

Today's issue of PD

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

Phcy competencies

THE Pharmacy Practitioner Development Committee (PPDC) met last month to further discuss feedback received from its member organisations in relation to the review of the national competency standards framework for pharmacists in Australia.

A consultation paper is expected to be released in mid-Mar and will be publicly available for all members of the pharmacy profession as well as interested external stakeholders to provide comment.

The consultation period is planned to run until mid-Apr.

Amneal guarantee

GENERIC specialist company Amneal Australia has said it will implement a supply guarantee for its launch of brand of esomeprazole Actavis capsules 20mg and 40mg for Australian pharmacies.

"Amneal's Supply Guarantee of esomeprazole ensures pharmacists can substitute with confidence and maintain brand consistency for patients, improving patient health outcomes," said Justin Rolls, head of sales and marketing at Amneal in Australia.

Minfos - MPS integration

PHARMACY software companies Minfos from Symbion and MPS Australia's QUANTUM have announced that they have worked together to create an integration of their systems.

They said this means that Minfos/MPS pharmacies will be able to automate 75% of their manual processes associated with script management and administration as well as enabling scripts to be packed at almost no extra effort.

This is another in a series of integrations following on from the recent announcement from MPS and dispensing software group ZDispense (*PD* 25 Feb 16).

MPS IT and software development manager Steve Littman said, "We're excited to be partnering with Minfos and improving efficiencies

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Integrated check call

THE Australian Heart Foundation is calling on the Government to develop an 'integrated health check' that would be conducted by GPs and include screening for heart disease and stroke, type 2 diabetes and kidney disease, following the release of the Grattan Institute report (*PD* yesterday).

Heart disease is the single biggest killer of Australians, yet is largely preventable through simple lifestyle changes such as eating a balanced and healthy diet, not smoking, reducing alcohol, and being more physically active, the Foundation said.

Further, the organisation insisted that everyone, not just doctors, have a responsibility for heart health.

"The best test for cardiovascular disease is an absolute risk assessment – a simple, cheap and accurate way of grading your risk of having a heart attack over the next five years.

"This assessment looks at factors including blood pressure, cholesterol, weight, gender, family history, smoking status and age."

by automating the paperwork associated with dispensing scripts."

Minfos divisional manager Andrew Hall added, "Tight integration with Minfos significantly improves overall pharmacy efficiency and accuracy in dispensing for medium to large scale DAA fulfilments.

"That's basically it - cost control, efficiency and precision."

The integration process is estimated to be completed ready for pharmacists to use by late 2016, the announcement said.

Enquiries can be directed to Minfos on 1300 887 418 or MPS on 1800 003 938.

ADHD overtreatment

ATTENTION deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) may be the subject of overprescription and overdiagnosis with the implication that disorders of children in particular are being "medicalised", according to an editorial in the *MJA*.

There are risks for children that the use of stimulant medication is a "simplistic attempt to find solutions to more complex problems underlying behavioural and emotional difficulties, and risks in adolescents and adults prescribed or exposed to stimulants, including poisonings," the article states.

The author suggests that prescription monitoring programs may have a role to play, although this has not generally been successful in Australia as yet.

CLICK HERE for the article.

Latest DUSC release

THE federal Department of Health has released the results of last year's Drug Utilisation Sub Committee (DUSC) Oct meeting.

The reviews cover the use of new disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs), the novel oral anticoagulants (NOACs) for three indications, opioids, nutritional products, pregablin and more.

CLICK HERE for details.

Minor ailments fund

THE Welsh government deputy health minister Vaughan Gething has announced funding for a pharmacy-led minor ailments service to the tune of £750,000, according to the *BBC News*.

The stated intention of the plan is to free up GP time by making community pharmacists the first port of call.

The scope of the service will include consultations and treatments for indigestion, hay fever and head lice without needing a doctor's prescription.

Win with DESIGNER BRANDS

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Designer Brands are giving away a Pro Brow Kit each day.

Get celebrity status brows with The DB Pro Brow Kit. DB is the first pharmacy brand to offer a full brow kit including; brow powders, a highlighter, a wax, a dual ended brush, mirror and four stencils. Customise the thickness and the shape of your brow with your selected stencil, then custom blend your shade with the included brow powders. Transform your brows in record time with the kit that does it all. Visit www.dbcosmetics.com.au

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

What is special about the included brush?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Mona Taouk from Lundbeck Australia.



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Cosentyx CLEAR lead

NOVARTIS announced new data from the head-to-head CLEAR study, saying it demonstrated that Cosentyx (secukinumab) was significantly more efficacious than ustekinumab in achieving sustained skin clearance (PASI 90 response) at 52 weeks for adults.

Guild Update

Flu vaccines in ACT

IT'S terrific news that ACT community pharmacists have been given the green light to administer flu vaccinations to their patients in time for the upcoming flu season.

The sensible spread of this capability to all Australian States and Territories is almost complete, with Victoria the only State yet to come on board.

We're hoping it won't be too long before we can proudly say that all Australian jurisdictions are enjoying the health benefits of pharmacist vaccination – just as patients already do in most comparable countries.

