



National drug hospital formulary call

UNIVERSITY of Queensland Associate Professor of Medicine Charles Denaro said expensive new treatments posed a challenge for the health system, and has called for a national formulary or register of drugs that are cost-effective.

"Decisions across Australia are haphazard and access to drugs might depend on where a patient lives," Denaro said.

"Deciding whether to add an expensive new drug is problematic because hospital budgets are capped," he said.

Farewell finger-pricks

A REVOLUTIONARY new glucose monitoring system that eliminates the need for routine finger pricking is now available in Australia.

The FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring System reads a sensor worn on the back of the arm to give a glucose profile without the need to draw blood.

MEANWHILE NPS MedicineWise has released a new educational program intended to help health professionals keep up to date with second and third line medicines for lowering blood glucose.

While pharmacists are very familiar with the standard metformin therapy, the dynamic world of diabetes type 2 treatments is rapidly changing, with increasing numbers of new medicines being introduced, said NPS medical advisor Dr Jeannie Yoo.

Health professionals can earn CPD points - visit www.nps.org.au.

QCPP structural change

AUSTRALIA'S Quality Care Pharmacy Program (QCPP) has announced a major structural change in the way its assessments are conducted with the aim of increasing efficiency and improving outcomes for pharmacies and patients.

The quality assurance program is designed specifically for use in community pharmacies and provides support and guidance on professional health services and pharmacy business operations.

As part of the QCPP process, participating pharmacies undergo regular and rigorous assessments and the structural changes announced yesterday include the appointment of leading consultancy Ernst and Young (EY) as assessment services deliverer.

The appointment followed a national tender process with

the contract seeking to enhance customer satisfaction and quality of assessment services to pharmacies, the QCPP said.

The documentation provided by assessors will undergo enhancements over the coming months and although pharmacies may have a different assessor under the new structure, QCPP has assured that all assessors will continue to be subject to the criteria and standards pharmacies have become used to over the years.

There is no change to QCPP requirements or evidence required at assessment, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has said.

Shingles vax plan

THE TGA's Advisory Committee on the Safety of Vaccines has posted advice about a Vaccine Safety Plan (VSP) which has been developed as part of the forthcoming National Shingles Vaccination Program.

The program is planned to take effect 01 Nov this year, subject to vaccine availability.

Visit www.tga.gov.au for details.

VPA seeks input

THE Victorian Pharmacy Authority is reviewing its guidelines and releasing a draft version planned to take effect 01 Sep this year.

The Authority has said it will consider consultation feedback on the draft Guidelines before finalising them for publication on its website.

To provide feedback to the VPA, go to the website found at www.pharmacy.vic.gov.au.

When you access the document, you will find new guidelines and significant changes are highlighted in red text - **CLICK HERE**.

New \$5 note in Sep

RETAILERS are being reminded by the Australian Retailers Association (ARA) that 01 Sep will see the arrival of a new look \$5 note carrying increased security measures.

"Key aspects of the existing design - colour, size and people portrayed - are retained for ease of recognition and to minimise the disruption to businesses," ARA executive director, Russell Zimmerman said.

"There is also a new 'tactile' feature to help the vision impaired community distinguish between different denominations of banknotes," he added.

Each banknote in the new series will have a distinctive top to bottom window and will depict a different species of Australian wattle and a native bird within a number of the elements, RBA Governor Glen Stevens said.

"On the \$5 banknote, these are the Prickly Moses wattle and the Eastern Spinebill."

Retailers with equipment that automatically processes banknotes will need to upgrade the equipment to recognise and accept the new notes, Stevens warned.

Politicians visit pharmacy

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is urging politicians of all persuasions to visit community pharmacies to see at first hand the great work they do, whether it's during an election campaign or not.

Pictured

are Health Minister Sussan Ley (3rd from left) and Member for Bennelong John Alexander (far right) both visiting the Amcal Macquarie Centre Pharmacy in Sydney yesterday, discussing a number of pharmacy issues with patients and with pharmacy staff, including the pharmacy owner and Guild National Councillor Rick Samimi (second from left).



Amcal Macquarie Centre Pharmacy is playing a growing role in primary health care for the local community with their pharmacist vaccination service for flu shots proving very popular and convenient for patients.

John Alexander even rolled up his sleeve to take a flu shot from pharmacist Kenny Kwon Ho Lee in the pharmacy's consulting room.



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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - Cairns, QLD (Job# 200008206)
Full-time Rotational Pharmacist role offering diversity and stability.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Great Ocean Road, VIC (Job# 200010399)
Beachside small town on Victoria's west coast, very popular with tourists.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - South Coast, NSW (Job# 200013051)
Sought after coastal location needs a self-motivated & organised individual.

