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## Robotic pharmacy

**THE** pharmacy automation devices market is expected to see incredible growth in the coming years, with a new report published by Grand View research predicting it will be worth US\$8.99 billion by 2020.

The market sees the mechanisation of tasks including packaging and labelling, medication dispensing and storage and retrieval systems.

Demand for precise robotic equipment and tools to perform operations at a faster rate are expected to be the key factors for market growth.

## Fake drug crackdown

**PANGEA IX**, the Ninth Annual International Internet Week of Action (IIWA), a global cooperative effort, led by INTERPOL to combat the unlawful sale and distribution of illegal and potentially counterfeit medical products on the internet, is underway.

Involving regulatory authorities worldwide, the FDA announced that it took action this week against 4,402 websites that illegally sell potentially dangerous, unapproved prescription drugs to U.S. consumers.

## Vic assisted dying report

**DYING** with Dignity Victoria (DWDV) has welcomed the report of the Victorian parliament's Legal and Social Issues Committee saying it is a "momentous step forward" to enable assisted dying and a "hopeful signal of accessible help for people with end-of-life decisions".

DWDV president Ms Lesley Vick said the decision by the Committee was consistent with legislative principles from the organisation's submission in relation to the enquiry.

"This enquiry has been particularly indepth and extensive – for example, several members of the committee visited overseas centres where the law allows physician-assisted dying," she said.

"It is unusual for committees of the upper house to be funded for such overseas research, so this is an indication that they were taking the issues extremely seriously – not simply paying lip service to them."

The Committee report said that it "sought to strike an appropriate balance between respecting the end of life choices of Victorians while recommending a sufficiently robust eligibility framework for competent adults that protects

against abuse".

"The Committee recognises that assisted dying is contentious, that is why there should be no legal, moral or ethical compulsion on any individual or institution to participate in any part of this process, including through referral."

Given that continuous palliative sedation is widely accepted as an appropriate way to relieve suffering for someone at the end of life, "its use is not centrally recorded, the extent of its use is unknown, and no guidelines exist to regulate it," said Committee chair Edward O'Donohue in commending his report to the parliament.

He added that this report should provide some direction for doctors and improve transparency.

**CLICK HERE** to access the report.

## Scheduling proposals

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has completed interim decisions in relation to submissions around the scheduling of a range of products, some of which are found in hair dyes and sunscreens.

The full list of proposals can be found by going to [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

## Antidepressants more harm than good

**ANTIDEPRESSANTS** may be largely ineffective and potentially harmful for children and teenagers, according to a new study published in the *Lancet*.

The major review assessed the scientific evidence for 14 antidepressants in nine to 18-year-olds, revealing only Prozac (fluoxetine) was better at relieving depression than a placebo.

The analysis of 34 clinical trials involving 5,260 patients found the drug Efexor (venlafaxine) was connected with increased suicidal thoughts and attempts when compared to a placebo.

One of the key authors Andrea Cipriani of the University of Oxford said psychological treatments should be the first port of call before prescribing drugs.

Major depressive disorders affect about 3% of children aged 6 to 12 years, and about 6% of teenagers aged 13 to 18 years.

"The balance of risks and benefits of antidepressants for the treatment of major depression does not seem to offer a clear advantage in children or teenagers, with probably only the exception of fluoxetine," the study concluded.



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## Cancer pathogens

**PATHOGENIC** E.Coli and others are now known to be the cause of bowel cancer, according to a report from the University of Liverpool, published on *The Conversation*.

Dietary fibres from plantains, bananas and broccoli can block harmful risk-increasing bacteria, as can vitamin D (almonds, red onions and chives are named), regular exercise and even anti-inflammatory drugs such as aspirin and perhaps other NSAIDS.

## PBS via EFT only

**THE** Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is encouraging healthcare professionals to support their patients by helping them prepare for the 01 Jul PBS patient refund conversion to EFT payments only.

All PBS patient refund cheques and EFTPOS refunds at service centres will cease on that date, with only the EFT option available.

Patients need to register their bank account details to avoid delays in payouts.

The PBS Patient Refund Claim Form (PB132) has been updated to capture bank account details and is available on the department's website, found by **CLICKING HERE**.

