

## Editors' greetings!

**PHARMACY Daily** thanks all readers and advertisers for their support through 2016 and wishes you a safe and happy festive season break with every possible good wish for serenity in the new year.

We have enjoyed breaking all the big stories in pharmacy, and very much appreciate the feedback from our readers across the industry.

**Pharmacy Daily** is now read by over 13,000 people each day, including community and hospital pharmacists, manufacturers, wholesalers, regulators, suppliers and other stakeholders.

We look forward to continuing to bring you accurate, timely and relevant news in 2017.

Seasons greetings from the **PD** team of Mal Smith, Melanie Tchakmadjian, Nathalie Craig and Bruce Piper.

**Pharmacy Daily** will again land in your inbox from Tue 03 Jan 2017.

## Guidelines update

**THE** Pharmacy Board of Australia has provided an update on the development of revised guidance on expiry of compounded parenteral medicines.

Submissions received during the Feb-Mar 2016 consultation are now published on the Board's website, with revised guidance to be published upon conclusion of the board's deliberations in 2017.

## Review probity defended

**THE** Health Department has staunchly defended the procedures undertaken by the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation (**PD** breaking news), in answer to a claim of conflicts of interest by the Pharmacy Guild.

A formal statement was issued late yesterday afternoon, with a spokesperson for the Department saying it had been "made aware of certain claims made in regards to the due diligence of the Review Secretariat in procuring an international literature review".

The spokesperson said all

procurements conducted in relation to the Review had been performed in line with departmental guidelines "to ensure accountability and transparency in decision making".

In this case Deloitte had previously undertaken work for a number of stakeholders - including pharmacy banner groups and the Pharmacy Guild itself, the spokesperson noted.

Because these engagements had been completed the Department did not consider Deloitte's prior experience represented an actual conflict of interest.

The consulting firm also defended itself, saying its internal controls ensured there was no conflict, and that the Review engagement did not involve providing recommendations or advice.

Guild Executive Director David Quilty urged the Review to "immediately publicly release all the materials related to the commissioning of Deloitte so this very serious issue is accorded the necessary levels of transparency and accountability."

## NSW Guild changes

**SYDNEY** pharmacist Rick Samimi will become the new President of the NSW Branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia effective 01 Jan.

Samimi replaces incumbent Paul Sinclair who is retiring from his position along with acting branch president Mark Douglass and vice-president and National Councillor Denis Leahy.

Other additions to the NSW Branch committee include new National Councillors Mario Barone and David Heffernan.

Phil Dibben will become Senior Vice-President and Vice-President Finance for the NSW Branch, while Feras Kareem and John Black become Vice-Presidents.

## S8 dealing sanction

**THE** NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal has cancelled the registration of Dr Mohammed Sadiq Asar, a medical practitioner found to have inappropriately prescribed drugs of addiction without authority.

The alert had been raised initially by a pharmacist who believed Asar was prescribing OxyContin 80 mg to a patient who was thought to be drug dependent.

## Naughty or nice myth

**NEW** research published in the *BMJ* has debunked the naughty or nice dichotomy as irrelevant in Santa Claus's conferring of rewards.

Paediatric wards in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales were surveyed revealing that rates of absenteeism, conviction rates in young people (aged 10-17 years) and distance from the North Pole as the reindeer flies, were not able to demonstrate any correlation with visits by Santa to hospitals.

The odds of Santa not visiting were found to be significantly higher for wards in areas of higher socioeconomic deprivation - odds ratio 1.31 (95% CI 1.04 to 1.71).

Researchers from Boston, London, Edinburgh and Sheffield concluded that there was no validity in "the traditional belief that Santa Claus rewards children based on how nice or naughty they have been in the previous year".

"Santa Claus is less likely to visit children in hospitals in the most deprived areas," they wrote.

"Potential solutions include a review of Santa's contract or employment of local Santas in poorly represented regions."

Visit [www.bmj.com](http://www.bmj.com) for the study.

## CW scores again

**A NEW** partnership with Chemist Warehouse was announced by the Australian Football League yesterday, with the pharmacy group to become the Official Chemist Retail Partner of the AFL and the fledgling AFL Women's (AFLW).

CW will also become the NAB AFLW Match Ball partner.

## 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 VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question below to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

What makes the DU'IT Baby Liquid Powder so unique?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Annemarie Hall from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.



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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - North West QLD (Job# 200013067)  
Full time excellent hours immediate start progressive employer.
- **Pharmacist** - North Brisbane, QLD (Job# 200013148)  
Permanent friendly roster with pro-active community pharmacy group.
- **Aged Care Pharmacist** - Melbourne's NE, VIC (Job# 200013496)  
Join a large team specialising in Nursing Home dispensing and DAA's.

