



Stock up
NOW!

LinkedIn security alert

USERS of the business-facing LinkedIn network are being urged to change their password, after login details for over 100 million accounts were placed on sale by hackers after a breach of the site believed to have happened in 2012.

Ostelin 'Test Yourself'

VITAMIN D brand Ostelin has announced the launch of its new 'Test Yourself' consumer campaign, calling for Australians to proactively manage their bone health.

The consumer campaign will include an online competition offering participants the chance to join track and field athlete Jane Flemming on a private trek over the Tasmanian Overland Track in Oct.

Entrants will also go into the running to win one of 30 daily health boosters throughout July ranging from gym memberships to yoga classes.

Having been diagnosed with low vitamin D herself, Jane is apparently enthusiastic to encourage Australians to protect their bones for the future.

Flemming said she received "quite a shock" when diagnosed with low vitamin D levels after visiting her GP for a check-up.

The free online D-test assesses the likelihood of low vit D levels against risk factors such as age, skin pigmentation, sun exposure, sunscreen use and ability to absorb nutrients are variables that contribute to vitamin D levels.

Individuals can assess their risk at www.ostelin.com.au/vitamin-d-test.

PBS co-payments pledge

BOTH the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have issued statements welcoming election promises made on the weekend by the Labor party to keep PBS co-payments at CPI levels and maintain safety net thresholds.

"Labor's announcement provides patients with certainty about what they would be expected to contribute to the cost of their medicines under a Shorten Government," the Guild said.

The Guild also pointed out that Health Minister Sussan Ley has previously indicated she does not intend to proceed with these co-payment and safety net threshold increases, although they have been kept in the forward estimates.

The PSA said, "This policy will provide a boost to patient health as evidence shows when the price of medicines increases, consumers have to choose between medications and other household

expenses."

PSA national president Joe Demarte added that access to pharmacist services may also be compromised if the Federal Government continually seeks to find savings in the PBS, and that clarification will be sought from Sussan Ley's office around her previous statements.

Demarte also said, "A long-term plan for financial sustainability of the PBS must also include investment in evidence-based pharmacist services to ensure the impact of medicine is maximised and health outcomes are achieved."

Double checking Rx

NEEDING to "constantly double-check" their dispensing work was the big takeaway for two final year students in the University of Sydney Master of Pharmacy and Bachelor of Pharmacy programs upon returning from a one week stint on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait.

Simarjit and Subha, who already had three years behind them in community pharmacy, said that the geographically dispersed landscape and limited access to resources created significant challenges in providing service and medication to the widely spread residents, with the full range of pharmaceutical needs.

Cannabis name swaps

THE New Zealand Ministry of Health has changed its terminology for cannabis items, with the previously used "medicinal cannabis" description replaced by "cannabis-based products".

The NZ Health Department has also morphed the term "criteria" for usage to "guidelines" for use to "better reflect how applications in this area are assessed".

The terminology adjustments have been made to provide more clarity and consistency in describing cannabis-based products, when compared to other products or substances in the area of medicines control, the department said.

For a detailed summary of all the changes, [CLICK HERE](#).

Drug usage trends

TWO comprehensive national reports from NDARC's Drug Trends monitoring systems, *Australian Drug Trends* and *Australian Drug Trends in Ecstasy and Related Drug Markets*, have been published on the NDARC website.

The reports draw on the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) monitoring devices.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the reports.

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to PD's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Mark Silcock, Professional Services Manager at instigo pharmacy solutions.**



"The professional services journey – get in the driver's seat"

IT IS essential not only to have an understanding of what 'professional services' actually means in the context of your business now and in the future, but also how the vision is interpreted by both your staff and customers. It will be by actively engaging with both of these groups that you ensure the success of your professional services offer, and secure the added value to your business.

The Pharmacy Guild's new Health Advice Plus program has been designed to support Guild members who want to get started, or need additional support to integrate and deliver successful health programs and services. The ultimate aim is to improve your patients' health and lifestyle in a sustainable and viable way to ensure the continued success of your business.

Timing is definitely right to engage a strategy and deliver a plan around professional services as continued challenges mean ever greater challenges for pharmacies across Australia.

Professional service programs such as the Guild's Health Advice Plus program have shown that by developing your professional services offering within the framework of a structured and supported program you can deliver benefits to your customers and to your business now and into the future.

Key SPHA appointment

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has appointed Andrew Matthews to the newly created position of General Manager of Workforce Transformation.

The move is part of a revised structure which aims to ensure SPHA can help ensure members can "accommodate increasingly complex professional demands, including advanced clinical practice, and have a rewarding career," according to the organisation's ceo Kristin Michaels.

Matthews joined SPHA in Feb this year to manage the Residency Project and the SPHA National Translational Research Collaborative project, and as the inaugural gm of Workforce Transformation "he will be able to consolidate his earlier work and develop new initiatives that

will ensure SPHA continues as the lead organisation promoting and supporting best practice pharmacy," Michaels added.

She said scoping and planning a strategy for SPHA to become a leading research body would also continue to be a priority.

SPHA will actively monitor and influence changes in the work environment, with the Workplace Transformation division providing a suite of professional development programs that will support members through their career.

Pregnancy update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has updated the Prescribing Medicines in Pregnancy Database, with the addition of a number of new chemical entities.

These include cobimetinib fumarate, ceritinib and panobinostat (pregnancy category D); lumacaftor/ivacaftor and pirfenidone (category B3); selexipag (category B1) and susoctocog alfa (pregnancy category B2).

A number of medicine ingredient names have also been updated in the database to better align with international naming conventions.

PATY nominations

THE Pharmacy Guild has reminded the industry there are just two weeks left for nominations in the Pharmacy Assistant of the Year award for 2016.

Nominations can be made online at pharmacyassistants.com/paty.

WIN WITH CARMEX

This week Pharmacy Daily and Carmex are giving readers the chance to win a Carmex prize pack including a Click Stick, Jar, Tube, Moisture Plus in Sheer and Jasmine Green Tea, valued at \$31.95.

Carmex lip balms are an Australian favourite and are an essential part of any beauty routine. The range features SPF15 plus cooling and soothing properties that lips crave. Visit the **FACEBOOK** for more information.

To win, be the first from NSW or ACT to send the correct answer to the following question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What are the Carmex colours?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



DISPENSARY CORNER

MEN needing to take toilet breaks could become a thing of the past now the new "HeWee Go Active" has hit the market.

This odd looking contraption (pictured below) is built around an adjustable support belt that allows the user to urinate through a small tube into a washable tear-resistant plastic bag that can be used repeatedly.

The fluid collection sack can hold around a pint's worth of liquid.

If you hate urinals and think this is more convenient you're in luck - the device is already available online for just £89 at customdivers.com.

It is set to become more widely available later this year.



THAT "Uh-oh" moment when you accidentally live-streamed your wife in labour giving birth is shared with the entire internet...

Kali Kanongata'a from California made international news after his birth video went viral.

"I thought it was just going to my family and friends," he said of the video which he set up for his relatives in Tonga.

The video which shows the excited dad-to-be narrating the birth has clocked up more 210,000 views.

He and his wife were not mortified by the situation and kept their response light-hearted.

"Thanks guys for enjoying the gift of life with me...lol come celebrate next weekend bbq in area," Kali posted on Facebook.