

Today's issue of PD

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

APP 2016 top sessions

APP has revealed not-to-be missed sessions for this year's conference at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre from 17 to 20 Mar.

Top talks include 'State of the Industry Symposium', 'New treatments for Hepatitis C – are you ready?' and 'Consumer engagement – the value of brands'.

For full details or to register see appconference.com.

Med shortages kill

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation has said in a statement to the World Health Organization Executive Board meeting in Geneva that safety and lives of children are being put at risk as a result of medicines shortages.

CLICK HERE for more.

Cannabis trial approved

NEW South Wales Premier Mike Baird announced a new medical cannabis trial on Friday for chemotherapy patients who are suffering from nausea.

With 330 patients set to take part, it's the largest trial of its kind and the third to ever take place in the state.

Baird's announcement follows changes to the Narcotic Drugs Act passed in the Senate last Wed, allowing medical marijuana to be grown and manufactured in Australia (**PD** 25 Feb 16).

During the trial, which is expected to start mid 2016, an oral cannabis-derived capsule containing tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol will be used.

The drug has been developed and supplied by Tilray, a Canadian medicinal cannabis company.

"Medicinal cannabis has the potential to be of incredible benefit to many and our clinical trials will help us provide relief to those suffering from a range of serious

illnesses," Baird said in an official statement.

"Everyone knows someone who has been affected by cancer and this third trial will assess what role medicinal cannabis can play in controlling nausea and vomiting in patients undergoing chemotherapy".

The previous trials of this kind were for terminally ill patients and children with severe epilepsy, and these trials will pave the way for making such treatments available to whomever needs it, he said.

New NSQHS guide

A NEW National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (NSQHS) guide has been released with standards for community health services.

This guide provides an overview, suggested strategies to meet the requirements and evidence-based examples plus key resources.

For the guide, **CLICK HERE**.

Don't Miss Out!



6CPA Funds



More CI Opportunities



Professional Services



Script Uplift



guildcare

APP
STAND 329

Australia has the most aches and pains

NEW research by the Global Pain Index has revealed 9% of Australians suffer from body aches, with 68% experiencing it at least once a week.

The figures are higher than the other 13 countries in the survey with 70% of Aussies accepting pain and 60% "simply ignore it".

"The study shows people are annoyed, frustrated and unhappy because of pain which affects their relationships, performance at work & how they parent," painkiller company GSK's consumer healthcare medical affairs director Dr Amar Inamdar said.

Pregnancy test recall

CONCEIVEPLEASE is recalling one batch (20131203) of one step hCH urine pregnancy tests after TGA testing found these tests failed to detect HCG at concentrations of 25 mIU/mL levels leading to false negative results.

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*Hardware requirement: within the last 5 years depending on specifications

Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Jeannie Yoo, Clinical Advisor, Medicines, NPS MedicineWise.**



When referral is recommended

AS A pharmacist, your medicines expertise and frequent contact with patients prescribed antidepressants makes you ideally positioned to provide education, discuss management plans and monitor effectiveness and adverse effects to treatment.

These interactions are vital in supporting and extending the information and advice provided by general practitioners; all contributing, of course, to our common goal of improving patient care.

Stigma is a well recognised concern among patients diagnosed with depression and may influence adherence to pharmacotherapy. Engaging with these patients and developing a strong relationship can provide a valuable opportunity to encourage medication adherence and address concerns about taking an antidepressant.

Another potential advantage of such a relationship is early recognition of patients who may need referral to their prescribing GP, because they are

- not responding to treatment – despite an adequate trial period
- presenting with troublesome or serious adverse effects
- experiencing clinically significant medicine interactions
- not adequately adhering to treatment despite education and encouragement.

In these circumstances, patients may benefit from revising their management plan with their doctor.

The NPS MedicineWise CPD-accredited interactive case study for depression is now available at nps.org.au/depression-cpd.