Share your career vision with us and we'll help get you there!



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.

4-5 Jun: Critical Care Foundation Seminar; Crowne Plaza Melbourne; details at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

7-9 Jun: 15th National Immunisation Conference; Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre; details at: www.phaa.net.au

17-19 Jun: ConPharm 2016; Hilton, Adelaide; more info at: www.aacp.com.au

11-12 Jul: 11th Asia Pacific Diabetes Conference and Expo; Brisbane; visit: www.conferenceseries.com

14-16 Jul: 5th Global Pharmacists Annual Meeting; Brisbane; details at: www.conferenceseries.com

22-24 Jul: Foundation Clinical Pharmacy Practice Seminar; InterContinental Adelaide Hotel; for more info visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

29-31 Jul: PSA16; Four Points by Sheraton Darling Harbour Sydney; more info at: www.psa.org.au

13-14 Aug: Infectious Diseases Seminar; InterContinental Adelaide Hotel; for more info visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

20-21 Aug: Fitness & Health Expo; Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre; details at: www.fitnessexpo.com.au

27-28 Aug: 2016 Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar; Crowne Plaza Coogee, Sydney; details at: www.pharmeducation.com.au

Anginine, Lycinat probe

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is investigating reports about glyceryl trinitrate (GTN) tablets sold in Australia under the names Anginine and Lycinat are taking longer than expected to dissolve under some patients' tongues.

The issue may affect patient safety, and to date the reports of longer than expected times to dissolve and in some cases difficulty breaking pills in half have only related to the more recent formulation which is available in a

circular tablet.

The affected products have not been recalled at this stage while the TGA continues to investigate the issue, and the spray-based formulation of GTN is not impacted by the investigation.

The TGA says drinking water before putting a tablet under the tongue may help, and in acute healthcare settings patients should be closely monitored when administering GTN tablets.

Med Safety keynote

MEDICATION Safety will be the topic of the keynote address at the Medicines Management (MM2016) 42nd SHPA National Conference in Perth 16-19 Nov.

The keynote address will be delivered by Dr Bob Feroli (right), renowned for his expertise in minimising patient harm caused by medication errors.

Go to mm2016shpa.com.



Red tape 'nonsense'

A NEW Zealand pharmacist is unable to use the store's purpose-built consultation room because it is separated from the pharmacy by 50 centimetres of carpet.

Under rules enforced by regulator MedSafe, Picton Medical Centre Pharmacy co-owner Chris Webb is at risk of losing his pharmacy licence if he uses the room for consultations.

"I'm paying rent on an expensive tearoom," he said.

MedSafe said no exemption could be granted and pharmacies needed to comply with requirements for patient consultation rooms to be located within a licensed premise.



DISPENSARY CORNER

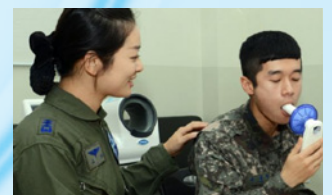
WALKING sticks might not look particularly dangerous but they can sure make pretty nifty weapons.

Earlier this week staff at a pharmacy in Sydney's south west were captured on camera **HERE** beating an armed robber with the store's wooden canes.

The thief allegedly threatened staff at Birrong Pharmacy with a sharp wooden object before throwing a female worker to the ground then punching a male customer who tried to take his weapon.

The other staff members wasted no time, with three of them grabbing a walking stick each and hitting the robber whilst chasing him out of the store.

It's not the first time walking sticks have been effectively used as weapons - just last month a good samaritan used his walking stick to fend off a man on a violent rampage through an Adelaide shopping centre where at least six people were bashed at random.



CASH, extra holiday time and even pool tables are being given as rewards for South Korean soldiers who quit smoking, according to reports in the **BBC**.

The defence ministry notes more than 40% of soldiers smoke compared to about 35% of Korean men in their 20s.

The most successful 'quitter' will be awarded US\$3,357.

If a soldier wants to quit smoking, the military will provide the necessary support and help.

Win with the Cancer Council

Each day this week, Pharmacy Daily and Cancer Council Sunscreen are giving away a Sunscreen Pack valued at over \$65. You could win!

Sunscreen is an important step in maintaining beautiful, healthy skin. The new Cancer Council Face Day Wear Matte SPF 50+ is a great way to Protect Your Beauty. This soft-feeling, matte finish sunscreen goes on smooth and clean, and works well as a base under makeup to ensure skin is protected from the sun's damaging UV rays. For more information, visit skinhealth.com.au.

To win, be the first from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the following question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Name one additional benefit of the Face Day Wear Matte.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Alice Tucker.

