



Guild enlists Santo

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has enlisted the support of former Federal Minister Santo Santoro, his Santoro Consulting business contracted by the Guild in May.

Australian Doctor is speculating that Santoro has been hired specifically to lobby on the Guild's behalf over the organisation's so-called "Schedule 3.5" solution for codeine once it becomes prescription-only in Feb 2018.

PSA hails monitoring

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has urged all jurisdictions to minimise harm for consumers by adopting a real-time monitoring system as being legislated in Victoria.

The call came as part of its announcement of support for the Victorian move (*PD Tue*).

PSA Victorian president Benjamin Marchant said PSA welcomed the long-overdue system, which would support clinical decision-making by prescribers and pharmacists to optimise the use of medicines and save lives in Victoria.

Blackmores Rebel run

BLACKMORES is once again the major sponsor of the Sydney Running Festival which takes place this year on Sunday 17 Sep.

The event, sponsored by Rebel sports and ASICS among others,

has four levels: the Sydney Marathon at 42.195 km, the Half Marathon at 21.0975 km, the Bridge Run at 10 km and the 3.5km Family Fun Run.

The events start at Milson's Point, travel over the main deck of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and finish near the Sydney Opera House - see sydneyrunningfestival.com.au.



Pharmacy codeine fail - AMA

"PHARMACIST control of codeine does not work," according to a formal statement from the Australian Medical Association, which has urged all stakeholders to cooperatively implement the TGA decision to reschedule codeine products to prescription only (S4).

AMA president Dr Michael Gannon this morning urged the sector not to deviate from the TGA decision "which was made with open and transparent consultation".

He said there was "compelling evidence" to support the rescheduling of codeine products to S4, adding the AMA was "extremely concerned" at moves to "influence or coerce State governments to change, delay or dilute the impact of the TGA decision".

Gannon said such moves were not in the best interests of patients and particularly noted problems with pharmacy control of codeine.

"Codeine-related deaths continued to rise when pharmacists were given responsibility for ensuring safe non-prescription codeine sales in 2010.

"There is no evidence that low-dose codeine provides any benefit beyond placebo," Gannon said.

"Patients who have short term pain will still have access to alternative over-the-counter painkillers, which are more effective than low-dose codeine, but without

Travellers hep B short

UK HEALTH officials are putting a temporary limit on who can have a hepatitis B vaccination because stocks are running low in the global shortage announced by supplier GSK (*PD 04 Aug*) as a result of manufacturing issues.

Although the vaccine will continue to be offered, not all travellers will be able to access it prior to travel.

codeine-associated risks.

"It is better for patients with chronic pain to manage it with doctors' advice...rather than self-treating with codeine for the long term," the AMA president added.

Gannon said the TGA has effectively communicated its codeine decision with the health sector and with the general public, and has actively sought feedback from the medical and health communities, including pharmacists, through participation in its working groups.

"It is essential for public safety that the TGA is allowed and supported to make evidence-based decisions about medicines, free from political interference and sectional interests," he emphasised.

"The decision has been made - what we need to see now is cooperative implementation.

"We call on all those who work in the wider health community - including pharmacy - to quickly implement the changes that are necessary.

"At this stage, we do not want to see the peddling of alternative models, dressed up as 'patient concern', which undermine the TGA position," Gannon concluded.

PD readers' offer

PHARMACY Daily readers are being offered discounted tickets to a new conference for marketers, agencies and publications working across health and wellness industries.

The Umbrella Health & Wellness Marketing Summit is a 'deep dive' into the various opportunities and challenges facing marketers.

The Summit is designed to explore sessions around data, privacy and the trust gap, technologies such as wearables and apps and the role of print in marketing health services and products.

The day, set for 06 Sep in Sydney, will be hosted by presenter of ABC Radio National's The Health Report, Dr Norman Swan.

Marketing and wellness experts are confirmed from Fitness First, Men's Health, Facebook and Medibank, alongside successful public figures Lola Berry, Kayla Itsines and Amelia Phillips.

The international keynote speaker is Tanya Joseph who was the architect of the award-winning behaviour-changing campaign, This Girl Can.