Any claims submitted after 01 Jul 2016 using the old PBS Patient Refund Claim Form will be rejected so that a new claim using the updated form with a completed bank details section will need to be submitted.

Forms for health professionals can be sourced at the website of the Department of Human Services - [www.humanservices.gov.au](http://www.humanservices.gov.au).

## NZ Pharmacy Action Plan

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand has welcomed the Ministry of Health's release of the Pharmacy Action Plan which is intended to address the need to provide "sustainable, high quality pharmacy services in an evolving environment".

The Plan emphasises the importance of taking an integrated, coherent approach so that all stakeholders are clear on the role they have to play in making its vision of the future into a reality, said Minister Jonathan Coleman.

"There is general agreement that we face complex challenges that make it more difficult to use pharmacists' skills more effectively," he said.

"However, there is also confidence that we can work together to address these challenges, using the very real strengths of our system and the experience and skills that everyone brings to their roles."

The Action Plan is structured

## NZ legal obligations

**NZ** pharmacists are being reminded by the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand that they are required to understand their ethical and legal obligations and apply this in their pharmacy practice.

Pharmacists can complete an online 'Law and Ethic Programme' to ensure they are compliant with the Pharmacy Council Competency M1.2 - **CLICK HERE** for access.

around four 'focus areas' and four 'tools for change', each of which contains a set of specific actions.

"Consultation feedback agreed that each action should have an organisation or group of stakeholders with lead accountability for it, while also understanding that all would need to play their part for each action to succeed," Coleman added.

**CLICK HERE** to access the Plan.

## Aspen - AZ portfolio

**ASPEN** Holdings has announced that its wholly owned subsidiary Aspen Global Incorporated (AGI), has signed an agreement with AstraZeneca AB and AstraZeneca UK (AZ) whereby AGI will acquire the exclusive rights to commercialise AZ's global anaesthetics portfolio, with the exception of the US business.

AZ's anaesthetics portfolio comprises seven established medicines, namely Diprivan (general anaesthesia), EMLA (topical anaesthetic) and five local anaesthetics (Xylocaine/Xylocard/Xyloproct, Marcaine, Naropin, Carbocaine and Citanest).

The products are sold in more than one hundred countries worldwide including China, Japan, Australia and Brazil, generating revenue of US\$592m in the year ended 31 Dec 2015.

## Prison meds reliance

**AUSTRALIAN** prisoners, especially females, are taking more medications for chronic diseases and mental health conditions than their age-related cohort in the general community, according to a new report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The report shows that about half of all prisoners are taking medications of some kind, with many prisoners having complex health conditions, at times complicated by histories of trauma combined with underlying chronic and mental health conditions.

"Prisoners are largely considered to be in poorer health than the general community, and this is reflected by the types and quantities of medications taken," said AIHW spokesperson Mark Cooper-Stanbury.

"Prisoners are nine times as likely as the general community to take antipsychotics, four times as likely to take medications used to treat addictive disorders, and more than twice as likely to take antidepressants or mood stabilisers," he added.

Among female prisoners, 26% took analgesics and 13% took antipsychotic medication, compared with 14% and 1% respectively in the community but the difference is less pronounced in males, the report said.

**CLICK HERE** for the full report.

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## 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).

**17-19 Jun:** ConPharm 2016; Hilton, Adelaide; more info at: [www.aacp.com.au](http://www.aacp.com.au)

**11-12 Jul:** 11th Asia Pacific Diabetes Conference and Expo; Brisbane; visit: [www.conferenceseries.com](http://www.conferenceseries.com)

**14-16 Jul:** 5th Global Pharmacists Annual Meeting; Brisbane; details at: [www.conferenceseries.com](http://www.conferenceseries.com)

**22-24 Jul:** Foundation Clinical Pharmacy Practice Seminar; InterContinental Adelaide Hotel; for more info visit: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)

**29-31 Jul:** PSA16; Four Points by Sheraton Darling Harbour Sydney; more info at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**13-14 Aug:** Infectious Diseases Seminar; InterContinental Adelaide Hotel; for more info visit: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)

**20-21 Aug:** Fitness & Health Expo; Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre; details at: [www.fitnessexpo.com.au](http://www.fitnessexpo.com.au)

**27-28 Aug:** 2016 Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar; Crowne Plaza Coogee, Sydney; details at: [www.pharmeducation.com.au](http://www.pharmeducation.com.au)

**27-28 Aug:** Cardiology Seminar; Rydges Sydney Central; see: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)

**9-10 Sep:** Pharmacy Connect; Four Points by Sheraton Darling Harbour Sydney; see: [pharmacy-connect.com.au](http://pharmacy-connect.com.au)

## CSL Behring wins major

CSL Behring's Australian facility was last night awarded '2016 Victorian Manufacturer of the Year' in the Large Business category at the Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame Awards.

