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Today's issue of PD

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

The next issue of *PD* will be published on Wed 27 Jan due to tomorrow's Australia Day public holiday.

Qbot bugs RMH phcy

ROYAL Melbourne Hospital is resetting all of its computer systems after discovering the bug that infected them on the weekend was a new variant of Qbot or Qakbot, according to a report in *Pulse+IT*.

The malware can steal passwords, log keystrokes and perform remote FTP commands, especially on computers run on XP.

The malware seriously affected the pathology and pharmacy departments where the PCs use the old operating system.

MedAdvisor codeine PEP

RECENTLY listed health software firm MedAdvisor has formally launched a new Patient Education Program (PEP) which aims to help address the risk of addiction and serious side effects for those using S3 codeine analgesics.

Created in partnership with PainAustralia, the PEP works to improve the quality use of medicines by delivering educational messages directly to patients via smartphone, tablet or web browser.

"Whilst IT tools which facilitate real-time prescription monitoring can greatly assist prescribers and pharmacists in controlling the supply of medications, we believe it is important to develop 'patient focused' solutions," said MedAdvisor ceo Robert Read.

"Addiction cycles often begin with unintended misuse of codeine-based products...the tool MedAdvisor is launching today works to support and educate patients at the time they are using these medications".

The move follows the massive controversy sparked late last year when the Therapeutic Goods Administration proposed rescheduling medications containing codeine to prescription-only, with widespread opposition from most pharmacy and patient groups.

The Pharmacy Guild undertook to rapidly develop a real-time monitoring system to stop multiple codeine purchases, but

interestingly this is also possible using the new MedAdvisor system.

Read said the software "also captures real-time dispense data and can, where appropriate and following privacy legislation, share visibility of dispenses across pharmacies.

"MedAdvisor can offer an effective and immediate solution for real-time prescription monitoring," he said.

In order to receive the education information patients will be required to register for MedAdvisor's free app.

Once their online profile is updated with the recording of codeine-based sales, the app will provide a series of messages to the patient which reinforce information provided by the pharmacist about the safe and effective use of codeine analgesics.

Read said the program could in future be expanded to include any S4 and S8 medication subject to abuse, such as benzodiazepines and opiates.

Aust Day critical info

THE Department of Human Services has advised healthcare professionals that while many phone lines will be closed on Australia Day, it has listed on its website critical information numbers that will be attended.

CLICK HERE to access.

Nature's Care sale?

PRIVATELY owned vitamin company Nature's Care is aiming to sell the business to a single buyer, appointing brokers JPMorgan and Ord Minnett to arrange the deal, according to a report in the *AFR*.

The company, run by Steven Collett, generates around \$40m in earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation.

Capitalising on its recent growth along with other vitamin companies providing "clean and green" vitamins to the massive contaminant-plagued China market, the company is anticipating a sale figure greater than \$1 billion.

The environment has proved a boon for the sector in Australia with Melbourne-based vitamin giant Swisse Wellness going to Hong Kong-based group Biostime for \$1.67b representing 16 times earnings.

Similarly Blackmores' share value exploded to five times its original value during the growth period to \$220 and has held above \$200.

Five 2016 epidemics

INTERNATIONAL aid organisation Médecins Sans Frontières has warned of five diseases with the potential to become epidemics this year.

Cholera, malaria, measles, meningitis and a group of diseases spread by viruses and parasites were flagged as 2016 epidemic risks.

WA SHPA news out

THE Western Australia branch of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has released its January newsletter, introducing new branch committee and other members.

It also describes technician's plans for the year and highlights the SHPA Early Career Pharmacist Special Interest Group and its activities.

The newsletter also contains a report on the WA Branch AGM and the Medicines Management 2015 conference as well as the WA Branch Achievement Award.

CLICK HERE for the newsletter.

Win with DESIGNER BRANDS

This week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away three DB Certified Organic Pure Rosehip Oils each day.

Perfect for normal to combination skin, DB Pure Rosehip Oil helps to promote a luminous and blemish free complexion. Clinically proven to diminish the appearance of fine lines & wrinkles, scars and uneven skin tone this product is essential in any beauty routine. Now in a convenient roller ball format, simply apply to the face at night for skin that is prepped, hydrated and ready for daily make-up application. DB Rosehip Oil also works perfectly as a primer for dry skin or under the eyes for smooth and crease free concealer application. Visit www.dbcosmetics.com.au

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

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD*'s weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Chris Brycki, the Founder and CEO of Stockspot.**



How diversified is your portfolio?

A RECENT survey by Investment Trends found that the average self-directed investor in Australia holds shares in just 18 companies with a large portion to a few stocks, namely the big four banks, Telstra and BHP since they represent almost 50% of the market.

Having such a large part of your portfolio exposed to just a few stocks means you're taking a lot more risk than you need to be. Vanguard estimates that the average self directed portfolio contains about double the risk of a typical diversified growth fund, largely due to this high exposure to just a few Australia companies.

