



New DHS website

THE Department of Human Services (DHS) has announced the publishing of its new-look website for health professionals.

The update is intended to be completely seamless with any bookmarks you may have set remaining in place, but the new design improving navigation and search functions.

There is rewritten content about our payments and services, and mobile users will find accessing the site much easier, the DHS says.

The new site is the result of consultation with more than 2,500 people from metropolitan, rural and remote communities, with each element of the design tested to ensure it is useful and usable.

A trial site has been beta-tested alongside the current version, attracting over 57,000 visits and 1,800 items of feedback.

Online accounts and other tools such as Payment and Service Finder are not part of this change the department has explained.

Go to humanservices.gov.au.

Blackmores profit dives

BLACKMORES has described 2016/17 as a "rebalancing year" after two years of exceptional growth, this morning reporting a 42% decline in net profit after tax to \$58 million.

The company was particularly impacted by a slump in sales to Chinese entrepreneurs previously purchasing through Australian retailers, who stopped in response to speculation about potential regulatory changes in China.

Blackmores Australia and NZ sales amounted to \$372 million, down 23%, due to Chinese tourists and exporters changing buying patterns.

Total group sales amounted to \$693m, down 3%, with outgoing ceo Christine Holgate saying "after a turbulent start to the year, we are pleased with our recent performance".

She said expenses had been restructured to reflect the current trading environment and tightly managed inventory and cash to finish the year with a strong balance sheet.

Holgate said the demand for Blackmores products in China had remained strong, although the route to serve it had changed, with the company responding by

strengthening its export team and in-country China business.

Direct China sales rose 71% to \$132 million, with Holgate saying the country accounted for about \$250m in total including estimated sales through Australian retail.

In Australia the retail environment saw a return to market competition and normalised levels of trading terms, which diminished profits.

Key initiatives included managing costs and investing savings in new areas such as the new online education platform (**PD** 15 Aug).

Newly appointed ceo Richard Henfrey said Blackmores had also invested in a world class distribution centre and new technology platforms that will support anticipated growth, "including additional volumes from our emerging businesses in Asia".

Metformin XR supply

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has confirmed the shortage of metformin extended release tablets has been resolved.

Diabex XR brands, Diaformin XR brands, Meter XR, Chemmart, APO and Terry White generics are now all available - details at tga.gov.au.

CMA salutes Chinese

COMPLEMENTARY Medicines Australia (CMA) has extended a warm welcome to a Chinese delegation visiting Australia for the upcoming CMA Innovation Seminar & Supplier Expo, Annual Conference and Industry Awards, 25-26 Oct this year in Sydney.

CMA ceo Carl Gibson said, "CMA has successfully led Australian delegations to China during the past 12 months, and these visits have underlined the growing importance of our friendship and the building of professional networks with our Chinese counterparts."

"The delegation, led by the China Chamber of Commerce for Import & Export of Medicines & Health Products, aims to promote greater engagement between Chinese stakeholders and members of the Australian CMs industry."

"It is invaluable to support trade delegations from China to Australia, especially to attend events such as the innovation expo and annual conference."

"The demand for complementary medicines is growing rapidly in China as an increasingly health-conscious population take a strong interest in their health and wellbeing."

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Two scholarships @ \$2.5K

PHARMACY Cricket has announced that applications for two \$2,500 scholarships are open from 01 Sep - and you don't have to play cricket to be eligible.

Pharmacy students attending any Australian university are invited to request application criteria by emailing hodgsong@bigpond.com or alternatively peteror37@bigpond.com.

Last year's two outstanding applicants, who won against a strong field of



applications from across Australia, were Renae Lloyd and Will Clayton (pictured).

Renae is a fourth year honours student at the University of South Australia, is the PSA liaison on the SA NAPSA committee, Renae also enjoys fitness through both netball and tennis.

Will is a fourth year student at Sydney University.



He plays cricket, rugby, swimming and athletics, is involved in music and is recognised as a keen team player and leader.