CSL Behring operates one of the world's largest plasma collection networks CSL Plasma, with global biotherapeutics Australian-listed company CSL Limited as parent.

As the nation's national plasma fractionator since 1953 CSL Behring has played an important role in ensuring the supply of life-saving plasma products for Australians.

Recently, the Broadmeadows facility has augmented its long-standing Australian product portfolio with a major new facility that enables the processing of US-collected plasma intermediate to manufacture of the company's immune system disorder product Privigen.

The new facility absorbed an investment of five years through its design and construction phase, with the first batch of Privigen exported in Dec 2015 to treat patients in the United States, the company said.

Technical and scientific aspects were the result of international

collaboration within CSL's global network.

CSL Behring Australia gm Martin Schaaeren said, "We are delighted to be Victorian Manufacturer of the Year and to showcase the potential of advanced manufacturing in Australia.

"It is particularly serendipitous for us to receive this award in 2016 as this year we are celebrating CSL's centenary and the generations of scientists, medical professionals and governments whose passion and commitment have played a role in making CSL the globally successful, innovative company it is today."

More than 900 employees work at CSL Behring's Broadmeadows manufacturing facility and around 250 of these staff support the new Privigen and Biotechnology Manufacturing facilities.

## Nuvigill AusPAR

TEVA Pharmaceuticals' narcolepsy treatment Nuvigill (armodafinil) has been added to the list of products with an Australian Public Assessment Report (AusPAR).

Go to [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au) for details on dosing for different conditions.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

### FLYING frog?

A mission to save a green tree frog (pictured below) has seen the classic green Aussie amphibian mercifully air-lifted from Mount Isa to a Frog Hospital in Cairns.

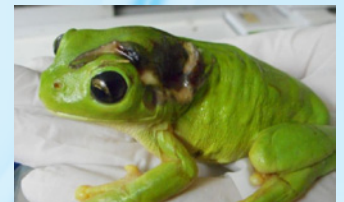
The life-saving operation started after a Mount Isa woman realised she had accidentally mowed over the frog, slicing its neck.

When she and her sister began researching where to get help they came across 'Frog Safe', a frog hospital in Cairns - yes really!

So began the crazy co-ordination caper to get the fractured frog flying - complete with a trip through the airport x-ray machine.

By the time the frog arrived in Cairns its wound was getting infected - but his life was still able to be saved.

The gash has now healed and he is leaping forward on the road to recovery.



**WHAT'S** worse than suffering from an earache? That moment you learn it has been caused by a live spider living inside your ear canal!

The *Daily Mail* is reporting that a 42-year-old woman in Wales attended the emergency department with an "horrendous earache", only for the nurse to discover a "chunky spider" had crawled into her ear.

The creature was pulled out using forceps and was alive and "quite wriggly".

Fortunately there was no damage or eggs laid!

## Win with MOR

This week Pharmacy Daily and MOR are giving away each day an Essentials Reed Diffuser in Basil Grape worth \$34.95.

The Essentials collection presents five memorable fragrances in an assortment of quality products to embrace everyday self-indulgence. Housed in a tinted glass vessel, this aromatic Reed Diffuser will enliven the senses and add a pop of colour to any room. For more information visit [morboutique.com](http://morboutique.com).

To win be the first person from TAS or VIC to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

How does the MOR Essentials Reed Diffuser efficiently fragrance the room?

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Chi Nguyen from SA Health.*



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Street address: Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Part of the Business Publishing Group.

Publisher: Bruce Piper [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Reporter: Mal Smith

Contributors: Nathalie Craig, Jasmine O'Donoghue, Bonnie Tai

Advertising and Marketing: Magda Herdzik, Sean Harrigan, Melanie Tchakmadjian

[advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Business Manager: Jenny Piper [accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

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