Alliance seals Arrow deal

INDEPENDENT

pharmacy owner group Pharmacy Alliance (PA) has announced a renewal of its supply arrangement with generics specialist Arrow Pharmaceuticals.

The pact extends by a further ten years the group's previous relationship with Aspen, prior to the acquisition of the Aspen Generics & Chemists' Own businesses last year (**PD** 01 Sep 2015).

The new agreement also includes investment by Arrow in Pharmacy Alliance's plans for growth and retail innovation, the firms said.

Pharmacy Alliance executive chairman, Simon Reynolds (**pictured** L to R with Dennis Bastas,



Arrow chairman, PA ceo Darren Dye and PA director Paul Sidhom) said the agreement reflects the importance of the Pharmacy Alliance members to Arrow.

Patch vaccination

PATCHES invented in Australia appear set to substitute for needles and syringes in vaccination programs following successful trials on rats, and opening the way for clinical trials in humans amid a global campaign in developing countries to eradicate polio.

The Nanopatch, invented by University of Queensland biomedical engineer Mark Kendall, is a centimetre-square silicon wafer with thousands of microscopic projections with tips dry-coated in vaccine, which leaches out into the epidermis.

Transformation call

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia is calling for expressions of interest from members to join a steering committee for two new projects: one to establish a two-year residency project for pharmacists and another to start a network to being practitioners and researchers together - see www.shpa.org.au.

Win with Plunketts

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Plunketts are giving away an Aloe Vera prize pack every day including Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera gel, spray and moisturiser.

Aloe Vera is easily absorbed by your skin, soothing and cooling dry irritated skin. Australian made, Plunkett's Aloe Vera Gel and Spray contain 99% of the highest quality 100% certified organic aloe. Nothing is closer to Aloe Vera straight from the plant, but Plunkett's is in a convenient tube.

Visit www.plunketts.com.au

To win, be the first from NSW or ACT to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Name one use for Plunkett's Aloe Vera.

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



DISPENSARY CORNER

"FATBERGS", created by balls of wet wipes, are said to be clogging drains in New South Wales.

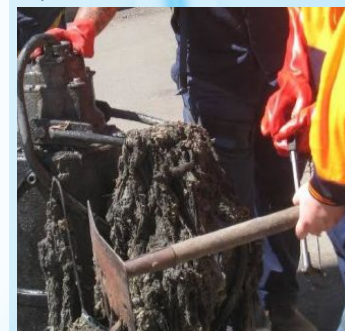
Experts say the problem stems from the wipes being advertised as flushable despite the fact they take years to break down.

In the meantime the mix combines with a charming combination of fats and oils to form the dreaded 'fatberg'.

The most recent example is a one tonne cluster (**pictured** below) that blew out a pumping station near Newcastle.

Three quarters of the enormous clump was removed using special equipment from the station while the rest was removed by hand "one bucket at a time".

Moral of the story? Bin your wipes, don't flush them.



