

The future of integrated pharmacy management has arrived – Fred NXT



FREDNXT

Indication extensions

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has published extension of indications for five registered medicines.

Mundipharma's Targin (oxycodone hydrochloride and naloxone hydrochloride) has an extended listing to include restless legs syndrome under specific conditions.

Top seller Humira (adalimumab) from Abbvie has broadened indications in immunological diseases and Allergan's Latisse (bimatoprost) can now treat hypotrichosis of the eye lashes.

Utrogestan (progesterone) by Besins Healthcare and Descovy (emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide fumarate) from Gilead have also gained extensions of indication in July.

Visit www.tga.gov.au for full details on the indications.

Review opens discussion

HEALTH minister Sussan Ley has urged the "entire pharmaceutical supply chain - including consumers" to provide input to the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation, which has now released its highly anticipated discussion paper (**PD** breaking news).

Ley said the government was committed to an integrated health system that ensures strong coordination across the healthcare team, with the review aiming to ensure the next Community Pharmacy Agreement continues to meet the future needs of Australia.

The review, which is now inviting public submissions on the 140 questions posed in the paper, will also see a national program of consultations next month, as well as online surveys targeting both pharmacists and consumers.

Stakeholders from across the sector have responded to the review, with a summary of initial feedback below:

The **Pharmacy Guild** said its strongly held view was that the existing community pharmacy model serves Australian health care consumers and taxpayers well.

"In the coming months as the Review continues its work, the Guild's approach will be to take every opportunity to demonstrate to the panel the benefits of the existing community pharmacy

model, including through the use of economic analysis, international pharmacy model comparisons, and consumer attitudes and satisfaction levels with pharmacy."

The **Pharmaceutical Society of Australia** said the Review was an "opportunity to improve the future," noting the discussion paper includes many comments made by the PSA in its briefing to the panel.

Examples include the potential for payment for professional services through the Medicare Benefits Scheme, and the possibility of payments linked to complexity.

PSA president Joe Demarte said "PSA is committed to a strategic, practical plan to meet the future needs of consumers and improve remuneration for pharmacists by engaging in this review process".

Wholesalers also weighed in, with the **National Pharmaceutical Services Association** saying the paper has raised all of the key issues, with plans to work with the process "to ensure Australia has a viable and sustainable pharmaceutical wholesaling sector into the future".

And the **Consumers Health Forum** hailed the discussion paper's focus on consumer health - also highlighting the "central issue" of whether the \$20b CPA should "remain the preserve alone" of the government and the Guild.

MEANWHILE Guild President George Tambassis has released an "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" opinion piece on the issue - to view the full text **CLICK HERE**.

Hep C gone in 10years

WITH the broad availability of hepatitis C treatments subsequent to their listing on the PBS, Australia now has the enviable worldwide status of leading the way in the treatment of the disease with the potential to eliminate it within 10 years, according to data from the Kirby Institute.

Hepatitis Australia ceo Helen Tyrrell is urging more pharmacies to take up the opportunity to support the hepatitis C community.

"Pharmacies are critical to ensuring that people living with hepatitis C can access the new cures...it's encouraging to see that many pharmacies are dispensing the new hepatitis C medicines," Tyrrell added.

To manage the cashflow problems associated with the high priced drugs, Abbvie provides extended payment terms (**PD** 04 May 16).

Prescription misuse

ONE in two American adults misuse their prescription drugs, according to an analysis of more than three million lab tests by Quest Diagnostics.

It revealed that the majority of Americans taking opioids and common prescription medications take them in ways that can put their health at risk.

The study said while doctors played an important role in weighing the risks and benefits of opioid drug therapy more needs to be done to address the "public health crisis".

A full copy of the report is available **HERE**.



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POTY entries open

THE Pharmacy Guild has opened applications for the 2017 Guild Pharmacy of the Year.

Once again there are three categories, recognising Excellence in Business Management, Excellence in Community Engagement and Innovation in Professional Services.

Among the category winners, an overall winner of Guild Pharmacy of the Year 2017 will also be named.

All Guild Member community pharmacy businesses are eligible to enter, and previous entrants, including winners, are also being invited to submit entries this year.

Entries close on 30 Sep with full details at www.guild.org.au.