The Pharmacy Guild in the ACT – like other Branches before it – worked hard to ensure that this service is ready for consumers. Appropriate and targeted training has been developed so that all pharmacists delivering vaccinations will have the right expertise.

Community access to vaccinations will be made so much easier by people being able to get their shots at a community pharmacy. Community pharmacists are a highly valued and most-trusted source of health services and advice.

Consumers can now add vaccinations to the growing range of services and advice they can expect from their community pharmacy.

PSA urges e-Health uptake

THE peak organisation for pharmacists, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has endorsed the federal government's establishment of an e-Health pilot to enable records to improve coordinated healthcare.

Around one million Australians living in Penrith and far north Queensland are being included in the new 'opt-out' program, originally announced by the Health Minister Sussan Ley in October last year (*PD* 29 Oct 15) after passing through the lower house (*PD* 21 Oct 15).

The program is intended to enable patients to share health information securely online with authorised healthcare providers, including pharmacists.

Contrary to the original 'opt-in' program which has attracted a disappointing number of patients and healthcare providers, the new program sets up all residents in those defined areas with their 'My Health Record' file, with the ability to opt out if they so choose.

PSA national president Joe Demarte said more patients needed to embrace electronic health and innovation to ensure health professionals can deliver better integrated care.

"As the most accessible of health

professionals, pharmacists are an important resource that can and should be used to inform consumers about eHealth records with a view to ensuring this important health resource is fully utilised," Demarte said.

"We encourage more people to access eHealth to ensure consistency of treatment and better health outcomes for consumers regardless of where they seek treatment in Australia."

PSA MIMS Tas Intern

THE PSA MIMS Tasmanian Intern of the Year Award winner has been presented to Hannah Doody.

Doody received the award and prize of \$2,000 in recognition of her internship at North West Regional Hospital in Burnie.

During her internship she demonstrated initiative that exceeded expectations of her by continually contributing to education sessions and showed emerging leadership skills.

In her interactions with patients, she ensured that medication information was conveyed in an easy-to-understand way and her confidence in her pharmaceutical knowledge has continued to grow as an intern.

First Women's Pharmacy Golf Day

THE inaugural Medici Capital Women's Pharmacy Golf Day was held at GreenAcres Golf Club in Kew, Melbourne on 03 Mar.

The day saw 35 women pharmacists and pharmacy industry participants compete for the usual variety of trophies with pharmacists Diana Nowak and Robyn Poyner taking out nearest-the-pin prizes.

Overall winners of the 4-ball ambrose event were the team (**pictured**) consisting of Kirstie Hepburn (Sigma), Louise

Membrey (NAB), Jane Mitchell (pharmacist) and Natalie Sirianni (Attain Business Brokers).

Sponsors were FRED, Sigma, Priceline & Attain Business Brokers.



DISPENSARY CORNER

FUNERAL services firm Dignity had a killer of a year in 2015, posting a 16% profit increase on the previous year due to a rise in deaths in England, Scotland and Wales.

Dignity said the 7% rise in deaths "has been an extraordinary year, with the number of deaths changing in percentage terms by a greater amount than any year since 1952".

A spokeswoman said the firm did not know the reason for the increase, but said the broader trend was that the rate of deaths had been dropping since the 1970s and was forecast to start rising again in the 2020s.

FANCY some free IVF?

Bourn Hall, a fertility clinic which operates in the UK is offering thousands of pounds of free treatment for the family and friends of men who donate.

The fertility company claims that it has changed its policy after conducting a survey which showed most men donate sperm for purely altruistic reasons.

Clinics have been struggling to fill the bank since a change in the law which allows the children of sperm donors to find out their biological father at the age of 18.

"When a couple comes to the clinic for treatment and testing reveals that a man has 'super sperm' then we offer them free IVF treatment in return for sperm donation," Dr Mike Macnamee, chief executive of Bourn Hall, said.

"The recent study has indicated that altruism is a powerful motivator so we have decided to extend this offer to allow donors not requiring help themselves to nominate someone they know for free IVF treatment. If this treatment requires donated sperm this will be provided from an anonymous donor."

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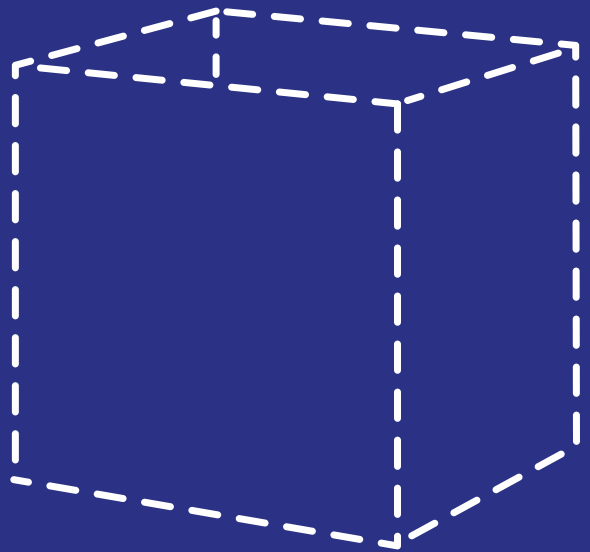
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think the box
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- Find ways to solve problems that others haven't—we want you to join our Operations team.
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