

Amneal tobramycin

AMERICAN generic company, Amneal Pharmaceuticals has announced the forthcoming launch of Tobramycin AN inhalation system, the first generic equivalent of Tobin in Australia.

Amneal Australia gm Gavin Upiter said, "This highly complex antibacterial drug is the first inhalation solution formulation from Amneal Pharmaceuticals and is its third first-to-market generic product launched in Australia in the last 12 months."

The key patient group is those living with cystic fibrosis, creating a revenue potential of some \$3,000 per pharmacy on average.

Tobramycin AN was PBS-listed on 01 Aug and is now available to order at a considerable discount through all major wholesalers.

Amneal Australia said it has plans to register 50 molecules in the Australian market in the next three years.

New S8 & S9 entries

CANNABIS, botanically derived extracts or derivatives of cannabis and tetrahydrocannabinols (THCs) where they are botanically derived from cannabis have been scheduled for human therapeutic use by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, paving the way for broader availability of medical marijuana.

The products must be produced or manufactured in accordance with the Narcotic Drugs Act 1967 or imported in accordance with the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956.

Visit www.tga.gov.au for details.

MedAdvisor buys its rival

LISTED medication adherence technology firm MedAdvisor this week announced the \$5.5 million acquisition of Healthnotes, with the deal said to "bring together the two leaders in medication adherence management".

MedAdvisor ceo Robert Read said the move would increase the company's connected community pharmacies to 2,400 or about 45% of the market, serving around 500,000 patients using the MedAdvisor platforms.

MedAdvisor will fund the deal with \$3.3 million in cash plus the remainder in shares to Healthnotes' owners, with MedAdvisor also conducting a \$6 million capital

raising to boost its reserves.

"MedAdvisor and Healthnotes share a bold mission to make patients' lives easier and improve health outcomes through digital medication management," Read said, with the acquisition set to accelerate MedAdvisor's entry into the GP market.

Healthnotes has relationships with more than 4,000 GPs across Australia, while MedAdvisor will later this month launch its GP link system, which connects doctors and pharmacies to make patients' lives easier and improve outcomes.

Read said the combined user base of MedAdvisor and Healthnotes would boost the number of scripts pre-ordered via the 'Tap to Refill' feature in MedAdvisor to about 320,000 per month, with an annualised value of over \$150m.

Healthnotes executive director Saurabh Mishra said the companies together would "create the preferred platform for patient communications in Australia."

"Our pharmacy network will benefit from the additional services and offering that MedAdvisor can bring, while still enjoying the benefits of Healthnotes," he said.

Interactions updates

NEW Zealand's Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority, Medsafe, has published this month's *Prescriber Update* with a range of drug interaction reminders and advice around soya-based excipients and peanut allergy.

The publication discusses issues around switching antidepressants, drug-induced gynaecomastia, the hyperkalaemia caused by spironolactone and Renin-angiotensin System Medicine Interactions, St John's Wort interactions, beta-lactam antibiotic cross-reactions and more.

Medication impacts on driving skills, warnings around online purchasing of medications and Medsafe's new medicine approvals are also included.

CLICK HERE to access the update.

CPI rise for rego fees

REGISTRATION fees for Australian pharmacists for 2016/17 have been set at \$328 for general registration, with the increase limited to the consumer price index.

The new fee will apply from 01 Sep 2016 and cover the registration period for most pharmacists of 01 Dec 2016-30 Nov 2017.

Pharmacy Board of Australia chairman William Kelly said the decision to limit the increase to indexation "ensures pharmacists are not unduly burdened but still provides sufficient income to allow the Board to meet its obligations in protecting the public".

The fee is also \$328 for limited and non-practising registration - for the full schedule of levies see www.pharmacyboard.gov.au.

Rx NCEs registered

FIVE new chemical entities (NCEs) were registered with the Therapeutic Goods Administration during August.

They include an Hep C treatment from MSD, a non-small cell lung cancer treatment from Astra, an UCB treatment for epilepsy and allergy treatments from Seqirus.

Go to www.tga.gov.au.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - Sunshine Coast, QLD (Job# 200013306)
Full-time - attractive Pharmacy - harmonious team - good work balance.
- **Dispensary Technician** - Melbourne's north east, VIC (Job# 200013246)
Growing pharmacy, offering a focus on scripts for RACF clients and data entry.
- **Pharmacist** - Hunter Valley region, NSW (Job# 200013206)
New Reg? Medium script level, fun team immediate start candidate.

Looking for a different direction for your career? We can help!



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.

