the numbers, help is certainly available. I encourage you to speak with an adviser and start working on a plan.

Don't leave the future success of your pharmacy to chance; take action now and capitalise on the potential within your business.

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Part of the Business Publishing Group.

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