If you manage your own savings it's crucial to appreciate the links and relationships between different investments in your portfolio. These correlations could cause a much larger fluctuations during periods of market turmoil and can be avoided (without sacrificing returns) through greater diversification across different industries, assets and countries.

When you invest, you can never eliminate market risk entirely. However you can avoid having large amounts of your capital tied up in a single company, asset, industry or country. Diversifying your savings across multiple assets, industries and geographies will help smooth your overall returns and preserve your wealth over the long run.

Aspen brings S-26 home

ASPEN Nutritional Australia has announced that its S-26 GOLD infant nutrition products are now "part of an all ANZ manufactured range," with manufacturing of the items "back on home soil".

Effective immediately S-26 GOLD Newborn and S-26 GOLD Progress are being made in New Zealand,

while the Toddler and Junior products are made in Australia.

The company said the move was part of an "effort to build brand trust and reinforce that local really is better".

"By locally manufacturing the S-26 GOLD core range we are committed to giving Australian mums the reassurance that the product they know and love comes from a source they trust," said Aspen spokesperson Patricia Demopoulos.

As part of the change Aspen also plans heavy promotion for S-26 GOLD Toddler and S-26 GOLD Junior, with an "exciting new campaign across TV, digital, print, point-of-sale and social".

The initiative comes as infant formula continues to be in the spotlight amid heavy demand for Australian products from China and the recent launch of the joint venture between Blackmores and NSW-based dairy group Bega.

Cannabis scheduling

INPUT is sought by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) relating to the proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard - ACMS and ACCS meeting in March this year.

A number of products are being proposed for scheduling changes including cannabis and cannabinoids, which would be listed as new schedule 8 entries, down-scheduling them from their current inclusion in schedule 9.

The TGA has created a separate Q&A page to clarify the proposal and its implications.

The TGA says making cannabinoids S8 "still allows very strict controls on access to the substances," with the move following last year's announcement by health minister Sussan Ley that she would seek parliamentary approval of amendments to the *Narcotic Drugs Act 1967* to establish a national scheme to allow the cultivation of cannabis for medicinal purposes (*PD* 17 Oct).

Other changes proposed include the up-scheduling of the schedule 4 entry for benzodiazepine derivatives to schedule 9, except where separately specified.

CLICK HERE for the consultation.

Vit D and depression

VITAMIN D deficiency is associated with depressive symptoms according to a study published in the *International Journal of Cardiology*.

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

DISPENSARY CORNER



HATE cleaning the toilet? Perhaps you'd like to invest in a US \$10,000 Toto Neorest 750H.

Sure it's a lot to pay for a loo; but this is toilet technology at whole new level.

You can forget old-school accessories like a toilet brush and toilet paper.

The Toto automatically rinses the bowl with antibacterial electrolysed water creating a self-cleaning mechanism.

There's a heated seat that opens and closes itself, a massage function and two warm water sprays which apparently replace the need for toilet paper.

There's even a built in dryer. That's what we call a true ceramic throne.



AHPRA closures

ALL Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) offices will be closed tomorrow due to the Australia Day national public holiday, with the offices set to reopen at 9am on Wed 27 Jan.

Hospital phcy trends

HOSPITAL pharmacists can expect continued growth in the specialty pharmaceutical market and should seek out revenue-generation opportunities, according to Mark Eastham, gm of McKesson Pharmacy Optimization.

Presenting at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists mid-year meeting in New Orleans last month, Eastham identified the need for supply chain efficiency, more oversight of the 340B program (a US special drugs access scheme), and the need to leverage pharmacy analytics to make better financial, clinical, and operational decisions.

THE things 3D printers can assist with are always surprising us.

Princess Alexandra Hospital in Queensland has started using the technology to reduce unnecessary surgeries for complicated trauma patients.

Using 3D models helps the doctors visualise complex fractures and where to place screws and plates to hold bones in position while it heals.

This technique gives an "added layer of preparation" which could change outcomes for patients.

The hospital is also considering 3D printing crowns and bridges for oral surgery as well as prosthetics for amputees.



ACHIEVE **BIG** RESULTS IN 2016

Happy New Year from the team at Pharmacy Alliance!

It's time to create new business resolutions in 2016.

We've helped our 518 member pharmacies achieve their business goals in 2015 and with our range of business tools you can look forward to big results in 2016. Our tools will:

- Optimise dispensary profitability with our market-leading generics platform, **PAGM**
- Boost front-of-shop performance with our all new **AllianceIQ Retail**
- Position your pharmacy as the destination for health in your community with our new co-brand, **Alliance Pharmacy**
- Gain great efficiencies with the latest in POS, dispense, office systems through our exclusive arrangement with **Z Software**
- Get **exceptional support** from an operations team locally and a specialists at the member support team in Melbourne
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