

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus **PD's** brand new Summer Spotlight feature on **page three**.

Parkinson's support

PHARMACISTS are critical in the management of Parkinson's disease, according to Parkinson's Australia ceo Steve Sant.

He said patient groups and experts in Parkinson's cited the accessibility and expertise of community pharmacies as vital in helping to improve outcomes.

"Some of our clients may be on half a dozen different drugs anywhere from two to three hours a day and I have had many people talk to me about taking 40 pills a day and that's just for Parkinson's disease," Sant said.

"Given about 80% of our clients are over the age of 65, they're likely to be on other medicines as well, so they may be taking a lot of tablets a day. Clearly the pharmacist is pivotal here."

Sant said he would like to see an education program for pharmacists around the issues and potential drug interactions surrounding Parkinson's medications.

Qantas meds update

UNACCOMPANIED children carrying prescription or even OTC medication when travelling with Qantas are now required to have a letter from the child's doctor.

Under a new policy which came into effect yesterday, Qantas has updated the definition of medication as being "any medicine from a doctor or dentist (on prescription) and from a pharmacist or over-the counter".

This now includes Ventolin inhalers and adrenalin auto-injectors, Qantas advised.

The airline said the doctor's letter must be dated within two years of the date of travel, be written in English and confirm that the child is capable of identifying the need for the medication and self-administering it.

Unaccompanied minors are kids aged 12 or under travelling alone.

Meds name change kits

WITH changes of medicine names to align with international spellings now impacting on a number of locally dispensed products, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has released educational posters and leaflets to help healthcare professionals communicate with their patients.

Three separate kits have been prepared for pharmacists (example of a poster **pictured**), doctors and nurses.

The TGA urges caution and care when prescribing, dispensing and administering medicines to make sure that the right product is



selected.

The poster sets are designed to help raise public awareness of the changes, which will be helpful especially for travellers, as well as healthcare professionals who have trained overseas or people seeking information about their therapies online.

Name changes of this type have been undertaken by other countries such as United Kingdom in 2003 and New Zealand in 2008.

Posters are prepared in A3 and A4 formats, cards with and without writing space and pdfs or jpgs in both portrait and landscape formats for tablet displays.

Visit tga.gov.au to access the suite of support materials.

AusPARs Q&A update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has updated its Q&A page relating to Australian Public Assessment Reports (AusPARs).

Included are references to the definition of 'commercially confidential', the status of an European PAR (no, it can't be substituted) and about 20 other topics.

Visit www.tga.gov.au for details.

Self-funding hosp MR

PHARMACIST-LED medication reconciliation aiming to reduce medication errors following hospital discharge can prove to be at least self-funding and potentially cost-saving compared with usual care, according to a study published in the *American Journal of Managed Care*.

The research showed medication reconciliation intervention that reduced medication discrepancies by at least 10% could cover the initial cost of intervention.

Targeting medication reconciliation to high-risk individuals would achieve a stronger result only if the sensitivity and specificity of a screening tool were at least 90% and 70%, respectively.

CLICK HERE to access the paper.

AHPRA snapshot

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has announced the release of its 2015/16 annual report providing a "nationwide snapshot" of the work of Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Authority (AHPRA) and the Boards under its auspices.

Visit ahpra.gov.au to access the report.

AHPRA has confirmed state and territory summaries and National Board summaries will be provided in coming months.



Summer spotlight

SUMMER is coming, and *Pharmacy Daily* today features a special page highlighting a range of essential products for the holiday season - see **page three**.

New pain module

CHRONIC pain is Australia's third most costly health condition after cardiovascular diseases and musculoskeletal conditions, which are also associated with chronic pain, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has said, announcing the release of a new CPD module.

The Guild Pharmacy Academy says community pharmacies play a critical role in assisting patients to manage their pain, identifying strategies to deal with pain and initiating referral to other allied health professionals.

As part of the *Pharmacy Health Solutions* suite of online courses, the Academy has collaborated with Sanofi Consumer Healthcare in the development of an online course *Pharmacy Health Solutions: Analgesics containing codeine*.

The course will assist community pharmacists to identify important counselling points for patients taking codeine-containing analgesics, help gather information from the patient and identify the warning signs of codeine dependence, the Academy said.

The online course has been accredited for 0.75 hours of Group 2 CPD (or 1.5 CPD credits) suitable for inclusion in an individual pharmacist's CPD plan.

