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Drop 3kg for health

LOSING as little as 3 kilograms or even just maintaining our weight could have a significant effect in reducing the health impact of excess body weight or obesity in Australia, according to a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The new findings look at the health impact, or 'burden', of excess weight in terms of years of healthy life lost from illness, injury, or through premature death.

"Our weight is our second biggest risk factor in terms of the health 'burden', accounting for 7%," said AIHW spokesperson Dr Lynelle Moon.

This is behind only tobacco which accounts for 9% of the burden, she added, although this gap has closed in recent years as the burden of tobacco drops and the burden of obesity rises.

Visit aihw.gov.au for the report.

MA deal to cut prices again

THE government and Medicines Australia are close to finalising a new five-year agreement which will see further cuts to the cost of some drugs in return for new listings and certainty for the sector.

Set to be confirmed as part of the 2017-18 budget, *Fairfax* is reporting MA "has agreed to an increase in the mandatory price cuts triggered by the reimbursement of a second brand of an already listed medicine, delivering major savings".

The budget package would see the government save as much as

\$400 million annually, it is forecast.

It's also considered likely the budget will see Health Minister Greg Hunt unlock the \$600 million promised under the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement to expand professional services.

At APP last month Guild President George Tambassis raised concerns the money would not be forthcoming because it was subject to yet-to-be-completed reviews of existing programs.

McKesson Canada bid

US PHARMACY giant McKesson Corporation has sealed a deal for the acquisition of Canadian pharmacy chain Uniprix, a Montreal-based network of about 300 independent pharmacies.

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World immunisation

APRIL 24-30 marks World Immunisation Week with the theme #vaccineswork, aiming to promote the use of vaccines.

2017 marks the halfway point in the Global Vaccine Action Plan which aims to avert death from vaccine-preventable diseases by 2020 through universal access to immunisation.

FDA nods Ingrezza

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Ingrezza (valbenazine) capsules, the first product the Administration has approved for the treatment of adults with tardive dyskinesia.

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Dispensary Corner

WHAT a melon!

Surgeons have literally crowbarred a calcium stone out of a man's bladder in India.

Mahesbhai Rasikbhai Paten, 49, was admitted to hospital after suffering from excruciating pain in his abdomen overnight.

It turns out he had every right to be when surgeons discovered he had a 1.4 kilogram tumour (pictured below) in his bladder.

Doctors advise that spontaneous formation of stones inside the body isn't at all uncommon.



BLOOD tests, urine samples and biopsies could soon be a thing of the past thanks to a humble piece of chewing gum.

Scientists at US biotech firm Volatile Analysis have made a gum that could detect cancer.

Katherine Bazemore, ceo of Volatile Analysis teamed up with NGO Hudson Alpha to develop the product.

Patients will need to chew the gum for 15 minutes, during which time it will absorb the 'volatiles' in a person's saliva, namely chemical compounds released by certain types of cancer like pancreatic, lung and breast cancer.

The company hopes to make the gum available to doctors and patients next year.

According to the National Cancer Institute, there were an estimated 1.5 million new cancer cases diagnosed in 2016 in the US.

FIP focusing on pharmacy roles

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) will highlight the huge diversity of healthcare roles played by pharmacists, with the theme of

World Pharmacists Day 2017 to be "From research to healthcare, your pharmacist is at your service".

Set to take place on 25 Sep this year, FIP has released a range of collateral which can be downloaded by pharmacists to celebrate World Pharmacists Day this year.

"This theme was chosen to reflect the numerous contributions the pharmacy profession makes to health," said FIP president Dr Carmen Peña.

"From research and development of medicines, to educating future pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists and providing direct care, we do all this in the service of our patients and communities".

Peña said FIP aimed to emphasise that pharmacists were the backbone of healthcare in many different settings - not just in hospital or community pharmacies.

"Taking care of patients starts

FROM RESEARCH TO HEALTHCARE:

YOUR PHARMACIST IS AT YOUR SERVICE

#WORLDPHARMACISTS DAY

with recognising the health issues of populations and developing medicines, policies and education to handle them.

"We pharmacists are often there

at the very beginning of the process - when the first molecule that effectively treats a disease is identified," she added.

World Pharmacists Day is used by FIP members across the globe to showcase the profession and its impact on improving health to authorities, other professions and the general public.

Resources to promote the celebration are available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish as well as English, and include an animation and a range of other materials suitable for use in print, on websites and on social media channels.

FIP is urging pharmacists to take part in the commemoration by creating social media profile pictures using an official FIP "Twibbon" with all materials now available for download at www.fip.org/worldpharmacistsday.

WIN WITH SOUTHERNATURE

This week Pharmacy Daily and SOUTHERNATURE are giving away their Omega 3 Concentrate each day, valued at \$51.95 RRP.

IFOS Certified Omega 3 Concentrate Fish Oil is specially designed to help support the health of the cardiovascular and nervous systems and to support eye health. SOUTHERNATURE uses only Premium Fish Oil to ensure a quality oil, high in EPA and DHA to provide optimal health benefits. For more info **CLICK HERE**.

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Name another one of the product certifications.

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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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Russia 2-for-1 dates

BENTOURS has added new dates to its two-for-one deal on Russian river cruises, for bookings made by 30 Apr.

Travel on board a Russian 5-Star river cruiser along rivers, lakes and canals of Russia between St Petersburg and Moscow, undoubtedly one of the best ways to experience these fascinating great cities.

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