

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from HMR Healthcare.

Non-dispensing pharmacist Qld trial

DR Chris Freeman from the University of Queensland's School of Pharmacy is overseeing a research trial of the concept of having a non-dispensing pharmacist embedded in 14 medical centres in the greater Brisbane area.

The REMAIN HOME study is funded by the HCF Research Foundation as well as the Brisbane South and Brisbane North Primary Health Networks, with Freeman saying it aims to reduce hospital admissions related to medication.

"In Australian hospitals, up to 45% of patients discharged from medical units and 61% from geriatric units have an unplanned readmission within a year," he said, with one of the main groups at high risk of readmission being those taking multiple medicines.

The pharmacists will help improve the transfer of information between hospitals and caregivers, assist in stopping and starting different medicines and assess medication adherence, updating medical centre records and inform community pharmacies of any changes - for more details see www.remainhomestudy.com.

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PPDC credentialing summit

THE Pharmacy Practitioner Development Committee will convene a meeting as soon as possible to "re-evaluate options on models for the recognition and credentialing of advance practice pharmacists".

The move follows the shock decision by the Australian Pharmacy Council to shut down the national credentialing program (PD yesterday), just weeks after opening applications for the second round of the scheme (PD 06 Sep).

The PPDC, formerly known as the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Framework Steering Committee, developed an advanced practice recognition model for Australian pharmacists in 2013, and in the process endorsed the Australian Pharmacy Council as the independent credentialing body.

However yesterday the Council confirmed it was ending the scheme because insufficient

New Sigma cfo

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals this week announced the appointment of Iona MacPherson as Chief Financial Officer effective 02 Nov.

Sigma said the move would facilitate the smooth transition of Jeff Sells into the newly created position of Executive General Manager Strategy and Business Development (PD 19 Jul).

enrolment numbers meant it was not sustainable in the long term.

PPDC chair Shane Jackson said he would be encouraging all of the group's 11 member organisations to be actively involved in the next phase of advance practice recognition.

MEANWHILE the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia reiterated its support for Advance Practice Pharmacists, with PSA national vice president Michelle Lynch saying it was "disappointing to see formal recognition of advanced practice put on hold".

She said PSA would continue to recognise credentialed members by offering them the the opportunity to become Fellows of the PSA and use the post-nominals (FPS).

"PSA will be actively involved in working with the pharmacy profession to ensure the sustainability of the credentialing process for Advance Practice Pharmacists," Lynch said.

Antibiotic week

PHARMACIES are being invited to order an "event kit" to help participate in Antibiotic Awareness Week 2016, which is scheduled for 14-20 Nov this year.

NPS MedicineWise is highlighting the annual global event which reminds everyone that misusing antibiotics can cause harm, and that "antibiotics are a precious resource that should be handled with care".

A campaign toolkit with more details is available at nps.org.au.

HMR deals on offer

HMR Healthcare is today promoting savings of up to 30% on mobility solutions as part of its 'Huge October Offer'.

For details see **page three**.

NZ kids scripts rise

MORE Maori and Pacific islander children in New Zealand are being seen by their enrolled GP, as a result of the NZ government's policy to offer free GP visits for under 13s introduced last year.

Health minister Jonathan Coleman said new data shows since the new arrangements were launched children under 13 had visited their GP 16.6% more than the previous year.

The policy was introduced on 01 Jul 2015, making all New Zealand children under 13 eligible for free visits to their enrolled general practice and also free prescriptions.

"The number of prescriptions dispensed increased by 23.9%, showing that the removal of cost has improved access to medicines," Coleman said.

New PBAC guidelines

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has endorsed version 5.0 of its guidelines for new listings.

Education workshops for industry organisations who will be making a PBAC submission will take place from next week in Sydney and Melbourne, aiming to promote a common understanding and interpretation of the guidance.