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Dispensary Corner

TALK about burning fat! Photos have emerged online of an obese 11-year-old boy (pictured below) undergoing extreme Chinese medicine weight loss techniques, including fire therapy.

The unconventional treatments are being carried out at a hospital in Changchun city in China.

Li Hang who, suffers from Prader-Willi syndrome, has been severely obese since he was a young boy.

With all weight loss methods having failed, including a gastric bypass, the hospital is now administering fire therapy.

The treatment involves covering the patient's skin with a wet towel before lighting another alcohol fueled towel over the top.

China Daily is reporting the boy has lost 15 kgs since starting the treatment two months ago.

Don't try this at home.



NORTH Korea's Kim Jong-Un has launched a new range of 'sex potions' made from sea urchins, snake extract and mushrooms soaked in alcohol.

He put his top scientists to work to develop the elixirs which are said to help treat sexual dysfunction in men and boost libido.

The scientists behind the potions claim to have developed 50 anti-cancer treatments which they believe accelerate immunity function.

Harvey slams 'light touch'

HEALTH activist Ken Harvey has once again highlighted the "craziness and consequences of the current 'light touch' regulation of complementary medicines in Australia".

Speaking at the Skeptics Annual Convention in Melbourne on the weekend, Harvey questioned whether the government's response to the latest review on Medicine and Medical Device regulation is likely to fix the problems identified, with a number of key recommendations having been "rejected or watered down".

He suggested rather than the TGA taking over the complaint system, a better solution would be to give the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission greater involvement.

"That organisation has a better consumer protection culture, regulatory expertise and the investigative and enforcement tools required," he said.

Harvey also gave a talk on the Monash University School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine

"Whack-a-mole" project, advising his audience on how to make a complaint about advertising of therapeutic goods.

The project is dubbed "Whack-a-mole" because "given the flaws in the current regulatory system, no sooner is one misleading advertisement 'whacked' than others immediately pop up".

The presentation suggests potential complainants should "Pick an advertisement with questionable claims, take screen shots of the material & date it. Identify who is responsible for both the promotion and the product".

The next stage, Harvey suggested, was to search for evidence that supported or refuted the claim, and check the promotion against regulatory requirements for advertising of goods or services before lodging the complaint.

He noted the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Complaint Resolution Panel was "under-resourced and overloaded" and had no power to enforce its determinations, with a 40% non-compliance rate.

J&J - Actelion talks

US HEALTHCARE company Johnson & Johnson has confirmed it is in discussions with Swiss-listed blue-chip company Actelion around a potential transaction.

The companies have said they would make no further comment until there is a definite deal.



Guild Update

Don't forget to vote!

ALL Guild members are asked to ensure they have voted in the Guild membership model referendum. A ballot paper pack has been sent to all members but if you have not seen your ballot paper or misplaced it you can request a replacement. This can be done by requesting a 'Referendum - Request for Replacement Ballot Paper' form from your relevant Branch Director, who will pass your request and contact details to the Returning Officer. The Returning Officer will then forward you the relevant form by email or fax (as requested). This form is then completed by you and returned to the Returning Officer, who will issue a replacement ballot pack by post.

Please note that the request for a replacement ballot paper form must be completed, signed and returned to the Returning Officer (by fax or email, as specified in the form) by 5pm AEDT on Monday 5 December 2016. A replacement ballot paper cannot be issued for any request form that is received by the returning officer after this date and time.

Win with australis

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and australis are giving readers each day the chance to win both shades of Australis Match maker Shade Adjusting Drops.

Transform a 'Nearly Right' foundation into 'Mr Right' to create your perfect foundation match with new Australis Match Maker Shade Adjusting Drops. They're your secret weapon to flawless coverage. Perfect your foundation colour and match your skin tone with these lightening and darkening foundation drops. The drops can be used with your normal foundation to create the exact shade, whether lighter in winter or darker in summer.

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



What are the shade names?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Lisa from Kingscliff Amcal Chempro Chemist.

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: Level 2, Suite 1 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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Publisher/Editor in chief: Bruce Piper

Managing Editor: Jon Murrie

Reporter: Mal Smith

Contributors: Nathalie Craig, Jasmine O'Donoghue, Bonnie Tai

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Melanie Tchakmadjian advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Editorial: info@pharmacydaily.com.au

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SUMMER SPOTLIGHT

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Daily presents

Pharmacy Daily's Summer Spotlight is your guide to all the essential products for summer 2016/17.
To feature here email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

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