6 Sep: Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Brisbane; for more info call: 1800 777 648

7 Sep: Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Sydney; for more info call: 1800 777 648

9-11 Sep: Pharmacy Connect; Four Points by Sheraton Darling Harbour Sydney; see: pharmacy-connect.com.au

9-10 Sep: The Friendlies Conference 2016; Old Woolstore Hotel, Hobart; visit: pharmacyconference.com.au

12 Sep: Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Melbourne; for more info call: 1800 777 648

14 Sep: Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Launceston; for more info call: 1800 777 648

15 Sep: CMA Annual Conference; Doltone House Sydney; more info at: www.cmaustralia.org.au

19 Sep: Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Perth; for more info call: 1800 777 648

20 Sep: Making the Most of your Aged Care Services; St Leonards; more info at www.guild.org.au

21 Sep: Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Adelaide; for more info call: 1800 777 648

21-25 Sep: The Pharmacy Alliance 2016 Members' Forum; Queenstown, New Zealand; visit: pharmacyalliance.com.au

Corum licks its wounds

LISTED pharmacy software supplier Corum Group has reported a 13% decline in sales for 2015/16, with "poor trading results reflecting past delay in addressing strategic imperatives," according to ceo Peter Wilton.

Minfos DoseAid link

MINFOS and DoseAid have announced that from this month they are integrating to provide a combined solution which will offer pharmacies a more cost effective Dose Administrations Aids ordering process.

Both companies are owned by EBOS, with the combination seeing pharmacies that provide DAAs to community patients now able to use Minfos' new packing module - eliminating the need to juggle multiple software packages by centralising the DAA ordering.

Minfos Quick Dispense reduces double handling by streamlining the dispense and packing workflow, and when patients' 'virtual pill balances' are low, scripts can be queued in dispense from the packing module.

The integration will be released progressively to Minfos/DoseAid pharmacies - 1300 887 418.

The company this week reported a \$27,000 net profit on sales of \$16.7 million, with Wilton confirming an 8% decline in revenue from Corum's Health Services division "due to the loss of pharmacy customers...many customers have moved to other suppliers because of past reliability and support issues."

"Although these issues were resolved in 2015 the negative customer sentiment that they caused has impacted customer retention," he said.

During the year Corum made "significant improvements" to its core pharmacy software that solved past performance issues, he said, with a 50% drop in customer support requests over the year.

An improvement plan is under way with key goals including gaining more pharmacy sites, strengthening Corum's e-commerce revenue base, reducing costs and "be the solutions provider of choice".

This month Corum will launch a new Safeguard system, the first in a "series of innovative products targeting the pharmacy sector".

Corum is also working on a new dispensing system and banner group head office system, which are targeted for release in early 2017.



Dispensary Corner

CLEAN out those pipes to beat prostate cancer.

Men at the Asia-Pacific Prostate Cancer Conference in Melbourne have been told the more they ejaculate, the lower their risk of developing prostate cancer.

Assistant professor of urology at NYU, Stacy Loe told the blokes that those who 'blow their load' 21 times a month were 20% less likely to develop the disease.

She then cheekily told them to go home and share the good news to their partners.

"I often write prescriptions telling men to go home and tell their wives that frequent ejaculations will lessen their risk of prostate cancer - but it doesn't seem to get any resonance," Professor Tony Costello, of Melbourne University added.



PD HAS in the past been criticised for showing a picture of Brazil's famous butt-featuring "Miss Bum Bum" competition.

So in case you missed it, **above** is Germany's version of the event, with a little more cloth involved.

Many contestants are reputedly "naturally talented" but some admit to cosmetic assistance.

The event recognised the passing of the cosmetic surgeon who invented the 'Brazilian Butt Lift' - Dr Ivo Pitanguy died at the age of 90, just a day after carrying the Olympic flame through Rio.

His legacy has said to have inspired plastic surgeons around the world, with butt lift surgeries becoming increasingly popular to revive sagging posteriors.

Win with Blistex

This week to celebrate the launch of NEW Blistex Happy Lips Melon lip balm on 1st September in pharmacy, Pharmacy Daily and Blistex are giving you the chance to WIN a Blistex prize pack valued at \$36.05. Blistex is a leading lip care brand delivering superb moisture and protection to lips to keep them beautifully healthy all year round.

Each prize pack contains Happy Lips Melon, Strawberry & Mango, Lip Conditioner, Ultra, Intensive Repair and Deep Renewal.

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

What are the three flavours of Happy Lips?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Madeline Hnoudis from Symbion.



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