

Healthcheck

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a **full page** featuring the latest **MIMS monthly update**.

Herbalist arraigned

IAN Pile, a non-registered health practitioner posing as a medical herbalist, has been found to represent a risk to the health or safety of members of the public by the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission.

Pile advised a client suffering from metastatic colorectal cancer he could cure her within "a couple of weeks".

Suffering severe abdominal cramps from the treatments administered, investigations by the Commission revealed Pile's ignorance of adverse interactions of his herbal medicines with the patient's prescribed medications.

The hearing ruled that Pile should be permanently prohibited from prescribing or providing any herbal medicine to any client without the approval and oversight of the patient's GP, including the authorisation by that GP of any treatment plan.

Apr NCEs in Australia

THE TGA in April approved for marketing four new chemical entities (NCEs): Baxter's susoctocog (Obizur) for haemophilia A, Menarini's avanafil (Spedra) for erectile dysfunction, Roche's cobimetinib (Cotellic) for melanoma and Bayer's octocog alfa (Kovaltry) also for haemophilia A.

Defence pharma contract

THE Department of Defence has issued a Request for Tender for the supply of pharmaceuticals, medical and dental consumables for a five year period.

It's part of a move by the government to consolidate the procurement of all current and future pharmaceuticals, consumables and warehousing & distribution services into a single Support Contract arrangement.

Currently there are two separate contracts for the supply of

pharmaceuticals and medical consumables, which are provided to military personnel via Australian Defence Force Central Dispensing Points located nationally.

The RFT covers all available pharmaceuticals in four categories - those in the PBS, not in the PBS, TGA-approved items, and "any available pharmaceuticals which are not TGA-approved but required by the Commonwealth".

Actual quantities procured will be subject to changes in demand.

Consumables sought include primary health care items such as swabs, bandages, syringes and protective equipment; ward items, theatre products, pathology products, dental consumables and miscellaneous other products.

The tender closes on 17 Jun, with the documents indicating that after negotiations it's expected to be signed in Nov, with a six month transition period between Dec 2016 and May 2017.

GSK breathes easy

AUSTRALIA'S largest supplier of vaccines to the Government's National Immunisation Programme, GlaxoSmithKline Australia (GSK), has reported its 2015 results to the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) with strong input from its respiratory business.

The company reported revenue of \$925m for its continuing operations and a profit before tax of \$17.6m in 2015.

The report included Consumer Healthcare, a joint venture with Novartis since March last year, and ViiV, a joint venture with Pfizer and Shionogi focused on HIV.

GSK holds a controlling equity interest globally of 63.5% since it acquired Novartis' global vaccine business, excluding influenza vaccines, and GSK divested its marketed oncology portfolio.

Also in 2015, GSK completed the sale of its Australian-based Opiates business to Sun Pharmaceuticals.

Budget tonight

ALL eyes are on Canberra tonight with the much-anticipated Federal Budget to be announced by treasurer Scott Morrison.

Health measures in the budget are understood to include an increase to tobacco excise which will see the cost of a pack of 25 cigarettes rise to over \$40 by 2020.

Pharmacy grad in Rio

STEEPLECHASE specialist elite sportswoman Madeline Hills (nee Heiner), who is a University of Sydney pharmacy degree graduate, will represent Australia at the upcoming 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in the 3000m event.

Hills graduated with a Bachelor of Pharmacy in 2008, and was influenced in her choice by both her brother and sister completing the course at the University of Sydney.

The role allowed for some flexibility and represented the "dream work life balance" which still enabled her to continue with her other passions, she said.

Pharmacists help quit

COMMUNITY pharmacists have been identified by the National Institute for Health Research, a division of the UK NHS, as "effective and probably cost-effective for stopping smoking among adults, especially when compared to usual care without nicotine replacement."

The interventions identified by the Institute as suitable for pharmacy delivery include behavioural support and nicotine replacement therapy and were most effective when both were delivered together.

The review also looked at other community pharmacy-delivered interventions, like weight loss, but the evidence was less strong for the long term impact of these.

