

Today's issue of PD

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

Victorian pharmacy ownership review

THE Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) has announced a major review of its processes in relation to pharmacy business licence applications and renewals.

The project will be undertaken by independent expert consultant PharmConsult, with the aim of ensuring the Authority "has adequate information to determine compliance with the Act in the contemporary pharmacy ownership environment".

The review will commence early in 2017, looking at whether "risks relating to eligibility and third party commercial arrangements are adequately managed and if its current application of resources is proportionate to the risks".

Last month the VPA confirmed "ongoing close scrutiny of commercial arrangements that pharmacies have with third parties" (PD 17 Nov), in order to make sure ownership provisions in the Victorian Pharmacy Regulation Act 2010 are upheld.

MEANWHILE the VPA has updated its application forms for a licence to carry on a pharmacy business, with any applications from 01 Jan 2017 having to use the new documents. See pharmacy.vic.gov.au.

Pill blood clot update

SPONSORS of combined hormonal contraceptives (CHCs) are in the process of updating Product Information and Consumer Medicine Information for the products, after the TGA completed a review of the risk of blood clot disorders in women taking them.

The review found that for women who are using one of the contraceptives available in Australia the risk of a blood clot is increased but is still rare, with the increase in risk varying according to the progestogen included in the CHC.

Full details of the review and associated advice are at tga.gov.au.

Pharmacy GST scam alert

COMMUNITY pharmacies are being warned to urgently check bank account details lodged with the Australian Taxation Office, to guard against a "sophisticated scamming operation" which has been highlighted by Mark Nicholson from Pitcher Partners.

Nicholson said the scam targets the ATO account held by the pharmacy, by lodging false BAS claims and then arranging for fraudulent GST refunds to be directed to bank accounts not controlled by the pharmacy.

According to Pitcher Partners the scheme currently appears to be targeting company-owned pharmacies, with pharmacies owned in a trust, partnership or sole trader structure not affected.

"The scam operates by first fraudulently appointing a new ASIC

registered agent, followed by an appointment of a new director to the company," Nicholson said.

"Using these details the ATO is then advised of a change in financial institution details, into which GST refunds are deposited".

The updated bank account recorded with the ATO will have the same name and appear legitimate, but with a modified BSB and account number.

Nicholson said while the ATO is aware of the scam, its systems may not be able to block these attempts of fraud.

"Therefore we urge all pharmacy owners to review their financial institution details recorded with the ATO, irrespective of the ownership structure of their business," he said.

Those with a company structure are further recommended to contact their accountant to ensure there has been no change in registered agent, and that no directors have been appointed without their knowledge.

PBS holiday payments

PHARMACEUTICAL Benefits Scheme (PBS) Online payments will be paid in advance over the holiday period, the Department of Human Services has said.

If, for example, your payments are due Fri 23 Dec 2016, they will be processed early on Thur 22 Dec.

No payments will be made Fri 30 Dec but payments due will be paid on Thur 22 Dec.

Claims lodged in PBS Online from 22 Dec to 28 Dec will be processed as normal on Fri 06 Jan 2017, the Department said.

See humanservices.gov.au.

MyChemist satisfies

THERE'S been no month-on-month change in the customer satisfaction ratings of Australian pharmacies, with the Nov figures from Roy Morgan once again having MyChemist and Chemist Warehouse leading the pack.

8,531 consumers were polled in the rolling survey which covered the period Dec 15-Nov 16, with MyChemist and Chemist Warehouse followed by Priceline Pharmacy in third spot, Terry White in fourth and Soul Pattinson fifth.



Terry White Chemmart POTY finalist

TODAY'S featured Pharmacy of the Year finalist Andrew Farmer, owner of Terry White Chemmart in Hawthorn, Vic.

Farmer (pictured) has focused on professional services, in order to differentiate his operation from a nearby Chemist Warehouse.

He describes his pharmacy as a "concept patient store".

"We have found that focusing on the customers and their needs has helped overcome the threat from the competition...we know that customers coming in to us are making a clear choice - that they are coming in to our store for health and advice, and not just for the cheapest product," he said.

TWC Hawthorn has two consulting rooms, one of which is used by a nurse practitioner,

CH2 to access CSO

CLIFFORD Hallam Healthcare (CH2) has been appointed as a Community Service Obligation (CSO) Distributor, with the move effective 01 Jan (PD breaking news).

Company ceo David Collins said that with community pharmacy being a critical link in a complex health care network, "it was important for CH2 to be able to support all areas of pharmacy and so CSO appointment was essential".

CH2's existing national footprint sees the company service public and private hospitals, medical centres, specialists, day surgeries, diagnostic imaging, pathologists, dentists, government bodies as well as hospital & community pharmacy.

Collins said his team had extensive experience within the pharmacy market and had been working behind the scenes over the last few months to extend the CH2 range to cover CSO product lines.

CH2 will share the CSO funding pool with existing national distributors API, Sigma & Symbion as well as SA's National Pharmacies.



podiatrist and a physiotherapist.