Will has represented NSW on a number of occasions at the National Pharmacy Cricket Carnival.

Winners receive \$2,500 toward the cost of their studies through the support of Pharmacy Cricket sponsors - for more information see pharmacycricket.com.au.

Not so horny

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued an alert about Rhino 9 capsules.

Testing found they contained the prescription-only product sildenafil and pose a health risk to consumers in Australia.

Whooping cough vax

THE Pharmacy Guild has highlighted the readiness of ACT pharmacists to administer the whooping cough vaccine, after the release of new data which indicated the nation's capital had the highest incidence of pertussis in Australia in the first quarter of 2017.

Guild ACT Branch president Amanda Galbraith said, "Currently 37 Canberra pharmacies have pharmacists trained and are ready to administer whooping cough vaccination to adults."

New regulations now position highly accessible community pharmacies to provide a broader range of vaccination services to benefit public health, she said.

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Nail infection advance

PHARMACISTS have a new weapon in their arsenal to treat fungal nail infections with the release of a new and improved applicator pen to the Excilor range of over-the-counter therapy.



The new Excilor Pen is odour-free, fast-drying and closes air-tight to prevent drying-out.

The easy to use Pen, which is often preferred by men and younger patients, allows Excilor to be applied quickly to the nail, providing fast, effective treatment for persistent fungal nail infection.

The product is enriched with biotene and nail lipids to help rebuild damaged nail structure and help protect against re-infection.

Xanax Valium alert

COMMON anxiolytics including Xanax and Valium have been implicated in half of all non-fatal injected drug overdoses according to a new study from the University of Queensland.

The Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre interviewed people from four Needle and Syringe Program sites who had accidentally overdosed in the previous year to find that benzodiazepines were a greater contributing factor to overdoses than alcohol.

Participants were typically male and taking prescribed drugs as well as cannabis - **CLICK HERE** to access.

Guild Quit module

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has partnered with Pfizer Australia to develop a pharmacists' online course titled 'Engage your customers to successfully cease smoking'.

The CPD accredited module examines key barriers to smoking cessation and compares the efficacy and safety of the pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies that are available to treat nicotine dependence.

The course also outlines the key elements to successful implementation of a pharmacy-led smoking cessation service based on the findings of a two-year smoking cessation trial run in the ACT.

ACT Pharmacy Guild Branch president Amanda Galbraith, said the program run by the ACT Branch, and this online course, clearly demonstrated the "important role that community pharmacy played in assisting our patients to successfully quit".

Visit myCPD.org.au to enrol.

UK drone deliveries

AN ONLINE pharmacy in the UK is hoping to use airborne drones to deliver medication to patients in remote areas, with Med Express seeking permission from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency for permission.

A controlled trial in Kent has already tested drone delivery of emergency contraceptives, while the company also believes there is likely to be strong demand for drone uplift deliveries of erectile dysfunction medications.

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 QLD to send the correct answer to the question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

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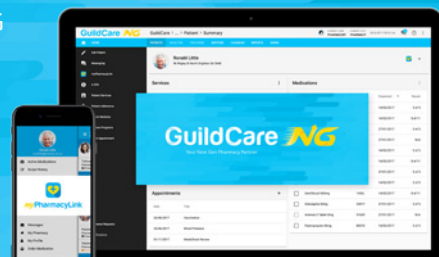
Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Michelle Hyatt from Alphapharm.

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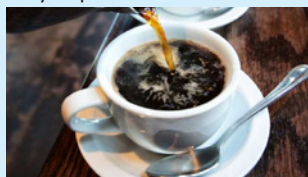


Dispensary Corner

ACCORDING to a new study done by Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, if you are trying to lose weight, then you may have to cut down on coffee consumption, as it may trigger the temptation for sweet treats.

During the study, the researchers found that caffeine not only boosts alertness, but also reduces a person's perception of sweetness, which may make them desire more for such flavours.

The results reveal that people find caffeinated drinks less sweet, suggesting that coffee changes how you perceive taste.