Visit www.pbs.gov.au for details.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Rotational Pharmacist** - Darling Downs Region, QLD (Job# 200004932)
Permanent full-time - new reg's encouraged.
- **Pharmacist In Charge** - Yorke Peninsula, SA (Job# 200013367)
Be part of the local community and a trusted member of their health care team!
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Far Western NSW (Job# 200002710)
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Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

- 19 Oct:** PBI Melbourne Workshop; The Blackman; for details see: www.pharmacybusinessinsight.com.au
- 20-21 Oct:** Australian Disease Management Association (ADMA) 2016 National Conference; Melbourne Convention Centre; register here: www.adma.org.au
- 26-28 Oct:** ACHSM/ACHS Joint 2016 Asia-Pacific Annual Congress; Sofitel Brisbane Central; details and to register: www.achsm.org.au
- 27-29 Oct:** Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; Sea World Resort, Gold Coast; visit: www.pharmacyassistants.com
- 9 Nov:** PBI Brisbane Workshop; Customs House; visit: www.pharmacybusinessinsight.com.au
- 16-19 Nov:** Medicines Management 2016; Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre; for more info visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 2-5 Dec:** Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association (APSA) Scientific Meeting; The University of Sydney; more info at: expertevents.eventsair.com
- 9-12 Mar:** APP 2017; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; for details visit: www.appconference.com

Queensland cannabis OK

FOLLOWING a three hour discussion in Queensland State Parliament Wednesday night, the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016 was unanimously passed meaning that Queensland patients with a range of medical conditions will be allowed to legally access medicinal cannabis products from March next year.

Health Minister Cameron Dick said the access to medical marijuana would be via certain specialist health professionals such as oncologists, paediatric neurologists and palliative care doctors who can prescribe without needing approval from the health department.

However, the legislation allows that any medical practitioners who believe that an individual patient may benefit from medical cannabis will be able to apply to Queensland Health for approval to prescribe the product.

Dick said most of the medical cannabis would be imported from Canada or the Netherlands, as it was illegal to cultivate commercial medical cannabis in Australia.

He explained there was a misconception that the bill only



supported the use of synthetic medical cannabis. He said most approvals granted under this bill would be botanically-derived products.

Dick said the reform was a "game changer for seriously ill patients who often feel compelled to seek out illicit cannabis treatment options".

The bill is subject to review after two years, and the use of cannabis without the appropriate approvals will continue to be illegal in Qld.

TGA drug alerts

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised that it has found Bee Sexy Slimming Capsules contain the undeclared banned substance sibutramine, said they pose a danger to health and their supply in Australia is illegal.

Similarly, the TGA alerts health professionals and consumers to the dangers associated with Vigour 300 tablets which join the long list of illegal imports containing the undeclared prescription substance sildenafil.

Go to www.tga.gov.au for more.



Dispensary Corner

A PHARMACY in New York has joined the gender debate by implementing a so-called "man tax" which sees male customers pay an extra 7% on all items.

The Thompson Chemists Pharmacy in the Soho district says the impost (pictured below) aims to highlight the fact that often products such as shampoo or razors targeting women cost more than those for men, in a phenomenon called the 'pink tax'.

The initiative is the brainchild of pharmacy owner Jolie Alony, who said "we wanted to share that women deserve to get a break, and men deserve to be charged 7% more...women are spending more in general and we make less, so we deserve to have a break".

The new "policy" does not actually charge men more, but rather exempts female customers from paying state sales tax.

"So far the women are very, very happy," she said.

"Men haven't complained yet, they've just laughed," she added.



Win with australis

This week Pharmacy Daily and australis are giving readers each day the chance to win a pack of Bright Eyes Illuminating Under Eye Concealer.

Want to brighten eyes, bring radiance to the skin and erase any signs of fatigue? Of course! Australis Bright Eyes Illuminating Under Eye Concealer is available in two shades that suit all skin tones – Banana and Musk – and are both equally effective. The yellow of the banana is perfect for banishing dark under eye circles and correcting redness. The pink hues of the musk accentuates & highlights features, and is a secret weapon in creating a gorgeous, luminescent healthy glow.

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

What does the musk tone work for?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Chelsea Millward from Symbion.



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