A significant factor for the Institute in its report was the greater accessibility of pharmacists compared to GP services, especially for hard to reach populations.

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Super Dragon alert

NO IT'S not an episode of Game of Thrones, but a TGA warning about capsules of that name being sold illegally in Australia.

Super Dragon capsules were found to contain sildenafil, with the TGA saying its investigations show several people in Australia may have bought the product online.



Guild Update

Vaccination go ahead

THE Queensland Government has approved legislation to enable pharmacists to administer vaccinations to the public in a community pharmacy.

This legislation will allow trained pharmacists to vaccinate for influenza, measles and pertussis, providing positive health outcomes for the community.

Guild Queensland Branch President Mr Tim Logan said that the change in legislation is a fantastic example of the Guild and the PSA working together to advocate for their members.

Through the joint efforts of the Queensland Branches of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and PSA as well as Queensland Health we have pioneered the regulation of pharmacist's delivering immunisations in pharmacies.

Queensland has been a national leader in pharmacist immunisations following the success of the Queensland Pharmacy Immunisation Pilot (QPIP) which has been strongly supported by James Cook University, Queensland University of Technology, PSA and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Abbott acquires St Jude

ABBOTT has announced the acquisition of St. Jude Medical, creating a "major medical device company" with top positions in high-growth cardiovascular markets, including atrial fibrillation, structural heart and heart failure as well as a leading position in the high-growth neuromodulation market.

Total transaction equity is valued at \$25 billion and the combined company will have a pipeline expected to deliver a steady stream of new medical device products across those therapeutic areas.

"Bringing together these two great companies will create a premier medical device business and immediately advance Abbott's strategic and competitive position," said Miles D. White, Abbott chairman and ceo.

"The combined business will have a powerful pipeline ready to deliver next-generation medical technologies and offer improved efficiencies for health care systems around the world," he said.

"Today's announcement is an exciting next chapter for St. Jude Medical, bringing together two industry leaders with a shared

passion for innovation, culture and patients," said Michael T. Rousseau, St. Jude Medical president and ceo.

"Our combined scale will expand the global reach, competitiveness and impact of our medical device innovation for physicians and hospitals," he said.

Unlike the Pfizer-Allergan deal that collapsed, there is no inversion strategy associated with the deal.

NOACs CFD-safer

THE newer generation of anticoagulants aka NOACs (novel oral anti-coagulants) have been found to reduce the risk of bleeding compared with older anticoagulants like warfarin, when used to prevent clots in people who also have mild to moderate chronic kidney disease (CFD), reports the UK's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

The products have been well tested in healthy people with atrial fibrillation or at risk of thromboembolism but this was the first review to look at their safety, in terms of bleeding and risk of bleeding within the brain, in people with kidney disease, said the NIHR.

WIN WITH NUTRI-SYNERGY

This week Pharmacy Daily and Nutri-Synergy are giving away a prize pack including NS Dry Skin Moisturiser and NS Extra Dry Skin Moisturiser each day.

Nutri-Synergy is Natural Dermatology for dry, sensitive and problem skin. NS restores and maintains your skin's natural, healthy condition while supporting the skin's natural protective barrier with ingredients rich in natural moisturising factors for more effective moisturising. Win a pack containing NS Dry Skin Moisturiser and NS Extra Dry Skin Moisturiser, both 250ml pumps.

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

In which country are NS products made?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Sarah Burns from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.



DISPENSARY CORNER

JUST when you thought there was an app for everything, here's a new one. A poo app.

Yes, you heard right. This new invention out of Japan has been designed to save users being caught out without a toilet.

'D Free' pictured below is a tiny, wearable device using ultrasound to monitor bowel movements.

When it's nearly time to poop, the user will get the following warning: "We have detected activity in your intestines: You have approximately 10 minutes".

How do you explain that one to your peers: "don't worry guys, that's just my bowel checking in with me".

On a more serious note the device creator Atsushi Nakanishi hopes it will help the ageing population preserve their dignity.

