Pharmacy DAILY
Wednesday 02 Mar 2016 PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a full page from **Pharmacy 4 Less**.

Alcidion listing

ELECTRONIC health software provider Alcidion has formally debuted on the share market, in a $34 million listing which aims to further drive adoption of its technology in hospitals worldwide.

Alcidion's Miya platform integrates a range of systems within a hospital "to identify emerging clinical risk and push this clinical intelligence to the care team".

Alredady in place in several hospitals in Victoria, Tasmania, the NT and New Zealand, Miya consolidates both clinical and administrative patient data and gives access across devices such as mobile, web and electronic whiteboards at the point of care.

The first stage of implementation of the system is linking it to ancillary services including the laboratory and hospital pharmacy.

Nurofen rebuts class action

NUROFEN manufacturer Reckitt Benckiser (RB) has defended its position relating to the class action by Bannister Law (***PD*** yesterday).

The legal firm is managing a class action compensation claim for a refund and damages for customers who bought Nurofen specifically labelled for different pains such as back, period, migraine or tension headache, with Bannister saying it believes customers were misled into buying the more expensive products believing they could achieve targeted pain relief.

While Reckitt Benckiser didn't wish to comment on the current proceedings, it has clarified that Nurofen pain-specific packs contain ibuprofen lysine which is absorbed faster than regular ibuprofen and can thus provide faster pain relief.

"All Nurofen products which have the same active ingredient, the same format and the same formulation have the same manufacturer's recommended retail price (MRRP)," RB said.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) ordered the removal of the Nurofen Pain Specific Range of products from retail shelves starting in December last year along with other stipulations, and RB has confirmed they are in the process of fulfilling those requirements.

The company also said it is developing interim packaging as agreed with the ACCC, more clearly disclosing to consumers that the products are equally effective for other forms of pain.

The Nurofen specific-pain range were originally labelled Nurofen Back Pain, Nurofen Period Pain, Nurofen Migraine Pain, and Nurofen Tension Headache, each with its own distinctive colour themed packaging.

The new packaging, still retaining the colour themes, clearly states that the product as well as being effective for the nominated specific pain, is "equally effective" for each of the other named specific pains.

New scholarships

THE Australian and New Zealand Association for Health Processional Educators (ANZAHPE) has partnered with Australian Medicines Handbook to offer two scholarships.

Two prizes will be awarded to preregistration and postgraduate students who submit the best student projects relating to professional or clinical education.

The winners will be judged by a panel of experts and will present their projects at the associations conference and will receive support for travel, accommodation and conference registration to do so, along with a cash award.

The conference will run from 19-23 March in Perth, in conjunction with the international Ottawa Conference on Assessment in Medicine and the Health Care Professions.

Keynote speakers at the conference include Suzanne Pitama, Victoria Brazil and Jane Macnaughton.

For more, see ottawa2016.com.

MIMS Monthly Update — March 2016

New Products

Eltroxin (thyroxine sodium) is used as thyroid replacement therapy and is indicated for the management of demonstrated thyroid hormone deficiency. Eltroxin is also used to suppress thyrotropin (TSH) for the management of TSH responsive tumours of the thyroid. Eltroxin is contraindicated in untreated hyperthyroidism; uncorrected primary or secondary adrenal insufficiency; thyrotoxicosis; and acute MI uncomplicated by hypothyroidism. Eltroxin is not bioequivalent on a same dose basis with Eutroxsig/ Oroxine. Eltroxin is available as 25 mcg, 50 mcg, 75 mcg, 100 mcg, 125 mcg and 200 mcg tablets in packs of 200's.

Entresto (sacubitril/valsartan) exhibits the novel mechanism of action of an angiotensin receptor neprilysin inhibitor (ARNI) by simultaneously inhibiting neprilysin (neutral endopeptidase; NEP) via LBQ657, the active metabolite of the prodrug sacubitril, and by blocking the angiotensin II type-1 (AT1) receptor via valsartan. The complementary cardiovascular benefits and renal effects of Entresto in heart failure patients are attributed to the enhancement of peptides that are degraded by neprilysin, such as natriuretic peptides (NP), by LBQ657 and the simultaneous inhibition of the deleterious effects of angiotensin II by valsartan. Entresto is indicated in adults for the treatment of chronic heart failure (NYHA class II-IV) with reduced ejection fraction. Entresto is contraindicated in the following circumstances. Concomitant use with ACE inhibitors, known history of angioedema related to previous ACE inhibitor or angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) therapy, hereditary or idiopathic angioedema, concomitant use with aliskiren in patients with type 2 diabetes, severe hepatic impairment, biliary cirrhosis and cholestasis, and pregnancy. Entresto is available as 24/26 tablets (containing 24.3 mg of sacubitril and 25.7 mg of valsartan); Entresto 49/51 (containing 48.6 mg of sacubitril and 51.4 mg of valsartan); and Entresto 97/103 (containing 97.3 mg of sacubitril and 102.8 mg of valsartan) in packs of 56's.

