

Correction recalls

PFIZER Australia in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is recalling for product correction two products: heparin 5000 U/5 mL injection 50 pack (Batch A473, expiry date Feb 2019) and lignocaine 50 mg/5 mL ampoules (Batch A313, expiry date Nov 2017) due to the "potential for incorrect products in packages".

The recall for product correction was initiated after a NSW consumer being treated with Heparin 5000 IU/5 mL injection 50 pack ampoules found the pack instead contained lignocaine 50mg/5mL ampoules.

The consumer had obtained the pack at a NSW community pharmacy.

New cancer vax study

RESEARCHERS at Mebourne's Royal Women's Hospital and Victorian Cytology Service have found new Gardasil 9 vaccine protected against 93% of cervical cancers compared with 77% with the previous version, according to a paper published in the *International Journal of Cancer*.



Lead researcher, Associate Professor Julia Brotherton, said the work was "truly ground-breaking".

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee anticipates a decision on funding for the vaccine later this month, reports the *ABC*.

Gardasil 9, given at age 14 years, requires only two injections compared with the previous three.

Pharmacy eHealth support

PHARMACY integration with the government's My Health Record system will be significantly expanded in the near future, with the Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) signing agreements with a number of additional community pharmacy software vendors.

Fred Dispense and Simple Retail's Aquarius Dispense already support the My Health Record system, with additional agreements announced last week with Dispense Works, Minfos, RxOne, ScriptPro Dispense, Z Dispense and Mountaintop Dispense.

The ADHA said it was also continuing discussions with other providers of dispensing software, saying it was confident agreements would be in place with almost all vendors in the next few months.

The agency said the expanded integration would lead to better health care, efficiencies for pharmacists and more accurate record keeping.

Earlier this year (*PD* 13 Feb 2017) the ADHA announced an 'Industry Partnership Offer' worth up to \$250,000 for community pharmacy software vendors to upgrade their products to support the My Health Record system.

At the time the agency said participants in the initiative would need to upgrade their existing systems to support the required functionality by 30 Jun 2018, including the ability to view My Health Record information from within dispensing software.

PSA president Shane Jackson, who is a specialist adviser to the ADHA,

welcomed the strong response from the industry, saying having access to My Health Record as part of the regular workflow and dispensing process would mean pharmacists spent less time chasing up clinical information.

The Pharmacy Guild last month also boosted its engagement with the ADHA (*PD* 27 Jul), with a particular focus on telehealth, transitional care, and "interoperability with pharmacy clinical service IT platforms".

The agency said it was working closely with the Guild, clinicians, healthcare providers and the software vendors to maximise the benefits of My Health Record for patient care in community pharmacies.

WSMI self-care push

NEW models and mechanisms that enable consumers to better self-manage their health will be a key theme at the upcoming World Self-Medication Industry conference taking place in Sydney on 18-19 Oct this year.

Sessions will discuss recent international developments such as the introduction of a tax deduction scheme for over 1,600 OTC medicines in Japan, while Professor Charlie Benrimoj from UTS Sydney will address the conference on minor ailment schemes in pharmacy around the world.

Other presentations will focus on the impact of advertising restrictions for S3 medicines - more info at www.wsmiga2017.com.

New Guild HIV course

GUILD Learning and Development has partnered with ViiV Healthcare to create a new online course titled *Community pharmacy guide to the management of HIV*.

This course examines the pathophysiology of HIV, the current approach of HIV treatment and how these medicines can be accessed in community pharmacy.

Also covered are counselling to enhance how a person living with HIV accesses and uses their medications, and the impact that stigma may have on how people living with HIV access healthcare.

As a result of advances in management, HIV-infected individuals are now having fewer complications and can expect to live near-normal lifespans and community pharmacies have been able to dispense scripts for HIV medications since Jul 2015.

The module is suitable for inclusion in a pharmacist's CPD plan - visit myCPD.org.au.

\$5.5m job campaign

THE Federal Government has launched a \$5.5m public campaign aimed at boosting immunisation rates and pushing back at online anti-vaccination propaganda.

The latest data from the health department's Immunise Australia Program shows only the ACT has achieved the required 95% rate of vaccination to achieve herd immunity among 12-15 month olds.

