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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news, a cover page from **Amneal Pharmaceuticals**, plus a full page from **Pharmacy Alliance**.

New Corum ceo

PHARMACY software and e-commerce company Corum Group has announced the appointment of Peter Wilton as its new chief executive officer.

Wilton holds a Bachelor of Economics, a Master of Applied Finance and is a Fellow of CPA of Australia and Associate of the Governance Institute of Australia.

He brings to the role "extensive strategic, commercial and leadership experience in senior executive roles ... across a range of industries and businesses," the company announcement said.

The Corum Group board acknowledged and thanked the outgoing David Clarke, the company's chief financial officer, who fulfilled the role of interim ceo over the last five months (*PD* 05 Nov 15) and will assist Wilton's transition into the ceo role.

Pharmacy passport plan

PHARMACIES can access a new income stream in the form of identity verification and future passport processing, according to Geoff Stockton, the founder of PRM Group which launched PharmacyID about twelve months ago.

Since then he has signed up about 1500 pharmacies and is preparing a response to an expected passport application tender which will be issued by the government towards the end of the year, according to today's *Australian* newspaper.

Stockton confirmed that he had been approached by the Pharmacy Guild about the passport tender

which could see pharmacies as an alternative to Australia Post outlets for passport interviews.

Currently PharmacyID offers National Police History Checks, with pharmacies paid \$6 for each approved identification, and an estimated \$25 for passports.

"We estimate that if 25% of pharmacies in Australia join the PharmacyID network we will have a larger number of outlets than the current provider," the company said.

PBAC draft consult

THE assessment of co-dependent technology chapter of the draft revised PBAC Guidelines has now been published on the PBS website.

Interested stakeholders are now invited to provide a submission on this chapter.

Submissions will be accepted from 11 Mar 2016 until 5pm on 11 Apr 2016.

Go to www.pbs.gov.au.

NSW rescheduling

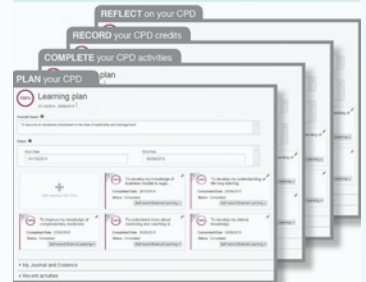
THE NSW government has reclassified three synthetic drugs marketed as recreational herbal teas and cannabis alternatives as Schedule 1.

AB-Chminaca, AB-Pinaca and AB-Fuminaca are now in the most serious illicit drug category "to ensure the community is kept safe from them," according to NSW attorney-general Gabrielle Upton.

Amneal DAA offer

AMNEAL is today promoting its pharmacy strategies for dose administration aids to enable unlocking of a significant revenue stream, with a full range of options available - see the **cover page** of today's *Pharmacy Daily* for details.

Are you familiar with the new Pharmacy Board requirements?



Visit the College at APP 2016 (stand #358) for a demonstration on how to develop your CPD plan utilising the College's learning platform.

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First Viagra generic

TEVA Pharmaceuticals will begin to take a share of Pfizer's blockbuster Viagra (sildenafil citrate) sales as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first generic version of the erectile dysfunction drug last Wednesday.

Consumers will need to wait until 2017 though before they can see savings with Teva spokeswoman Denise Bradley telling *Focus* that because of a 2013 pay-for-delay settlement with Pfizer, the Israel-based company has agreed to not launch the generic until Dec 2017.

Global generic giant Mylan Pharmaceuticals, parent of Alphapharm in Australia, also agreed with Pfizer not to launch its generic version of Viagra until 2017.

At least nine other generic manufacturers have filed abbreviated new drug applications with FDA seeking approval for their versions of generic Viagra, according to the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society report on the matter.

Evidence-based policy push

THE challenge of reforming Australia's health system is being "enthusiastically embraced" by the country's bureaucracy, according to Martin Bowles, secretary of the Federal Department of Health.

Speaking on Fri to the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA), Bowles said modernising the system is a big challenge, but he is "confident great changes can be achieved by innovative, data-driven, evidence-based policy making".

Bowles said he had made widespread structural changes within the department, so staff can "participate effectively in this unique opportunity for change" with strong pressure due to the country's ageing population and epidemic of chronic disease.

He also cited "outmoded primary care financing arrangements, a disconnected health system and the need to embrace digital technology" as key issues.

"This is why the Australian

government has a string of parallel and complementary health reforms currently underway, and implementing new strategies from these reviews requires new ways of thinking," Bowles said.

As well as the review of the Medical Benefits Schedule, other issues in play include private health insurance and the implementation of electronic health records.

Data is key to driving policy, with Bowles saying one of his most pressing concerns is taking advantage of better data collection and reporting, "to give us the evidence of what is required, what is working and what isn't.

