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## Guidone leaves SHPA

**SOCIETY** of Hospital Pharmacists Association (SHPA) Federal Council member Dan Guidone has resigned from his Victorian representative role on the Council.

He retains his role as chair of the Education Reference Group, with SHPA now inviting nominations to fill the Council vacancy.

Candidates are invited to submit a current CV to the SHPA Victorian Branch by COB 01 Jul.

## Mental health policy

**BOTH** major political parties have made announcements relating to frontline mental health, in the lead up to next weekend's election.

The Coalition said it would spend \$192m on a national suicide prevention strategy, while Labor has committed \$72m for 12 regional suicide prevention projects.

## PBS medication chart out

**THE** Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has released a new PBS Hospital Medication Chart (HMC), which will be available for hospitals to implement from 01 Jul.

The paper-based chart, which is the first phase of the project, provides an alternative option for the prescribing, dispensing and claiming of PBS and RPBS medicines in the hospital setting.

A second phase will involve the development of specifications for an electronic version of the chart, to allow for electronic prescribing and claiming of PBS medicines in hospitals by next March.

The project aims to reduce the possibility of errors that arise when prescribers transcribe from the chart to a separate prescription.

"The chart will consolidate a patient's medicines story in a single document, and assist prescribers to complete timely medicines review for discharge, leading to improved quality use of medicines outcomes," according to an update on the Health Department website.

A trial assessing the new Hospital Medication Chart has been under way in private hospitals since May last year, and an evaluation of the pilot program is expected to become available later this week.

The new chart will cover general schedule PBS medicines, Authority Required (streamlined and telephone/electronic) items, PBS discharge medicines under PBS

## When to deprescribe

**POLYPHARMACY** is associated with adverse outcomes, including geriatric syndromes (e.g. falls and confusion), institutionalisation and mortality, but an individualised patient-centred approach that takes into account multimorbidity can help prioritise medicines and identify when deprescribing is indicated, according to a feature article in *Medicine Today*.

Awareness of pharmacological principles and potentially inappropriate medicines can assist in identifying 'red flag' medicines, the article said - [CLICK HERE](#).

## Codeine varied effect

**ABOUT** 8% of the population is unable to metabolise codeine to its active metabolite, morphine, leading to a poor response to codeine for these people, according to a review article in *The Conversation* by Olaf Drummer, Professor of Forensic Medicine, Monash University.

On the other hand, there are around 5% of the population who metabolise codeine to morphine at a much larger extent placing them at increased risk of toxicity, Drummer writes.

The article also summarises dosing issues, combination products containing codeine, side effects, adverse drug combinations and people for who the drug is contraindicated.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access.

## FluMist vaccine fail

**ASTRAZENECA'S** (AZ's) FluMist nasal spray influenza vaccine has been shown to have "no measurable effectiveness" according to a US Centres for Disease Control expert panel who has recommended it not be used next flu season in the United States, according to a report in *Modern Healthcare*.

The product is not available in Australia and doesn't look like it will get approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration any time soon, given the expert panel finding.

The company has made more than US\$200m from sales through 2015 but estimates it will lose US\$80m as a result of the decision.



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## Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **John Neilson, Director, Pharmacy Solutions Australia.**



### "Negotiate your lease carefully"

**THE** two biggest expenses in any retail business are rent and wages and in pharmacy it is no different.

With the reductions in margins through the cuts to the PBS, managing expenses to maximise the bottom line is a must.

Strict wages and salaries budgets need to be set and adhered to.

Rent is a more difficult problem because it is tied to your lease and annual increases apply irrespective of how your business is traveling. Many pharmacies are struggling financially because of leases that were entered into in better times, and the annual increases have now taken the rent to levels that are simply unsustainable against falling profitability.

Many landlords are realising that the 'golden days', where they could charge pharmacy ridiculous rents, are over. Unfortunately however, some pharmacists have made it worse for themselves by outbidding other pharmacists for a site.

If you are at the end of your lease, or getting close to it, you need to get the right advice and negotiate carefully with your landlord. This can be a very daunting prospect for a pharmacist up against a leasing agent playing hard ball. Get good advice and do your financial projections for the period of the next lease.

For lease advice, contact me on [john@pharmacysolutions.com.au](mailto:john@pharmacysolutions.com.au) or 0414 719 212.

## EMA FDA holding hands

**THE** European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have announced the establishment of a new 'cluster' on patient engagement.

The cluster will provide a forum to share experiences and best practices on the way the two agencies involve patients in development, evaluation and post-authorisation activities related to medicines, according to an announcement about the new collaboration.

"Our aim as regulators is to make sure that patients have access to safe and effective medicines that improve their lives," explains Guido Rasi, EMA executive director.

Many of the challenges and benefits of working with patients are similar for both regulators, he said, so it makes sense "to benefit from each other's experience".

The FDA and EMA also conduct 'cluster' discussions relating to biosimilars, cancer medicines, orphan drugs, medicines for children and pharmacovigilance.

Other global 'harmonisation' relates to nomenclature for medicines which has also reached our own shores (*PD* 09 Feb 16).

The new jointly chaired cluster will meet up to four times per year by teleconference, the release said.

## Clomifene shortage

**HEALTH** professionals are advised by the Therapeutic Goods Administration of a short supply of ovulatory failure treatment clomifene 50mg tablets (previously spelt clomiphene) marketed in Australia as Clomid (Sanofi Aventis) and Serophene (Merck Serono).

Clomid's shortage is due to manufacturing issues, and should come back on line 31 Dec 2016 while Serophene will be out-of-stock by end of possibly later this week 2016 due to technical manufacturing issues.

The TGA advises it has granted a section 19A approval for the import and supply of an alternative French product Clomid (clomifene citrate) 50 mg tablets.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**HOW** much does it cost to turn a human being into a Barbie Doll? \$14,000 apparently!

Alicia Amira (pictured below), a UK woman living in Sweden, has reportedly dreamt of looking "as plastic as possible" since she was a child.

She has invested heavily in her looks including breast implants, botox and cheek and lip fillers.

"Some people think I'm mad, but I don't regret having the surgery," she said.

"I want to look as plastic as possible and inspire other girls to do the same".

She has even quit her job in PR in hopes of using her Barbie Doll looks as a full-time job.

Wrapped in plastic.. it's fantastic!



**A GROUP** of Texans, inspired by a charismatic motivational speaker, decided they could walk across hot coals to conquer their fears.

The strength gained from the "Unleash the Power Within" seminar sadly wasn't strong enough to prevent some pretty serious burns.

More than 30 people were treated on site for feet and lower extremity burns while five were taken to hospital.

One participant said some of the burns could be attributed to some people's lack of concentration while crossing the coals "because they were too busy taking selfies".

## Win with Nexcare™ Brand

Every day this week Pharmacy Daily and Nexcare Brand are giving away a prize pack valued at over \$40.00 that includes Nexcare™ Waterproof Assorted and Medium sized Bandages, Nexcare™ Blister Waterproof Bandages and Nexcare™ Absolute Waterproof Tape.

The Nexcare Brand Waterproof range includes:

- Nexcare Waterproof Bandages: watch Nexcare Nana tackle water, dirt and germs whilst wearing Nexcare Waterproof Bandages
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For more information **CLICK HERE.**

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

How many household consumers voted for Nexcare Blister Waterproof Bandages as the Product of the Year in the Wound Care Category?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

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