Flebogamma 5% DIF (human normal immunoglobulin) is indicated in the following conditions. As replacement therapy in primary immunodeficiency syndromes such as: congenital agammaglobulinaemia and hypogammaglobulinaemia, common variable immunodeficiency, severe combined immunodeficiency and Wiskott Aldrich syndrome; myeloma or chronic lymphocytic leukaemia with severe secondary hypogammaglobulinaemia and recurrent infections; children with congenital AIDS and recurrent infections; immunomodulation; idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP), in children or adults at high risk of bleeding or prior to surgery to correct the platelet count; Guillain-Barré syndrome; and in allogeneic bone marrow transplantation. It is contraindicated in hypersensitivity to homologous immunoglobulins, especially in very rare cases of IgA deficiency, when the patient has antibodies against IgA, and in fructose intolerance. Flebogamma 5% DIF is supplied as 0.5 g/10 mL, 2.5 g/50 mL, 5 g/100 mL, 10 g/200 mL and 20 g/400 mL single use vials.

Gamunex (human normal immunoglobulin) is indicated as replacement therapy in primary immunodeficiency diseases, symptomatic hypogammaglobulinaemia secondary to underlying disease or treatment, immunomodulation in ITP, in patients at high risk of bleeding or prior to surgery to correct the platelet count, Guillain-Barré syndrome, chronic Inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy and in Kawasaki disease. Gamunex is contraindicated in individuals with known anaphylactic or severe systemic response to human immunoglobulin, especially severe, selective IgA deficiencies. Gamunex is available as 10% solution for infusion in 1 g/10 mL, 2.5 g/25 mL, 5 g/50 mL, 10 g/100 mL and 20 g/200 mL vials.

Saxenda (liraglutide (rys)) is a human glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) analogue that binds to and activates the GLP-1 receptor (GLP-1R). Saxenda is indicated as an adjunct to a reduced calorie diet and increased physical activity for chronic weight management in adults with an initial body mass index (BMI) of ≥ 30 kg/m^2 (obese) or ≥ 27 kg/m^2 to < 30 kg/m^2 (overweight) in the presence of at least one weight related comorbidity, such as dysglycaemia (prediabetes and type 2 diabetes mellitus), hypertension, dyslipidaemia, or obstructive sleep apnoea. Saxenda is contraindicated with a past history of GLP-1 analogue associated pancreatitis. Saxenda is available as a 3 mL (6 mg/mL) prefilled multidose disposable pen injector in packs of 5's.

Tybost (cobicistat) is a selective, mechanism based inhibitor of cytochrome P450 (CYP) enzymes of the CYP3A family. Inhibition of CYP3A mediated metabolism by cobicistat enhances the systemic exposure of CYP3A substrates, such as atazanavir or darunavir. Tybost is indicated as a pharmacokinetic enhancer of appropriate HIV-1 protease inhibitors in adults. Tybost is contraindicated with the following medicines. Alpha1-adrenoreceptor antagonist alfuzosin; anticonvulsants carbamazepine, phenobarbitone, phenytoin; antimycobacterials rifabutin, rifampicin, rifapentine; ergot derivatives dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, methylergonovine; gastrointestinal motility agent cisapride; herbal product St John's wort; HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors lovastatin, simvastatin; neuroleptic pimozide; phosphodiesterase-5 (PDE-5) inhibitors sildenafil and tadalafil for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension; and orally administered sedative/hypnotics midazolam, triazolam. Tybost is available as 150 mg tablets in packs of 30's.

Xifaxan 200 mg (rifaximin) is a nonaminoglycoside semisynthetic, nonsystemic antibiotic derived from rifamycin SV. Rifaximin acts by binding to the beta-subunit of bacterial DNA dependent RNA polymerase resulting in inhibition of bacterial RNA synthesis. Rifaximin has a broad antimicrobial spectrum against most of the Gram positive and Gram negative, aerobic and anaerobic bacteria responsible for intestinal infections. Xifaxan 200 mg is indicated for the treatment of patients (≥ 12 years of age) with travellers' diarrhoea caused by noninvasive strains of Escherichia coli. Xifaxan 200 mg is contraindicated with hypersensitivity to any of the rifamycin antimicrobial agents. Xifaxan 200 mg tablets are available in packs of 9's.

Safety Related Changes

Humatrope (somatropin (rbe)) is now contraindicted with active proliferative or severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy.