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Contact your preferred travel agent, phone 1800 754 500 or go to www.royalcaribbean.com.au.

European Waterways free hotel night deal

EUROPEAN Waterways is offering a free hotel night for new bookings on all remaining 2016 departures on selected luxury hotel barges in France.

The hotel stay, which is subject to availability, includes breakfast, can be used either pre-or post-cruise, is integrated with the rest of the cruise and is combinable with any other current offer.

Booking deposits must be made by 30 Sep to be eligible.

Visit www.gobarging.com/free-hotel-night-news.

Pharmacy rents outstrip CPI

PHARMACY rents have increased significantly more than the consumer price index over the last ten years, according to the Guild's latest Pharmacy Rental Report.

Issued this week, the update warns the trends are likely to continue and that there is "not much good news anticipated".

The report highlights relative declines in pharmacy sales, versus increases in rents and capital values, which have seen the retail property sector receiving returns of 10.3%.

Rental growth averaged 2.6% in 2015 and is estimated to lift a further 2.8% this year.

"The effects of PBS reforms on community pharmacy, along with the potential outcomes of prescription discounting from January 2016, will continue to impact the negative growth trend of pharmacy sales highlighted in the 2015 Pharmacy Rental Report.

"This continuing trend of negative sales growth and increasing rental costs is reflecting significantly on occupancy costs," the report said.

"There is some concern regarding the outlook for the pharmacy

sector, given PBS reforms that are making pharmacies less profitable.

"Increased competition for pharmacy retailing may negatively influence the rent they are willing to pay," the report concludes.

It advises that in reviewing rental and occupancy cost ratios (OCR) when assessing the sustainability of the pharmacy business, owners and managers should aim of OCR on full sales (including dispensary) of 4.5%; and OCR based on front of shop (retail) only of 10%.

The full update is available to members on the Guild website.

Research awards

RESEARCH Australia is inviting entries for its 2016 Awards, which aim to recognise significant contributions made to cutting-edge research, advocacy and philanthropy in the health sector.

Categories include the Griffith University Discovery Award and the Health Services Research Award, with the program supported by Griffith University and GSK - see researchaustralia.org.



Dispensary Corner

SUPERFOODS are known for being a little left of field.

Most of us would be willing to stomach some kale or chia seeds but how about cockroach milk?

The Times of India is reporting that scientists have discovered cockroach milk is four times as nutritious as cow's milk and boasts a unique form of protein.

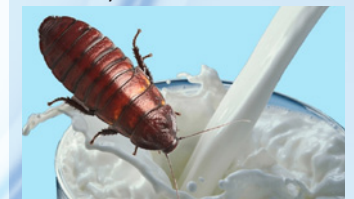
If you weren't cringing before you will be now: the milk comes from the Pacific beetle cockroach which secretes a type of milk containing protein crystals to feed its embryos.

Apparently those crystals are pretty good for us too.

"The crystals are like a complete food. If you look into the protein sequences, they have all the essential amino acids," reported the newspaper.

Milking cockroaches sounds a little tricky so the researchers are trying to find a way to produce the protein crystals in their lab.

Does synthetic cockroach milk sound any better?



BACON, is there anything it can't do for us?

Today we add another use to the list: beating off criminals.

It comes after reports out of the US of an 86-year-old woman who had just made a large cash withdrawal and was accosted by an unknown woman shortly after in the supermarket.

When the crook demanded money she defended herself and got rid of the attacker by repeatedly hitting her with a packet of bacon.

Win with Dreambaby®

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Dreambaby® are giving away each day 2 packs of four Strollerbuddy Stroller Clips and a Stroller Hook.



Dreambaby® Strollerbuddy Stroller Clips, available in new season colours including, purple, pale blue, green, orange, grey and pink are fun, attractive and have so many functions to help you and your little one enjoy a day out and about! The

Dreambaby® Stroller Hooks (RRP\$8.95) are stylish and built to last, lightweight and versatile. The soft yet heavy-duty handle clips easily onto just about every stroller handle and won't slide around.

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

Name the colours that Dreambaby Strollerbuddy Stroller Clips come in.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Kylie Sneddon from Lakewood Pharmacy, Wanneroo.

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