



CEDA: PBS savings

THE Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) has released a report that shows the Federal Budget deficit can be reigned in by 2018-19 and the return to surplus will include PBS savings of \$1.6 billion.

While superannuation and capital gains taxes drive the bulk of the revenue uplift, the report also highlights that as more drugs lose patent, the lower cost generics will drive significant savings for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

In addition savings assumptions are included around increased drug co-payments.

CLICK HERE for the CEDA analysis titled *Deficit to balance: budget repair options*.

Last day for discount

TODAY is the last day for pharmacists to access the special offer of 25% off the Australian College of Pharmacy annual membership fee.

Normally \$336, the offer which closes today is for membership for \$252 GST inclusive.

In addition the College offers a simple to use, online CPD plan to assist you with your professional development.

New learning modules are now available - www.acp.edu.au.

Chronic condition reform

HEALTH minister Sussan Ley has confirmed a new trial program aiming to better treat patients with chronic illnesses.

The proposal follows the release late yesterday of part of a report on the government's healthcare review, which has suggested moving away from the current fee-for-service model under Medicare.

Under the trial patients with multiple chronic illnesses will be able to nominate a GP practice as their so-called 'Healthcare Home' which would coordinate a tailored healthcare package.

SHPA is NPS-wise

CHOOSING Wisely Australia: The Next Wave has included 15 new medication-related recommendations, apart from those made by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) (**PD** 16 Mar).

Seven comments relate to antibiotics use in otitis media, bacteriuria, leg ulcers and upper respiratory tract infections.

The use of antipyretics to treat fever and anticoagulants in venous thrombotic events were also among the new recommendations.

See www.shpa.org.au for the full list of medicines referenced.

In a joint statement Ley and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said it is "one of the biggest health system reforms since the introduction of Medicare 30 years ago".

Payments for GPs to coordinate the treatment packages would be made quarterly, "except where a routine health issue does not relate to [the patient's] chronic illness".

An initial pilot program will involve up to 200 medical practices and as many as 65,000 patients, who currently see as many as five different GPs a year.

"Seeing multiple GPs increases a patient's risk of poor healthcare coordination and their likelihood of falling through the cracks and ending up in hospital," the joint statement said.

Details of the timing or cost of the program were not released.

Gilead HIV listing

GILEAD'S Genvoya, the first TAF-based once-daily single tablet treatment for HIV-1 infection will be available on the PBS from 01 Apr under the S100 HSD Community Access Scheme for prescription by doctors specialising in HIV.

Biosimilar temptation

THE potential saving of €98b (or AU\$145 billion) is creating a huge temptation for health authorities in Europe to adopt biosimilars in preference to original brand products from companies such as Roche and AbbVie, sparking risk fears in investors, according to a *Reuters* analysis of an IMS report.

AbbVie's Humira and Roche's Herceptin are both set to lose patent protection over the next five years which could see an investor "cliff jump" style exit while companies such as South Korea's Celltrion and large generic drugmakers with biotech know-how, like Novartis' generic unit Sandoz flex their marketing muscle.

ACSQHC survey

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) has initiated an online survey via its website, seeking feedback on its form and content.

Current matters on the site include caring for cognitive impairment, end-of-life care and the NSQHS Standards, knee pain, Guide to the NSQHS Standards for community health services and more - **CLICK HERE**.

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Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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Red Hot Specials from Royal Caribbean

ROYAL Caribbean International has launched specials perfect for families, with the third and fourth guests sailing in one stateroom cruising from as little as \$33 each a day.

New bookings made for Royal Caribbean's 2016/17 summer season by 09 Apr 2016 will receive up to 30% off the cruise fare for guests one and two and pay only extras for guests three and four in the one stateroom.

Fares start from \$999pp for an 8-night *Legend of the Seas* South Pacific cruise - see your travel agent or royalcaribbean.com.au.

Cruise and Cairns with AAT Kings

AAT Kings has partnered with Creative Cruising to create what they are calling their 20-night Indonesia Explorer Cruise & Cairns Short Break Holiday package.

Book before 27 Apr for \$250 onboard credit per interior/ocean view stateroom, or \$400 per balcony stateroom for just \$2,889pp including one way economy airfare to Singapore, three-night pre-cruise accommodation at V Hotel Lavender, and a 14-night cruise to Cairns - call 1300 362 599.

APLF lauds credentialing

THE recently renamed Australian Pharmacy Leaders Forum (APLF) (formerly the Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum) has congratulated the Australian Pharmacy Council for the new National Credentialing Program for Advanced Practice Pharmacists (**PD** yesterday).

APLF chair Professor Iqbal Ramzan hailed the leadership role taken by the APC on behalf of pharmacists across Australia.

"The APC credentialing program is an independent means of recognising advanced practitioners which will enhance the standing of pharmacists in our profession.

"It will also assist to assure the public that this formal recognition of the advanced practice of many pharmacists demonstrates the capability and capacity of the

profession to work in new models of practice," Ramzan said.

The program evaluates pharmacists against the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Framework for Australia, which was developed by the profession in 2012.

The APLF is a peak body including the Guild, PDL, NAPSA, PSA, ACP, APC, SHPA, AACP and the Council of Pharmacy Schools of Australia and New Zealand.

Acupuncture a sham?

MANAGEMENT of non-specific low back pain using acupuncture with or without sciatica has been shown to be nothing more than "sham treatment" according to new draft guidance from the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), published in the *British Medical Journal*.

Instead, the peak health research body recommends exercise such as stretching, yoga, or aerobic exercise as the first step in managing low back pain, and people should also be encouraged to continue with normal activities as much as possible.

CLICK HERE for the research.

Slimming cap alert

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued safety warnings about Leisure Slimming Capsules, U Slimming and U Plus Slimming Capsules, saying they contain undeclared prescription only substances including sibutramine and phenolphthalein.

Win a Flo travel kit

This week Pharmacy Daily and Flo are giving away a travel kit. Most travellers know how much better they feel when they stay hydrated, but did you know your nose needs hydration too?

That's where NEW Flo Travel can jet set you on a healthier and happier journey. Flo Travel is a moisturising nasal spray that includes Carrageenan (red seaweed extract) and isotonic saline solution to help hydrate the nasal tissues (for up to 4 hours) and wash away germs. Flo Travel is handy for travellers, office workers and people on the go. Watch the FLO Travel Digital ad to find out more: <http://bit.ly/1T1GRRe>

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

How does Flo Travel help patients?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Kellie Hogarth from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.



DISPENSARY CORNER

SESAME Street's Elmo has long taught kids the alphabet and now the lovable little fuzzy red character will educate children in Latin America and the Caribbean about avoiding mosquito bites and stopping the spread of Zika, according to a report in *USA Today*.

The colourful chap has suddenly become fluent in Spanish and Portuguese for the purpose.

In one video, the Muppets teach children how to prevent mosquito bites by wearing long sleeves and pants and using insect repellent and door and window screens.

"If the mosquito doesn't bite," they say, "goodbye Zika."

CLICK HERE for Elmo's video.

In a second video, Elmo and Raya (**pictured**), a teal-colored female Muppet, talk about how to fight the mosquitoes that spread Zika, such as by getting rid of standing water and covering trash containers.



MEANWHILE, free soap has left runners in a marathon in China's Guanyang province with a bad taste in their mouth.

Shortly after crossing the finish line, the runners were given a gift pack with fruit-perfumed moisturising soap inside.

Many athletes mistook the soap for an energy bar, with witnesses reporting many bars of soap, all with one bite missing, dumped at the roadside.

The race organisers were quick to apologise, admitting the soap packaging - which was written in English - looked like food wrappers.