"We need to put data, analytics, evaluation and research at the centre of health care to make the system work smarter and more effectively," he added.

Despite the excitement of innovation and opportunity, "the pressures are ever present and if not managed properly could overwhelm us," he warned.

Dosage aids boom

WITH the Sixth Pharmacy Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA) including a funding increase to \$58m for dose administration aids (DAAs) in year one, and a further \$122 million over the remaining four years, DAA packing business DoseAid predicts there will be a boom in the business over the next two years.

Seth Grantley, national manager of DoseAid, said the topic is expected to be a hot one at APP2016 and would help enhance the industry's perception of DAAs.

"More than 3.7 million Australians will be aged 65 and over by 2020, which creates an opportunity but also a challenge for pharmacies when it comes to supplying the required volume of DAAs," Grantley said.

"APP will offer an excellent forum for pharmacists to soak up information relating to DAA growth and how they can use DAAs to help their customers and how their business can benefit from this growth."



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Pharmacy DAILY

Monday 14 Mar 2016

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Paul Naismith, CEO, Fred IT Group.**



Embracing cloud computing

CLOUD computing enables the efficient use of information and software that is stored in the cloud, and pharmacies can reap many benefits by adopting cloud based services.

- Software and services can be shared between stores, and centralised databases established, enabling pharmacies to streamline operations and achieve savings.
 - Cloud-based apps that have rapidly become the favoured means of consumer access offer new ways for pharmacy to further engage with customers and expand professional services.
 - Pharmacists and other health professionals can access real-time information when data is based in the cloud, an enormously valuable resource for running a pharmacy as well as for patient management.
- Looking forward, cloud computing will become a much stronger resource for innovations focused around improving patient outcomes and conditions for health professionals. For example, prescriptions information such as that held within eRx Script Exchange can, with the appropriate consents, be re-used to populate a more complete patient record. As well as facilitating the move to paperless prescriptions which could help manage challenges of fraud and the misuse of Schedule B medications.

To realise its full potential pharmacy together with other health professions must drive innovations that connect and deliver better services through the cloud.

Zika warnings boost

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has strengthened its advice to pregnant women, urging them not to travel to areas where the Zika virus is circulating.

The warning highlight was issued in the light of stronger evidence of an association between the virus and fetal malformations, said WHO.

The virus has now been detected in amniotic fluid and has been shown to cross the placental barrier and infect the fetus as well as being detected in the blood, brain tissue, and cerebrospinal fluid of fetuses after any termination of pregnancy.

Local transmission has been reported in 31 countries in Latin America, esp the Caribbean, Brazil, French Polynesia and Colombia.

For more, **CLICK HERE.**

APC site maintenance

THE online web portal operated by the Australian Pharmacy Council will be undergoing maintenance between 9am and 5pm this Wed 16 Mar 2016, and during this time users will not be able to log in to complete exam registrations or applications for skills assessments.

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COC clotting risk

COMBINED oral contraceptives (COCs) have been shown not to have an increased risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE) according to a new large Australian systematic review and meta-analysis.

While no increased risk of VTE with drospirenone was seen in prospective or case control studies, the risk of VTE was increased in retrospective cohort and nested case control studies.

The difference in risk of VTE based on the choice of progestin in COCs is, at worst, very small in absolute terms, the authors said.

CLICK HERE for the *Australian Family Physician* article.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A PRISON in the US state of Virginia has banned inmates from receiving personal photos, after guards found some of them chewing on the pictures that had been soaked in drugs.

According to the *Roanoke Times*, the superintendent of Western Virginia Regional Jail, Bobby Russell, said the photos had been soaked in suboxone, used to treat narcotic addiction.

Incredibly, previous incidents of suboxone soaking had already seen officials ban all non-white paper and any paintings or drawings because some had been found to be similarly adulterated.

SCIENTISTS in Sweden are putting their considerable talents to work by launching a project to figure out what cats are saying.

The five year research program at Lund University will see phonetics experts aim to "crack the feline code," by recording up to 50 cats in a range of locations to see how their mood affects the sounds they make.

"It seems that cats can vary the intonation or melody consciously, perhaps to convey a certain message or increase the urgency of a message or to convey emotion," said lead researcher Susanne Schotz.

"I have found with my cats they have a different sound in their melody when they are sad compared to when they are happy," she said.

One of the key outcomes is to discover how cats perceive human speech, and whether they like pet-directed messages "or prefer to be spoken to like human adults," Dr Schotz added, according to a report in the UK *Telegraph* newspaper.

The report didn't say how many cats Dr Schotz has at home.

Win with i Incrediwear™

This week Pharmacy Daily and Key Sun Laboratories are giving readers the chance to win an Incrediwear Knee Brace each day.

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Fill in the blank: Incrediwear's advanced fabrics contain _____ and _____ to dramatically increase circulation.

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Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



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*Hardware requirement: within the last 5 years depending on specifications