

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a full page from Pharmacy 4 Less.

## Palliative care up 11%

OVER the past five years, Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) payments for all palliative medicine specialist services increased by almost 80%, according to a new Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report.

Palliative care hospitalisations increased by 11% from 55,983 in 2009-10 to 62,164 in 2013-14, but accounted for less than 1 in 100 of all hospitalisations for both public and private hospitals in 2013-14, the report said.

Cancer diagnoses dominated the palliative care hospitalisations at 53% - **CLICK HERE** for the report.



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## PSA real-time statement

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has issued a new formal position statement on the implementation of a national real-time medicine monitoring system.

The PSA says hundreds of lives would be saved and hospitalisations reduced if such a system was adopted, to help address the "increase of harm resulting from the inappropriate use of both prescription and OTC medicines".

A proposed Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs (ERRCD) system across all jurisdictions should be compulsory for use with all drugs with the potential for addiction - not just prescription medicines.

The PSA urged the adoption of nationally uniform regulatory controls for poisons, and that the system be appropriately integrated with prescribing and dispensing systems to ensure seamless use.

## PBS software site

THE Health Department has advised of the redesign of the PBS Software Developers website at [dev.pbs.gov.au](http://dev.pbs.gov.au).

The changes create a consistent look between the PBS, Health and PAC guidelines websites.

Changes to the developers site are only cosmetic, with no changes to the content or functionality.

## X-22 cuts craving

FUNDED by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Pfizer, three studies have demonstrated the ability of Heracles Pharma's very low nicotine tobacco, X-22 to satisfy a smoker's craving for cigarettes while separating the act of smoking from the rapid delivery of nicotine.

The company is seeking a strategic pharmaceutical partner to fund a final Phase III clinical study to help in its application to the FDA for approval of X-22 as a prescription-based smoking cessation aid.

X-22 cigarettes have 95% less nicotine than regular cigarettes, the company claims.

See more at [heraclespharma.com](http://heraclespharma.com).

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## 1.8 million UK petition

MORE than 1.8 million Britons have signed a petition against the proposed pharmacy cuts in the UK, with the massive document handed over to Prime Minister David Cameron earlier this week.

Organised by the National Pharmacy Association, it was the "biggest healthcare petition ever," with politicians from all sides lining up to add their support.

However the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC), which represents the interests of community pharmacies, has also this week issued a formal response to the proposals, expressing frustration at the "sudden unexplained negativity towards community pharmacy".

"We have been unable to obtain confirmation from the government of the scale of closure of community pharmacies it wishes to achieve," wrote PSNC ceo Sue Sharpe in the response.

She said it had been made clear by ministers and civil servants that the proposed £170 million funding cut is not negotiable.

"The proposals...constitute a major threat to the future availability to the public of an easily accessible source of informed health care, support and advice.

"This threat has not been made clear to the public or their representatives, and the policies... have not been based on analysis of the likely consequences or costs to the public," the PSNC concludes, urging officials to prioritise patient care when making decisions about future pharmacy numbers and locations.

## \$9m loss for AFT

AFT Pharmaceuticals has reported its first annual result since being publicly listed (*PD* 11 Dec 2015), with revenue up 14% to \$64m and an \$8.9m loss for the year to 31 Mar.

Almost all of the loss is attributed to an accelerated research and development program, with ceo Hartley Atkinson saying he expects losses to continue for the next couple of years due to "significant investment in accelerating clinical studies for key innovative products".

He said the proposed down-scheduling of Maxigesic to pharmacy-only, along with up-scheduling of competitor OTC codeine combination products offers a strong upside for the product in the Australian market.

Australian revenue grew 19% to \$31.2 million, with a strong increase in the main OTC channel.

Atkinson also hailed the deal with the Pharmacy Guild which will see the Gold Cross endorsement on Maxigesic 24-tablet packs.

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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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### Sebel Noosa Special Relaunch Room Rates

**ACCORHOTELS'** popular apartment hotel, The Sebel Noosa, has completed a soft refurbishment to reveal a fresh new look and is offering a relaunch room rate from \$280 per night for one-bedroom apartments.

The 4.5 star hotel apartments have enjoyed a \$1.5m update.

Contact the hotel on 07 5474 6400 or visit [www.thesebel.com](http://www.thesebel.com).

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## NZ Guild chief exec appt

**ANDREW** Gaudin has accepted the role of chief executive for the Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand effective 04 July 2016.

He replaces the outgoing Lee Hohaia who announced she was stepping down earlier this year to relocate to Auckland (*PD* 29 Mar).

NZ Guild president, Ken Orr said, "Andrew has significant health sector experience, having spent more than 20 years in a variety of leadership and advisory roles at the Crown Company Monitoring and Advisory Unit, Ministry of Health, District Health Boards and healthAlliance".

Gaudin is a qualified chartered accountant with a B.Sc (Hons) in operations research and a B.Bus in accountancy, and his experience

also includes involvement in the decision to expand the provision of the Community Pharmacy Anticoagulation Management Service pilot across the community pharmacy sector.

"Andrew brings considerable knowledge and experience of the current Community Pharmacy Services Agreement, as he was closely involved in establishing this agreement in 2012," Orr said.

Gaudin said he was looking forward to working to "advance the role that the community pharmacy sector can play in delivering primary health care to New Zealanders."

## Contamination check

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has posted on its website a presentation given at the International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering (ISPE) Conference.

The topic was *Cleaning and contamination control: A regulatory perspective*, and the full slide set can be found at [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

## EU off-label use track

**PHARMACEUTICAL** companies operating in the EU will be required to collect and report information on the off-label use of their medicines under new obligations morphing from draft to final form at the European Medicines Agency (EMA) over the next couple of months.

Sponsoring companies will need to separate those uses causing harm as opposed to those with no obvious downsides.

**CLICK HERE** for the draft paper.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**SMARTPHONES** are changing our landscape in more ways than one.

In Chongqing, China, city authorities have designated a 30 metre long "cellphone lane" for people who use their phones while walking.

While the level of seriousness around the designation of mobile phone sidewalks is uncertain, the practicalities seem a little unplanned.

For example, for those concentrating on texting ("distracted walking"), how will they not bump into each other (they walk both ways) or wander off the lane or run into obstacles such as lamp posts etc?



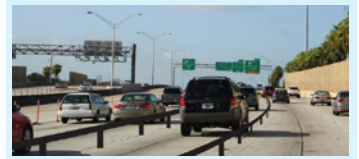
**BUT** wait, there's more!

Miami USA has gone even further, creating, believe it or not, a "texting lane" to "accommodate millennial drivers".

"Our roads are filled with millennials raised in front of a cellphone screen," said Miami-Dade Expressway Authority spokeswoman Anne Hinga.

"We cannot realistically expect these young drivers not to text and drive."

One young millennial, who has had eight minor phone-related car accidents, said texting was for "old people" but she would use the lane for "sending snaps" or "instagramming cute traffic pics."



## 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 **FACEBOOK** for more information.

To win, be the first from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the following question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Is Carmex appropriate to use in the sun?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Keegan Wong from Bull Creek Chemmart.



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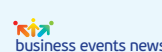
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