Parents will be targeted via child care centres and social media, with a full range of educational resources at immunisationfacts.gov.au.

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Dispensary Corner

NEXT week's solar eclipse in North America is providing a good example of why science education in schools is important.

Despite general excitement among the scientific community and the public, not everyone is thrilled at the timing of the eclipse, which will see the sun disappear from the sky between 12 noon and 2pm on 21 Aug.

The Texas Perot Museum of Nature and Science will be hosting a viewing party, with about 11,000 people interested in attending according to the museum's Facebook page.

Unfortunately one mother, with a somewhat distorted view of how astrophysics works, has asked if the solar eclipse could be rescheduled because it was a bit inconvenient for her.

"Most kids go back to school that day. Can it be done on the weekend?" she asked on the event's page (pictured below).

The comment, which has since been deleted, has led to a field day for internet humorists, with hundreds of posts suggesting the eclipse be moved to night time, after work or even "for Christmas time so EVERYONE can attend".



Sigma dives on profit warning

SHARES in Sigma Healthcare slumped over 8% on Fri after the company warned its full year profit was likely to be \$5 million lower than expected (**PD** breaking news).

The update confirmed that sales were "more challenging given general industry conditions and our ongoing focus on enforcing consistent brand standards to improve brand performance".

CEO Mark Hooper said the company now anticipated its 2018 full year underlying earnings would be about \$90m - \$5 million less than current forecasts.

He said steps had been taken



to enhance sales performance and market share growth in the second half, to help overcome

the impact of general market conditions and provide momentum into FY2019.

"This will continue to drive stronger like for like performance from Sigma's brands," Hooper said.

Further details will be provided early next month when Sigma announces its half year results.

Fri's price drop means SIG shares are down more than 33% since the start of the year.

Aspen's voriconazole

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has posted an Australian Public Assessment Report (AusPAR) for Aspen's generic voriconazole, marketed as Vorcon in both oral and IV forms and approved for certain fungal infections - see tga.gov.au.

Glucjel Express prize

FULL-TIME mother Amy Edwards, living on a small hobby farm in Tasmania, has won the \$20,000 top prize in the Glucjel Express Yourself competition.

The Gold Cross Products *Express Yourself with Glucjel* competition (**PD** 03 Apr) asked consumers to display artistic talents using Glucjel jelly beans as their 'paint'.

Win with Dreambaby®

This week Pharmacy Daily and Dreambaby® are giving readers the chance to win each day an On-the-Go Denim-Look Strollerbuddy® bag.

These new on-trend bags from Dreambaby® in a choice of blue and grey have been designed with both form and function in mind. Attractive and versatile, they are made with handy mesh and fabric pockets plus storage for two drink holders/bottles and much more. You will be able to fit all the essentials needed for life with little ones from nappies to bottles to wipes plus a change of clothes with room to spare! The On-the-Go Dreambaby® Strollerbuddy® Bags are perfect for running mums as well as mums on the run! For more visit www.dreambaby.com.au



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

Why do you need this Dreambaby® On-the-Go Denim-Look Strollerbuddy® bag?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is Nivi Kent, Locum Recruitment Consultant at Raven's Recruitment.



Go rural, get the experience!

I WAS recently speaking with a long-term locum of ours, who said whenever she goes to a pharmacy to locum and gets talking to a student or intern pharmacist she always gives them this advice: "Go out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself. Go rural or country to experience pharmacy because you will never get that kind of experience in the city or if you stick to where you are most comfortable". I believe that is some of the best advice for pharmacists that I've heard. Many rural employers are offering excellent salary packages with additional benefits not seen in metropolitan pharmacies. You might go from finishing your internship, directly to the daily management of a pharmacy. This kind of experience gives you a huge advantage over someone working in the city who may not be able to move up as quickly with an established hierarchy already in place.

We've had pharmacists who have worked rural for 2-3 years and when they were ready to come back to the city, had absolutely no trouble securing a management position straight away. The experience they gained, the friends they made and the financial benefit for their future was invaluable.

So why not consider going rural the next time you're looking for a change?