WHILE getting on the plane first for your flight may be exciting, experts have found it dramatically increases the risk of infection if another passenger is unwell.

Researchers from Arizona State University made the discovery after studying plane-boarding scenarios to see how infection spreads if one passenger is sick.

They found if a sick passenger seated in 16B boarded after everyone in front of them had taken their seat, the other travellers were more likely to catch an infection.

Sitting in the aisle was also bad if you wanted to avoid catching a disease from a fellow traveller.

They said using a two-zone boarding process, seating half the plane from the front and half from the back, would lower passenger contact by 27%.

CSL seals stem cell deal

AUSTRALIAN-LISTED

biotech firm CSL has announced that its CSL Behring offshoot will acquire Calimmune, a US-based stem cell biotechnology company with R&D facilities in Pasadena, California and Sydney, Australia.

The \$91m deal will provide CSL Behring with Calimmune's pre-clinical asset, CAL-H, an "hematopoietic stem cell" (HSC) gene therapy for the treatment of sickle cell disease and β-thalassemia, which complements CSL Behring's current product portfolio and deep expertise in haematology.

In addition, CSL Behring will acquire two unique proprietary platform technologies, Select+ and Cytegrity, technologies designed to address some of the major challenges currently associated with the commercialisation of stem cell therapy, including the ability to manufacture consistent, high-quality products, and to improve engraftment, efficacy and tolerability, the company said.

"Calimmune shares in our promise and focus to improve



the lives of patients with rare and serious medical conditions," said CSL Limited ceo and md Paul Perreault. "While Calimmune is still in the early stages,

we believe that our combined strengths have tremendous potential to change treatment paradigms, and most importantly, significantly improve the lives of our patients."

Calimmune ceo Louis Breton said he was excited to become part of CSL Behring, saying "Together, we are well positioned to take our achievements to the next level".

Both proprietary technologies have the potential to be used in treatments for a wide range of other rare diseases that would complement CSL Behring's business, including those in its current product portfolio, the announcement said.

US pharmacist opioid conviction

A PHARMACIST from New Jersey in the USA has been convicted of illegally distributing and dispensing oxycodone from two pharmacies that he owned.

Michael Ludwikowski, 45, was convicted after a trial heard evidence that he knowingly sold opioids to customers with fake prescriptions, or to individuals whom he knew to be addicts.

Acting US Attorney William E. Fitzpatrick said the pharmacist "didn't just fail in his professional responsibilities: he actively contributed to the opioid crisis".

Customers who used the fraudulent prescriptions "generally paid in cash and provided gifts" to the pharmacist and his colleagues.

New A-Z Australia ceo

LIZ Chatwin has been appointed as head of AstraZeneca in Australia, replacing incumbent Paul Spittle effective from 01 Oct this year.

Chatwin returns to Australia after a range of overseas roles with the company, most recently as Country President for AstraZeneca Korea where she has been since 2013.



Guild Update

Managing fever in infants and toddlers

PARENTS commonly present to a pharmacy seeking advice on how to manage fever in infants and younger children.

Because of their accessibility, pharmacists are ideally placed to provide treatment options for fever in children, as well as identifying when referral to a general practitioner is necessary.

Guild Learning and Development is partnering with RB in the development of a CPD-accredited online course titled Managing fever in infants and toddlers.

This course examines infant and toddler fever, and reviews the pharmacological and non-pharmacological management options available.

The course also compares the efficacy and tolerability of paracetamol and ibuprofen in the treatment of paediatric fever.

To enrol in this course please visit www.mycpd.org.au.

DAA claims now due

CLAIMS under the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement for Dose Administration Aids and Staged Supply services must now be submitted monthly, meaning claims for services provided in Jul 2017 are due by this Thu, 31 Aug.

The claim submission process is similar to previous arrangements, but the separation of DAAs from Clinical Interventions means pharmacies must now provide the number of DAAs packed for eligible patients during the period.

See www.6cpa.com.au.