

\$6.3m hit for Corum

CORUM Group Limited has confirmed it expects to recognise a "non-cash net impairment charge for goodwill" of approximately \$6.3 million in its full year accounts which will be released this week.

The figure reflects Corum's expectation that the upcoming launch of its new Corum Clear suite of products will, over time, "impact the returns of the legacy products to which goodwill relates".

The company said the Corum Clear project is now well advanced, with market response to early prototypes "extremely positive".

"The Corum Clear product suite is designed to be best of breed, encompassing a contemporary new dispense system, leading-edge cloud reporting platform, update Point of Sale and head office store management tools," Corum said.

The impairment is a non-cash item with no impact on EBITDA.

Vic pharmacist reprimand

A 29-YEAR-OLD Victorian pharmacist has been formally reprimanded by the state's Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT), in a case referred by the Pharmacy Board of Australia in relation to self-administration of oxycodone and alprazolam.

The pharmacist, who was first registered in 2013, began taking the drugs after a rib injury and then continued, citing family conflicts and the pressures of working as a registered pharmacist.

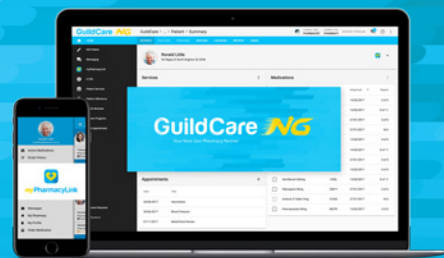
An investigation found he had misappropriated significant quantities of S8 drugs, peaking at 58 Oxynorm 20mg capsules daily in 2014.

The pharmacist was subsequently charged and pleaded guilty in Feb 2016 to nine charges, with no conviction recorded and a Community Corrections Order

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imposed with conditions requiring him to undergo addiction therapy, random drug testing and mental health assessment.

Later that year the Pharmacy Board determined the pharmacist's behaviour constituted professional misconduct and formally referred the matter to VCAT.

At a VCAT hearing last month he admitted to the conduct and further agreed that it constituted professional misconduct and was contrary to a pharmacist's professional obligations.

The hearing noted a number of attempts to seek help, with a formal statement finding the pharmacist had a very low likelihood of re-offending and excellent prospects of rehabilitation.

The Tribunal accepted the pharmacist's expression of genuine remorse, issuing a reprimand and finding that should he re-apply to the Pharmacy Board of Australia for registration he should be required to undergo independent psychiatric assessment.

Any registration granted must also contain a condition requiring a minimum of nine months of supervised practice without access to controlled drugs.

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Oh Baby! recalled

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised of a consumer-level recall of several products distributed in Australia through a firm called M Distribution.

Affected items include Oh Baby! capsules, JO LMax Extra tablets and RUFF Natural Formula 10,000mg capsules, with the TGA saying they contain substances that cannot be supplied without a prescription.

TGA testing of the products found they variously contained tadalafil, sildenafil, dapoxetine and dimethylaminoethanol (DMAE or Deanol), with supply of the items illegal in Australia.

Affected retailers are being advised to contact M Distribution on 07 5522 1950 to arrange returns.

New report reveals pharmacist stress factors



THE Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS) has released a new report on the stress and wellbeing of pharmacists, interns and pharmacy students, with the document outlined to a group of industry leaders earlier this month.

The Australian-first study was funded by the Pharmacy Board of Australia and conducted by Emeritus Professor Colin Chapman together with Master Research Australasia and the Pharmacists' Support Service.

Participants reported higher stress levels than the general population, with those aged under 30 and with less than ten years experience reporting the most stress.

While almost half (45%) of the respondents were satisfied with their professional role as a pharmacist and with their workplace environment (42%), only 30% of the pharmacists were satisfied with their workload.

Half of the respondents had

observed behaviours in other pharmacists that "depart from accepted professional standards" while 26% reported they were "expected to practice as a pharmacist in a manner which is a departure from accepted professional standards and this causes them to feel stressed".

Barriers to seeking help in relation to stress and workplace issues included fears of reprisal, stigma and of feeling intimidated or embarrassed - while job security was also a key factor for some.

Even though members of the pharmacy workforce have ready access to substances that may be abused, there appeared to be very low prevalence of this "maladaptive coping behaviour" and the same

applied to the use of alcohol.

A range of intervention strategies suggested the inclusion of coping techniques in pharmacy education programs, and an emphasis on barriers to seeking help when stressful situations arise.

Pictured above at the forum at which the findings were released are, from left: John Jackson, Monash University; Gillian Swinnerton, PSS; PSA president Shane Jackson; SHPA ceo Kristen Michaels; Pharmacy Guild president George Tambassis; John Coppock, PSS president; Kay Dunkley, PSS executive officer; Professor Colin Chapman, Monash University; Jacki Baulch, Professional Pharmacists Australia; & Sally Wilson and David Wilson, Master Research Australia.

Win with aquamamma®

This week, Pharmacy Daily and aquamamma® are giving away each day a prize pack including Mixed Berry, Orange, and Lemon formulated beverages.

aquamamma® was developed by an Australian obstetrician to help meet the hydration needs of pregnant, birthing and breastfeeding women. It has been formulated with added folic acid, is also low in sugar and sodium and contains natural colours and sweeteners. aquamamma® is an ideal beverage to help meet your daily hydration needs and comes in three great tasting flavours! **CLICK HERE** to find out more.



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

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INR warning for DAAs with warfarin

NEW Zealand's Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority (Medsafe) has issued a safety advisory about potential INR changes in patients using direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) along with warfarin.