Apparently Nakanishi came up with the idea for the app after soiling himself when he was unable to locate a toilet.



SOME people will do anything to try achieve their piece of zen.

One man was so desperate to find his that it led to him getting arrested by the FBI.

The 72-year-old man who was trying to get his yoga moves on down the back of an aircraft on a flight from Hawaii to Japan got so aggressive when flight staff told him to return to his seat that it led to his arrest upon landing.

He reportedly tried to head butt and bite other passengers during his fit of rage.

His lawyer said he practiced yoga to help with his anxiety.

New Products

EllaOne (ulipristal acetate)

is an orally active synthetic selective progesterone receptor modulator that acts via high affinity (nanomolar) binding to the human progesterone receptor. Its major metabolite, monodesmethyl ulipristal, has comparable affinity for the progesterone receptor. When used for emergency contraception the mechanism of action is inhibition or delay of ovulation via suppression of the luteinising hormone (LH) surge. Ulipristal acetate has weak affinity for the androgen receptor and negligible affinity for the human oestrogen and mineralocorticoid receptors. EllaOne is indicated for emergency contraception within 120 hours (5 days) of unprotected sexual intercourse or contraceptive failure. EllaOne should not be given to pregnant women. If menstrual bleeding is overdue, if the last menstrual period was abnormal in timing or character or if pregnancy is suspected for any other reason, pregnancy should be excluded (by pregnancy testing or pelvic examination) before treatment is given. EllaOne 30 mg tablet is available as a blister pack of 1.

Infanrix (diphtheria toxoid, tetanus toxoid and three purified antigens of *Bordetella pertussis* [pertussis toxoid (PT), filamentous haemagglutinin (FHA) and pertactin (PRN)]).

The diphtheria and tetanus toxins are obtained from cultures of *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* and *Clostridium tetani* and are then detoxified and purified. The acellular pertussis vaccine components (PT, FHA and PRN) are extracted from phase I *Bordetella pertussis*, and are then purified and stabilised.

Infanrix is indicated for active primary immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis when commenced between 2 months and 12 months of age. Infanrix (DTPa) is also indicated as fourth and fifth dose for children from 15 months of age up to and including 6 years of age who have been immunised previously with three or four doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whole cell or acellular) vaccine. As with other vaccines, the administration of Infanrix should be postponed in subjects suffering from acute severe febrile illness. Infanrix is contraindicated if the child has experienced an encephalopathy of unknown aetiology occurring within 7 days following previous vaccination with pertussis containing vaccine. In these circumstances the vaccination course should be continued with diphtheria and tetanus vaccine. Infanrix is available as a 0.5 mL glass prefilled syringe containing not less than 30 IU of diphtheria toxoid, 40 IU of tetanus toxoid, 25 microgram of PT, 25 microgram of FHA and 8 microgram of PRN in packs of 1's and 10's.

Lynparza (olaparib) is an orally active potent inhibitor of human poly (ADP ribose) polymerase (PARP) enzymes. Olaparib is indicated as monotherapy for the maintenance treatment of patients with platinum sensitive relapsed *BRCA* mutated (germline or somatic) high grade serous epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancer who are in response (complete response or partial response) after platinum based chemotherapy. Prior treatment must have included at least 2 courses of platinum based regimens. Lynparza is available as 50 mg capsules in a carton containing 4 bottles of 112's.

Microdacyn60 (hypochlorous acid 0.004%, Na hypochlorite 0.004%, NaCl 0.023%, ozone 0.0001%, chlorine dioxide 0.0001%) is a super oxidized solution. It is intended for use in the debridement, irrigation and moistening of acute and chronic wounds, ulcers, cuts, abrasions and burns. Through reducing the amount of microorganisms and contributing to a moist environment, it enables the body to perform its own healing process. Microdacyn60 is available as Microdacyn60 Wound Care topical solution spray in packs of 120 mL and 250 mL, and Microdacyn60 Hydrogel topical gel in packs of 60 g and 120 g.

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.