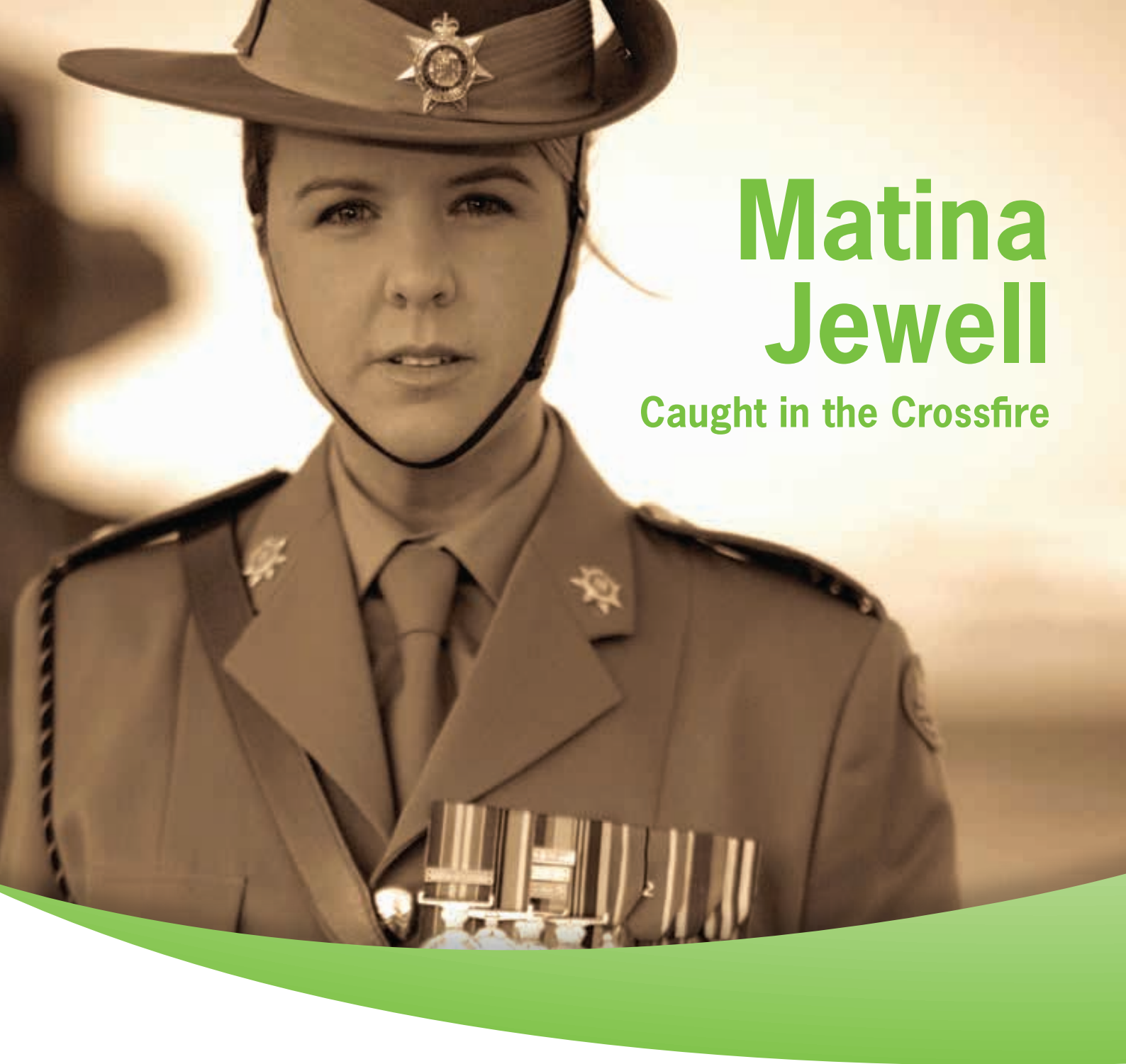
A SECOND grader who told school officials about how he got to help his mother's boyfriend grow "special medicine" led to a major marijuana bust in the US state of Vermont.

The eight-year-old reportedly told teachers the plants could "cure anything at all".

The *Times-Argus* reports that when police went to investigate they found two "grow rooms" next to the child's bedroom.

His mother and her boyfriend have since been arrested.

Fifty marijuana plants were confiscated with a street value of approximately \$US75,000.



Matina Jewell

Caught in the Crossfire

At the upcoming APP Conference, Matina will share her story of being deployed as a Peacekeeper to Syria and Lebanon as part of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation. During her time working as the only Australian and only woman at Patrol Base Khiam on the border between Israel and Lebanon, full-scale war broke out.

Hear how Matina cheated death, took command and showed pure courage while leading her teams under extreme conditions right around the globe.

**Symbion is proud to be presenting Matina at the APP Conference.
Saturday 19th March – 4.35pm**