Recent evidence indicates INR levels may decrease when the hepatitis and anticoagulation medications are used together, with health professionals urged to increase the frequency of INR monitoring in these cases and make adjustment when necessary.

HPS Pharmacies

Pharmacist in Charge

Calvary Bruce Private Hospital - ACT

HPS Pharmacies, Australia's leading hospital pharmacy provider, is seeking a Pharmacist in Charge to take on a new role with us in the Calvary Bruce Private Hospital.

As the Pharmacist in Charge, you will provide leadership and management of the pharmacy. Whilst hospital experience is desirable, importantly, your communication and customer service skills are key to your success in this role.

Why not have a confidential conversation with us about this opportunity? We'd appreciate the opportunity to hear from you and discuss what you're looking for in your pharmacy management career.

Further details, can be found at www.hps.com.au/careers via the "Employment Opportunities" tab.

For more information please call Peter Magdopoulos, Regional Operations Manager on 0413 552 831 ASAP during business hours. To apply, visit www.hps.com.au/careers.

Dispensary Corner

FANCY a cup of tea?

Possibly not while staying in a hotel room, if a warning issued via Twitter is any indication.

US technology website Gizmodo has highlighted the issue of people apparently using in-room kettles to boil their underwear.

The site spotted a tweet asking "Real question: does anyone I know clean their underwear in a kettle while travelling?" - and apparently similar mentions of unmentionables have been spotted on Chinese social media site Weibo.

Gizmodo cited Dr Heather Hendrickson, a senior lecturer in molecular biosciences at Auckland's Massey University, as saying the practice is "super, super, super, super gross".

She said there are some bacteria resistant to high temperatures that could be damaging to people's health if they come in contact with them.

"Who knows how long that water, with nutrients that have been introduced and then sterilised, sits around in the kettle before someone else uses it," Hendrickson asked.

LAST week's solar eclipse in the USA came with plenty of warnings not to look directly at the sun.

While there doesn't seem to have been a spike in scorched eyeballs, there have been quite a number of patients presenting at emergency rooms after putting sunblock in their eyes.

A nurse practitioner in Wisconsin was quoted by *Channel 3000* TV confirming some clients "that put sunscreen on their eyeball...they were referred to an ophthalmologist," she said.

Stada Australia BioQ deal

STADA Pharmaceuticals Australia Pty Ltd has announced a new agreement with San Francisco-based BioQ Pharma Incorporated for the commercialisation of three ready-to-use infusion pharmaceuticals in Australia and New Zealand.

The collaboration includes Ropivacaine ReadyFusOR, an opioid sparing post-surgical pain therapy as well as two other product candidates.

Ropivacaine ReadyFusOR, which was recently approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, is a single-use infusion product which is pre-filled with 0.2% Ropivacaine, activated by a single touch at the point of care.

Stada Australia managing director Gary Clark said the company welcomed the opportunity to partner with BioQ to launch the products locally.

"The addition of these exciting products to our portfolio will

enhance our reputation as a provider of quality healthcare, leading to improved patient outcomes," he said.

Stada Australia is a wholly-owned subsidiary of publicly listed German pharmaceutical manufacturer Stada Arzneimittel AG which employs almost 11,000 people worldwide.

BioQ Pharma is a privately held specialty pharmaceutical company which focuses on developing and commercialising ready-to-use infusible pharmaceuticals via its proprietary unit-dose systems.

Rare cancers

THE Federal Government has announced a major funding boost to support research into rare cancers as part of its \$20 billion Medical Research Future Fund commitment.

Brain cancer disproportionately affects young people, killing more people under 25 years in Australia than any other cancer, and new genetic testing that aims to transform brain tumour classification, treatment and ultimately survival, will become available to children with brain cancer, effective 31 Oct.

AIM BRAIN is a four-year study, part of \$79 million for cancer research, giving Australian children access to international research collaborations of paediatric brain cancer led by the Australian New Zealand Children's Haematology and Oncology Group, and will also be co-funded by the Robert Connor Dawes Foundation.

In addition, \$13 million is now available for competitive research grants from the Medical Research Future Fund, designed to boost clinical trial and registry activity with priority given to under-researched health priorities, such as rare cancers and rare diseases.

API laser withdrawal

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries this morning confirmed it had pulled out of the process for the potential acquisition of Laser Clinics Australia (**PD** 07 Aug).

API ceo Richard Vincent said while the combination of Laser Clinics and API was highly attractive, "at the likely sale price the potential acquisition would not meet required investment hurdle rates".

He said there were still many opportunities in the existing API business to further improve performance, with the company set to "continue to focus investment behind its core retail pharmacy assets for growth".

He said API would also keep assessing relevant acquisition opportunities as they arise.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is Amy Filicetti, Recruitment Consultant at Raven's Recruitment.



Don't burn your bridges – Part 2

SO HOW do you best exit a position without burning any of your professional bridges? In terms of how to actually break the bad news to the relevant person, you'll need to have a conversation with them face-to-face. (In other words, no, you can't slip your resignation letter under their door and then go and hide in the dispensary). And while we are on the topic, don't even think of resigning via text message!!!

Have the face-to-face talk first, not letting anger or other emotions rule and follow up with a brief, courteous resignation letter.

You might be chomping at the bit to rise to your next challenge, but it's important that you give your current employer ample notice so they can source and train a suitable replacement. Your employment contract will outline your required notice period.

Remember the experience you gained in this role has helped in directing you onto the next role, so don't allow yourself to check out mentally after you resign - it's vital to continue being a productive and valuable asset to your team and current employer right up until you clock off for the last time.