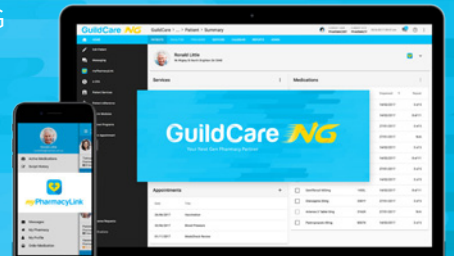
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Dispensary Corner

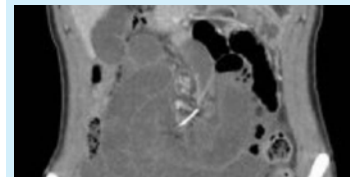
SOME things take a long while to digest, but this is ridiculous.

Doctors in Perth have managed to trace a woman's mysterious stomach pains to something she swallowed about a decade ago.

Reported in *BMJ Case Reports*, the curious symptoms included an elevated heart rate and inflamed abdominal wall - but other tests including blood counts and an ultrasound were all normal.

However a CT scan (pictured) revealed a thin metal wire lodged in her intestines, with the 6cm object part of a dental brace that the woman used to wear.

She didn't recall ever swallowing the item, and didn't experience pain until very recently when doctors said the intestine began to twist around on itself.



AUTHORITIES may be scrambling to address a flaw in the English language proficiency test for overseas professionals wanting to live in Australia, after a native Irish speaker failed the test due to her strong accent.

Irish veterinarian Louise Kennedy was seeking permanent residency in Australia earlier this year, and was shocked when she failed to reach the minimum score required in the test of English administered by Pearson.

The test uses computer-based voice recognition technology to evaluate the speaker's language ability - but clearly had difficulty dealing with Kennedy's Irish lilt.

Ramsay supply questions

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has alleged that Ramsay Health may be using hospital medicines purchasing contracts to supply community pharmacies in the Ramsay Pharmacy Group.

Guild president George Tambassis said if this behaviour is occurring "it would run contrary to the longstanding requirement by suppliers that there be separate purchasing arrangements for hospital & community pharmacies, and that medicines that are supplied for use in hospitals are not able to be on-sold or provided for use in community pharmacy".

He said if Ramsay is undertaking such practices the company is deriving an "unfair competitive advantage" for its pharmacies.

While the Guild recognises the different requirements of hospitals in meeting the needs of in-patients versus those of PBS out-patients, "if large hospital providers are able to negotiate valuable medicine pricing arrangements on a contract basis that continue to be excluded from Price Disclosure, there must be a clear separation of pricing and supply for hospitals versus that for any community pharmacy that

might operate under that hospital's corporate banner," Tambassis said.

He confirmed the Guild had written to a wide range of suppliers seeking an "absolute assurance" that they are not allowing Ramsay or other hospital providers to use their hospital discounts and trading terms for medicines supplied through community pharmacies.

The move follows earlier measures initiated by the Guild "to try to ensure that the Ramsay Pharmacy Group's operations comply with pharmacy ownership laws".

In recent weeks Ramsay has flagged a major acceleration of its push into community pharmacy, with aspirations to operate about 300 franchised Ramsay Pharmacy outlets by 2020 (PD 24 Jul).

Guild election delay

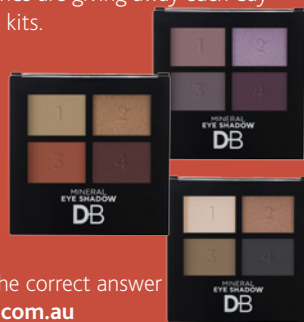
THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced it has secured an extension for the ballot period for the election notice circulated on 14 Jul, to ensure members have sufficient time to receive and return their ballot papers.

The ballot will now close at 5pm AEST on Friday, 08 Sep 2017.

WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Designer Brands are giving away each day three of their DB Quad Mineral Eye Shadow kits.

These eye shadow quads are perfect for creating smokey, multi-faceted looks. Each palette includes intense mineral pigments and a super-blendable formula in four complementary shades. 100% certified cruelty free and vegan. **CLICK HERE** to find out more.



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

What is the RRP of the Designer Brands Quad Mineral Eye Shadow?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Wenity Teng from Wanneroo Discount Drug Store.

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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The 13-day cruise will depart London six times in 2019 with many inclusions such as excursions, Wi-Fi, drinks, 24-hour room service and many others, all from \$7,995 per person. Go to vikingcruises.com.au.