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ETHICAL NUTRIENTS

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a full page from Fever-Bugz.

Call for MedsASSIST

WHILE State and Territory Medicines and Poisons Regulations do not currently mandate recording of OTC codeine medicines, the Guild is encouraging pharmacies to implement MedsASSIST to increase the system's effectiveness in reducing harm.

Pharmacists are reminded though that they are not to imply to consumers that the use of MedsASSIST is required by law but that it is the policy of the particular pharmacy to assist in the safe and appropriate medicine supply, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has said in an article in Forefront.

No coffee-cancer link

NO CAUSAL association between coffee consumption and cancer has yet been established, however high temperature drinks (>65°C) may predispose to oesophageal cancer, according to new work by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), and published in the Lancet Oncology.

Hot tea was not evaluated in this study.

While there had previously thought to be a connection between coffee ingestion and bladder cancer, the evidence is now believed to be too weak to support that conclusion, the study authors said.

CLICK HERE to access the study.



unconscionable conduct. The allegations relate to

representations and engaged in

has instituted proceedings in the

Federal Court against Medibank

Private alleging the company

has made false or misleading

Medibank's failure to notify members regarding its decision to limit benefits paid to members for in-hospital pathology and radiology services.

The ACCC alleges that Medibank did not provide members with any advance notice of the change despite previously representing that it would do so, as well as adopting a strategy of containing communications about the action and only commenting reactively. Medibank said it has been

working co-operatively with the ACCC and Medibank members should contact them if they have concerns.

"Consumers are entitled to expect that they will be informed in advance of important changes to their private health insurance cover, as these changes can have significant financial consequences at a time when consumers may be vulnerable," ACCC chairman Rod Sims said.

MEANWHILE the ACCC has also taken action to protect the competitive environment for pathology services in Queensland by accepting court enforceable divestiture undertakings from Primary Health Care and Healthscope.

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the ACCC as to whether Primary's acquisition of Healthscope's pathology assets in Queensland, which occurred in 2015, breached section 50 of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010, the arrangement was found to be anticompetitive and the divestiture therefore will effectively reverse the move.

The package of divestiture assets, including more than 70 collection centres, will be sold to Medlab Pathology, an experienced pathology provider based in Sydney, to enable it to establish a competitive presence in Queensland.

"Primary and Healthscope completed the transaction without notifying the ACCC, despite being on notice that the ACCC would have serious concerns about the likely competitive effect," Sims said.

\$11.4m for dementia

THE Turnbull government has announced a redirection of funds from the Health and Ageing budget to provide \$11.4m to prioritise assistance for people living with dementia and their local communities.

Announcing a new dualapproach to caring for Australia's estimated 350,000 people living with dementia, the Coalition said it will tag \$7.5m to establish Specialist Dementia Care Units, complementing Severe Behaviour Response Teams or existing residential care services.

MIMS harmonises

IN ITS next data release, MIMS Australia will be including International Non-proprietary Names (INNs) as well as Australian Approved Names (AANs) aligning with the TGA's nomenclature harmonisation project (PD 09 Feb).



2016 **Blackmores Institute** Symposium



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Pharmacy Friday 17 Jun 2016

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.

- 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
- 13-17 Aug: Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2016; Thredbo, NSW; for more info visit: www.medici.com.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
- 27-28 Aug: Cardiology Seminar; Rydges Sydney Central; see: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 9-10 Sep: Pharmacy Connect; Four Points by Sheraton Darling Harbour Sydney; see: pharmacy-connect.com.au

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Reg affairs \$s rise 5%

REGULATORY professionals' base salaries increased by an average of 5.4% from 2012 to 2013, according to the latest biennial survey report from the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society.

Since 1999, their average base salary has grown 3.5% per year, and average total compensation, including bonuses, increased 4% per annum, with the average US salary at US\$126,163 in 2013, the report said.

UK MHRA vigilence

THE UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has recently uuncovered significant illegal drug importation scams and succeeded in gaining convictions.

One man from Tooting, South London, has been jailed for three years for importing and selling unlicensed and counterfeit medicines as well as for money laundering over £114,000.

In another sting, the MHRA had a gang sentenced for importing 1.2 million unlicensed erectile dysfunction tablets and over 141,000 other illegal medicines including diazepam worth over £3.5 million.



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Life-long learning conference

AUSTRALIA appears to be well represented at this year's international Life Long Learning in Pharmacy (LLLP) conference, with Monash University's Kirstie Galbraith on the agenda as a keynote speaker, the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has said.

In addition, APC ceo Bronwyn Clark is presenting a paper: Being the best pharmacist you can be - advanced practice recognition in Australia, while director of accreditation, Claire Bekema will be conducting a workshop: Quality in CPD Accreditation – lessons from down under.

More than 20 pharmacists from Australia have registered to attend, organisers have said.

Guild President appt

THE new board of directors of the Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand has elected Graeme Blanchard as president, and Cameron Monteith as vice president.

Both are experienced community pharmacists and pharmacy owners who have previous board experience, the announcement said.

Win with **DESIGNER** BRANDS

This week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away a set of cosmetic bags including a train case, beauty case and pencil case each day.

For 2016, Designer Brands Cosmetics Bags come in three new shades -

Moroccan Dreams (a modern black and white pattern), Dot to Dot (blue and white dots) and Blush (a metallic, soft pink shade) inspired by Pantone colour of the year, Rose Quartz. Each shades is available in three cosmetics bags sizes for all your travel needs.

Visit www.dbcosmetics.com.au

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

What is the smallest bag called?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Sally Brown from SA Health.

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Part of the Business Publishing Group.

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TODA



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I COULDN'T fit another thing in! This sad refrain need be no more with the latest US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved weight-control treatment for the obese.

Designed to limit the caloric intake for patients aged 22 and older who are obese, with a body mass index of 35 to 55, and who have failed to maintain weight loss through non-surgical weightloss therapy, the AspireAssist System (pictured) enables drainage of the stomach into an external bottle after eating.

Patients spend about five minutes draining their gut 30 minutes after eating, thus removing around 30% of the calories consumed.



THERE'S no point trying to hide it anymore, the vast majority of us wee in the shower (really?!).

Multiple surveys have revealed it, with 80% of those surveyed on BuzzFeed admitting they use the shower as a warm, wet alternative to the toilet.

There's no need be embarrassed about it, because it kind of makes you an environmental crusader.

That's right, according to IFL Science, people pee on average seven times a day, so the site calculates that taking away one six-litre flush across 319 million Americans every day could conserve 700 billion litres of water a year.

So next time the urge comes in the shower, go forth!

Some things are better left alone so just don't tell us about it.

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traveBulletin business events news Pharm CRUISE

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Sigma	197921		



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