Have you arranged a Locum for your next break? call us to sort it!

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## Dispensary Corner

**THREE** psychiatrists have written to President Barack Obama urging him to request a "full medical and neuropsychiatric evaluation by an impartial team of investigators" of the president elect, Donald Trump, according to an article published in the *BMJ*.

In their letter to Obama the psychiatrists wrote that they had "grave concerns" over Trump's "widely reported symptoms of mental instability—including grandiosity, impulsivity, hypersensitivity to slights (pictured) or criticism, and an apparent inability to distinguish between fantasy and reality," which they said "lead us to question his fitness for the immense responsibilities of the office" - **CLICK HERE**.



**ANOTHER** controversial study has revealed that if you have a female doctor you have a better chance of survival in the hospital setting, according to a paper published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

Both mortality and readmission rates were found to be lower for US Medicare patients treated by female physicians.

The differences were actually marginal, less than 1%, but researchers still concluded that "differences in practice patterns between male and female physicians, as suggested in previous studies, may have important clinical implications for patient outcomes" - **CLICK HERE**.

## Alphapharm signs 1st Group

**PRICELINE** is set to roll out a new online booking system for in-pharmacy professional services as well as beauty and make-up appointments, under a new agreement between Mylan subsidiary Alphapharm and listed online health portal group 1st Available.



to reduce customers' waiting times, whether on the phone or walking in for healthcare services.

"Knowing when to expect patients and customers also enables pharmacists and cosmeticians to organise their services more effectively."

Under the initial phase of the partnership the group will roll out 1stAvailable and GObookings services to "a chain with 320 pharmacies and 90 retail stores," according to the official announcement yesterday.



Bartosch said 1st Group services more than 40% of the pharmacy market (up from 5% 12 months ago), and customers

include Terry White Chemmart, Wizard Pharmacies, Friendlies Pharmacies and others.

The company already provides these services for GP clinics, dentists, vets and a range of other allied health providers - as well as other pharmacy groups.

1st Group also has agreements in place with other major generics suppliers such as Arrow and Apotex, he added.

1ST Group md Klaus Bartosch told *Pharmacy Daily*, "We are very pleased to welcome Alphapharm as a new client, and to assist it with its strategic business relationships.

Bartosch said Alphapharm's participation in the program was seeing the supplier "supporting strategic engagements with pharmacies," further entrenching the generics giant's relationships within the sector.

"We were selected due to our pharmacy market leadership and for the unique business solutions that we offer," Bartosch explained. "Booking services online help

## PPI claiming period

**CLAIMING** for Pharmacy Practice Incentives (PPIs) for Clinical Interventions and Dose Administration Aids for the current quarter ending 31 Dec 2016 will only be available from 01-14 Jan, via the 6CPA Registration and Claiming Portal.

Pharmacists are being warned to ensure they have a process in place to ensure their PPI claim can be submitted within the required timeframe, particularly if they are planning to be away in early Jan.

Claims will be rejected if received after the claim due date of 14 Jan.

## Honest pharmacists

**AMERICANS** rating honesty and ethical standards of professions have placed pharmacists second only to nurses with 67% rated as having high or very high standards, according to the latest Gallup poll.

Nurses scored 84%, and medical doctors came third with 65% while dentists scored 59% and both chiropractors and psychiatrists were down at 38%.

Journalists were rated high or very high in standards by only 23%, senators 12% and members of congress bottom at 8%, even below the usual whipping group car salespeople, who were elevated to second bottom at 9%.

**CLICK HERE** for the poll summary.

## Mar PBAC agenda

**COMMENTS** from stakeholders are being invited on the newly published agenda for the Mar 2017 Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee meeting.

The committee will consider a range of new and amended items for PBS listings - for full details see [www.pbs.gov.au](http://www.pbs.gov.au).

## 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](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**3-10 Jan:** Dental & Medical Ski Conference; Canyons/Park City, USA; more info and register at: [www.cpdconferencing.com.au](http://www.cpdconferencing.com.au)

**17 Feb:** Foundation Seminar in Clinical Medication Management; Melbourne, VIC; for details and to register see: [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au)

**3-5 Mar:** Annual Therapeutic Update 2017; Crowne Plaza Terrigal; register here: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**8 Mar:** AACP Accredited Pharmacists' Forum: Quality Use of Medicines in the Management of Chronic Medical Conditions; Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre; more info at: [www.aacp.com.au](http://www.aacp.com.au)

**9-12 Mar:** APP 2017; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; for details visit: [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com)

**31 Mar:** Foundation Seminar in Clinical Pharmacy Practice; Sydney, NSW; registrations opening soon: [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au)

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