With the use of **Nexium Hp7 (esomeprazole (Mg trihydrate), amoxycillin (trihydrate), clarithromycin)**, concomitant administration of clarithromycin and oral midazolam is now contraindicated.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.

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Hepatitis fact sheets

THE Health Department has published a new Hepatitis C Medicines Fact Sheet for community pharmacies, detailing the arrangements for the newly listed PBS medications which became available yesterday.

The new drugs are being made available through both the PBS General Schedule and the Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs (HSD) Program, in accordance with a PBAC recommendation to ensure the broadest possible access.

Patient and prescriber eligibility is the same on both the General Schedule and the S100 program.

Prescriptions for the drugs will all be Authority Required, and they will not be streamlined authorities.

Community pharmacists can dispense General Schedule (S85) prescriptions for Harvoni (ledipasvir with sofosbuvir), Solvadi (sofosbuvir), Daklinza (daclatasvir), Ibavyr (ribavirin) and Pegasys-RBV (peginterferon alfa-2a with ribavirin).

The department warned that community pharmacists cannot dispense S100 Public HSD prescriptions for these medicines, and will not be reimbursed for doing so.

However S100 Private HSD scripts can be dispensed in community pharmacies, with payments made in line with the current scheduled fees and mark-ups for the Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs program - see www.pbs.gov.au.

Pharmacist PSE reprimand

THE Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) has formally reprimanded a former pharmacist after finding he engaged in unprofessional conduct.

The move follows a referral by the Pharmacy Board of Australia in relation to Robert Donald Louis, over concerns about his practice between 2009 and 2011 when he worked part-time at the Nerang Day and Night Phamacy.

The Board alleged that Louis had engaged in professional misconduct by selling pseudoephedrine, "a drug which is well known to pharmacists for its potential for misuse and abuse".

According to the Pharmacy Board, Louis breached section 273A of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* because he did not comply with the pharmacy's quality standard for the sale of schedule 2 or schedule 3 poisons.

He was also found to be in breach of section 285A of the regulation, which requires a person selling pseudoephedrine to record particulars of the sale as an electronic record that is accessible online by both the chief executive of Queensland Health and the Qld Commissioner of Police.

Louis was also alleged to have sold the pseudoephedrine in the absence of a therapeutic need, in breach of section 277.

The move follows an investigation by Queensland Health in 2011, which audited and analysed the pharmacy's dispensing data about pseudoephedrine products.

In December 2011 Louis' endorsement for all drugs and poisons with pseudoephedrine as the active ingredient was suspended for 12 months, and a year later the Board imposed conditions on his registration.

In 2013 the pharmacist surrendered his registration, having retired from practice.

In this most recent development Louis conceded that the Board had proven the allegations, and the parties "jointly proposed a sanction which was accepted by the tribunal".

QCAT found that he had engaged in unprofessional conduct, reprimanded him and ordered him to pay the Board's legal costs.

EMA consults on risk

THE European Medicines Agency has published a revised module on "the Good Pharmacovigilance Practices (GVP) on risk management systems," with a public consultation now open for submissions until 31 May.

It's the first major revision of the GVP since its 2012 launch, and is based on experience gained since the EMA's Pharmacovigilance Risk Committee started its operations.

Changes include clarification of the activities a risk management plan should focus on during the life cycle of a product, ensuring that "planning of activities directs resources to areas where the need for additional information and risk minimisation is greatest".

See ema.europa.eu for details.

New OTC regulations

EFFECTIVE as of yesterday, the Therapeutic Goods Administration has announced an updated set of mandatories relating to the application level for OTC medications, the registration process, and the requirements around changes to registration.

Links are provided on the TGA website for all elements of the new regulations - **CLICK HERE**.

NZ infant foods

NEW Zealand has expressed concern about the WHO Draft Guidance on Ending the Inappropriate Promotion of Foods for Infants in a submission.

The submission argues the guidance in its current form may have unintended consequences on "trade and economic relations" and requests the reference to "inappropriate promotion of foods" be carried though the content and recommendations.

New Zealand has also requested definitions be included in the Guidance to minimise misinterpretation and inconsistent implementation and more time be given to provide informed comment.

View the response **HERE**.

Zika recommendation

AMERICA'S Food and Drug Administration has issued new guidance for immediate implementation providing recommendations to reduce the potential transmission risk of Zika virus from human cells, tissues and tissue-based products.

The guidance addresses donations from both living and deceased donors, including umbilical cord blood, placenta and other gestational tissues.

The move follows similar guidelines issued last month aiming to reduce the risk of Zika virus transmission via blood transfusion.

See www.fda.gov.