The other is for in-house professional services such as weight management and MedsChecks.

"We have a big emphasis on staff training, so the pharmacists and pharmacy staff are trained to be approachable," Farmer said.

"The staff have been upskilled in many areas of OTC medication; they are therefore able to offer a superior and knowledgeable service to all customers," he added.

The Pharmacy of the Year winners will be announced at APP2017.

HURRY! LAST 9 DAYS! Time is running out for you to book "The Book"

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Our pre-publication promotion is back and we again want to support you the pharmacist, the doctor, the nurse.

All you have to do is purchase the 2017 AMH book or any current resource before December 31st - and you will receive an automatic entry to win one of these great rewards*.

Prizes include attending a conference related to your profession, new laptop computers and future editions of AMH resources.

*Terms & Conditions apply. For full prize information and for Terms & Conditions please click on the link here to take you to the competition page.



Click here for more info

Indication extensions

EXTENSIONS of indications registrations for Dec have been posted by the Therapeutic Goods Administration on its website.

Pfizer's vasomotor symptoms treatment Duavive (conjugated estrogens/bazedoxifene acetate), Janssen-Cilag's Imbruvica/Janssen Ibrutinib (ibrutinib), Johnson and Johnson's Evicel (fibrinogen/thrombin) and Ferring's NocduRNA (desmopressin) were highlighted.

Visit tga.gov.au for details.



THE BURGER King fast food chain is definitely not helping with the Christmas binge, by offering to exchange Whoppers for unwanted gifts.

Outlets in the USA and UK are participating in the promotion, which comes with a video highlighting suitable "lousy holiday gifts" such as underwear, stationery, an ugly ornament (perhaps the one pictured below) or an awful jumper which can be swapped for a burger.

Participants have to post a picture of the item on social media along with the special #WhopperExchange hashtag to be eligible for the swap which only applies to the first 500 unwanted gifts presented on 26 Dec.



Pharmacist struck off

KUANG King Tan, a provisional pharmacist since 2013, has had his registration cancelled by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal and is disqualified from re-applying for registration for a period of four years.

Late in May 2014 the Victorian Police were notified about an alleged sexual assault by Tan at the pharmacy where he was working and two days later the AHPRA received a notification about his conduct, from which on 03 Jun, an Immediate Action Committee of the Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) decided to suspend Tan's provisional registration and to investigate the notification further.

The Board referred the matter to the Tribunal following his conviction on one charge of rape and sentencing to six months' imprisonment, and subsequently upon release, a three year Community Correction Order.



In making its determination, the Tribunal affirmed that the facts of the case disclosed a 'gross and substantial breach of trust'.

It was also noted by the Tribunal that Tan had sought to mislead the police, attempted to leave the country and tried to persuade others not to notify the Board.

He also failed to report the charges and subsequent conviction to the Board although he claimed he was not aware of his obligation to do so.

The Tribunal said the purpose of the determination was not to be punitive, given that there had not been any previous transgressions and Tan had demonstrated regret and remorse for his conduct.

In addition, following completion of a sex offender treatment program, he was expected to have a low risk of reoffending, the Tribunal said.

Win with DU'IT

This week Pharmacy Daily and DU'IT are giving away each day a prize pack of their products.

New DU'IT Baby is Australian-made and owned, enriched with natural botanicals and pure organic oils to pamper and protect babies' skin and eliminate any concerns for parents. The DU'IT range of extra gentle baby products are completely FREE of all known irritants with a Nasty Free Guarantee and are scientifically formulated to enrich, nourish, deeply hydrate and provide calming relief to Baby's entire body. The range consists of five products: Baby Liquid Powder, Baby Nappy Change Cream, Baby Body Moisturiser, Baby Facial Serum, and Baby 3-in-1 Wash. For more information, **CLICK HERE**.

To win, be the first from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Fill in the blank: DU'IT Baby 3-in-1-Wash is soap, tear and ____ free.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Anita Bruzzese from Good Price Pharmacy.



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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Prices start from \$1,950 (Classic Norwegian Discovery) and \$2,050 (Classic Round Voyage).

Visit www.bentours.com.au.

Day trip bonuses for Murray Princess cruising

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises is offering fantastic day trip bonuses to the Barossa Valley or Kangaroo Island, worth up to \$635 per person, for anyone booking and travelling on a three, four or seven night Murray Princess cruise in Jan or Feb 2017.

Each day features exciting day trips to historic ports following the food and wine trial for on-board or cellar-door tastings.

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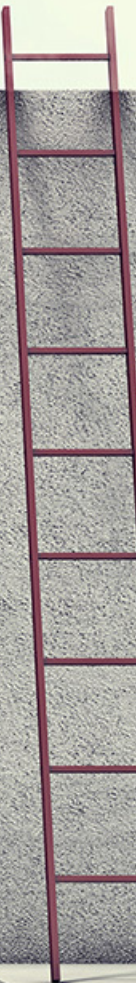
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