Libido drug marginal

A NEW systematic review and meta-analysis have concluded that the benefits of Boehringer Ingelheim's female "libido drug" flibanserin, marketed by Sprout Pharmaceuticals, are "marginal".

Originally planned for marketing as an antidepressant, but failing in testing, the drug has been approved for marketing by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), but not yet by the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration TGA).

The *BMJ* abstract of the study can be accessed by **CLICKING HERE**.

Win with Plunketts

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Plunketts are giving away an Aloe Vera prize pack every day including Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera gel, spray and moisturiser.

Aloe Vera is easily absorbed by your skin, soothing and cooling dry irritated skin. Australian made, Plunkett's Aloe Vera Gel and Spray contain 99% of the highest quality 100% certified organic aloe. Nothing is closer to Aloe Vera straight from the plant, but Plunkett's is in a convenient tube. Visit **www.plunketts.com.au**

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

What colour is the aloe vera in Plunkett's?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Stephanie Ross from Pitcher Pharmacy.

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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy.

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

New Codral lozenge range

Codral has announced a new range of medicated lozenges, offering pharmacy an effective and trusted solution for the treatment of painful, sore throats. With the power of Codral, the new **sore throat lozenge** range includes three flavoured products: lime & lemon, honey & lemon and menthol. The latter two contain new antibacterial + anaesthetic components that help to kill bacteria while rapidly numbing sore throats.

Stockist: 1800 029 979
RRP: from $7.49
Website: www.codral.com.au

Get a "Zinc Fix" from Ethical Nutrients

Zinc deficiency has been associated with a range of uncomfortable symptoms. Ethical Nutrients provides a highly concentrated and absorbable form of zinc in its **Zinc Fix** powder. The company states that the product contains ingredients which may help a healthy immune system, help maintain healthy hair, skin and nails, and may reduce the severity of colds and upper respiratory tract infections or assist in the management of minor wounds and cuts.

Stockist: 07 3117 3300
RRP: $22.95 for 95gm
Website: www.ethicalnutrients.com.au

Nude by Nature Complexion Start Up Kit

Spotner Nude By Nature **Complexion Start Up Kit** is a makeup pack, complete with application brush. The pack features the Undercover Airbrush Mineral Primer (30mL), Natural Mineral Cover (4g), Mineral Bronzer (2g), Mineral Finishing Veil (2g), and includes the famous Kabuki Brush. Whether for birthday or other occasions, this exciting all purpose gift pack brings a range of shades from Light and Light/Medium to Medium and Dark.

Stockist: 1300 366 147
RRP: $59.95
Website: www.nudebynature.com.au

Fuel For Life Homme EDT Spray by Diesel

The **Diesel Fuel For Life Homme** is a men's fragrance that features top notes of grapefruit and anise, middle notes of lavender and raspberry and base notes of woods and heliotrope. The spray bottle comes protected with its own pouch. The Fuel for Life brand is also available in a deodorant spray of 150 mL.

Stockist: 1300 651 991
RRP: $39.00
Website: www.diesel.com/fragrances

DISPENSARY CORNER

FANCY a boozy session to improve your health?

A spa in Oregon is encouraging clients to enjoy a relaxing beer, but instead of drinking it, they're hopping in.

The business, Hop in the Spa claims to be the "first and only spa in Oregon to bring the benefits of beer inspired ingredients, minerals and proprietary additives into cedar soaking tubs".

Chilling in the tubs is said to reduce stress, improve skin tone and, so long as you don't take a sip, detoxification.

Hop in the Spa has four options for beer-lovers, including the $55 Ale Foot Soak, $65 Microbrew Soaks, and Hops on the Body or Brew & Renew Body Polish treatments, both at $75 each.

Although one look around the pub might say otherwise, the spa claims "over the past few years, studies have begun to show the beautifying benefits of beer".

MEANWHILE, in Japan, these treatments are far from the strangest on offer, where bird poo facials are apparently popular.

The treatment, also known as "Geisha Facials" are reportedly a means of keeping skin smooth.

In Israel, the Ada Barak's Carnivorous Plant Farm is charging about £58 to set snakes loose on clients' face, shoulders and neck.

The unnerving practice is said to relieve migraines & muscle pain with larger snakes providing a deep, kneading massage, while smaller snakes offer a fluttering sensation.

And of course a beauty regime wouldn't be complete without a placenta stem cell facial, with the treatment keeping clients in London and Scotland youthful.

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Sign up free at www.pharmacydaily.com.au.
Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia
Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) **F:** 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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Publisher: Bruce Piper info@pharmacydaily.com.au
Reporter: Mal Smith
Contributors: Nathalie Craig, Jasmine O'Donoghue, Bonnie Tai
Advertising and Marketing: Magda Herdzik advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au
Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

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