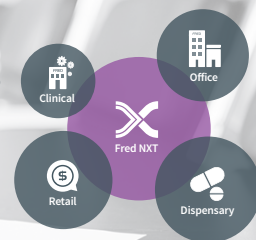


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## Teething gel OK - TGA

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration says it has not identified any quality issues in samples of teething gels, after undertaking testing following an alert issued by the US Food and Drug Administration (**PD** 20 Oct).

While the FDA this week issued a formal warning about elevated and inconsistent levels of belladonna in some homeopathic teething gels sold in the USA (**PD** Mon), the TGA found that "levels of atropine, the primary alkaloid present in belladonna, were found to be well below the cut-off for this type of product of 300 parts per billion."

"Based on these results no further regulatory action will be taken," the TGA said.

## FDA Trumped?

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has received some special attention from President Donald Trump when he told pharmaceutical company CEOs Tuesday that his administration would be "cutting regulations at a level no one has ever seen before".

Industry group PhRMA members, Merck, Novartis, Johnson & Johnson, Celgene and others, heard Trump talking of streamlining the approval process - as well as reiterating his intention to "significantly lower drug prices".

Referring to FDA's rulemakings, guidance and other regulations, "Instead of it being 9,000 pages, it'll be 100 pages," Trump said.

Between 75% and 80% of all FDA regulations will be eliminated, he added, without specifying which.

## WA funds real-time ERRCD

**WESTERN** Australia Health has announced it will overhaul the state's current pharmaceutical prescription monitoring system, with \$1m allocated for the purpose.

The funding will be used to replace the current Monitoring of Drugs of Dependence System (MODDS) with a modified Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs (ERRCD).

WA Health chief pharmacist Neil Keen said the current MODDS was almost 20 years old and unable to be upgraded to meet current business needs.

"The ERRCD is a base system, available via free sub-licence from the Australian Government, that supports real time data transmission from pharmacies,

online access to health professionals and administrative and compliance activities by regulators," Keen explained.

The system is made up of three components: a regulator portal to support poisons legislation, real-time reporting for secure dispensing of controlled drugs through integration with pharmacy dispensing systems, and a health practitioner portal providing secure up to date information on patient dispensing histories.

The new system should be up and running by late 2018, with training and support available to pharmacists and prescribers closer to the date, WA Health said.

## DJ Health Group sold

**VICTORIAN** manufacturer DJ Health Group has been sold for an undisclosed sum to a group of private investors based in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Founded by pharmacist Sunny Dhillon in 2003, the company's brands include Blossom Health which is marketed via pharmacy, health food and grocery channels in Australia as well as having a wide distribution network across Asia.

Incoming managing director Marc Robson foreshadowed significant investment in the Blossom brand including a national advertising campaign to commence this year.

"We aim to build the Blossom brand into a household name very quickly," he said.

## Diversity key for Guild

**PHARMACY** Guild executive director David Quilty says there are not enough women involved in the organisation's leadership, with this year's elections of Branch Committee members and National Councillors an opportunity to redress the balance.

Writing in the Guild's regular *Forefront* newsletter yesterday, Quilty urged female pharmacy owners to stand for positions, with the hope that in a year's time the situation is much more representative.

A Guild action plan to increase diversity also includes actively encouraging people from diverse ethnic backgrounds to become involved in the organisation's affairs and leadership, he added.

## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today brings you two pages of news plus a full page from **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia** flagship conference APP2017.

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## Dispensary Corner

**SURGEONS** in the USA have performed a medical miracle, successfully implanting a pacemaker into the abdomen of a four-year-old ferret.

The operation took place at Kansas State University, after the creature, named Zelda, presented at the local Veterinary Health Centre just after Christmas with a "third-degree block in her heart".

Apparently this meant the ferret had a low heartbeat and a lack of energy - but now that there's a little electronic gadget helping things along she is expected to enjoy a normal ferret lifespan of about ten years.



**STARLIGHT** Foundation take note - a seriously ill teenager in the US has fulfilled one of her dreams by zapping a policeman with a taser.

16-year-old leukaemia victim Alyssa Elkins came up with the shocking idea a few weeks ago as part of a bucket list compiled when her condition worsened and she decided not to undergo further treatment.

Elkins, from Newark, Ohio, underwent a brief training session before firing the taser at Sergeant Doug Blin, one of the police who volunteered for the task.

"It is unpleasant to say the least, but if for five seconds it makes somebody's kind of dream come true, especially in her situation, I think it was well worth it," he said.

For her part, Alyssa described the experience as "awesome".

## 'Must attend' 2017 event

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced that more than 50 international and local presenters will discuss major pharmacy issues at PSA17, its flagship annual conference set for 28-30 Jul.

To showcase the three-day global conference in Sydney, with the theme of Leading Pharmacy Innovation, PSA has also launched a new website at [psa17.com](http://psa17.com) where the program, cost and accommodation details are available.

PSA will partner with the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA) to jointly host the PSA17 conference, which will be held at the same venue as last year's event, the newly-refurbished Hyatt Regency at Darling Harbour (formerly Four Points by Sheraton).

Key topics of relevance to pharmacy business in Australia will be addressed, including the roles of pharmacists with relation to the international antimicrobial resistance challenge, medicinal cannabis, women in leadership



both in Australia and globally, and the PSA's and Health Destination Pharmacy concept. PSA's Early Career Pharmacist (ECP) National

Board Director Taren Gill said, "We've built on all of the positive feedback we received from PSA16 - especially from ECPs - to ensure the 2017 conference will be bigger and better than ever".

"Partnering with CPA also provides a unique opportunity to network with pharmacists and other ECPs from all over the Commonwealth," she added.

## Meds advisory group

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has announced the composition of its Advisory Committee on Medicines (ACM), the group responsible for providing independent medical and scientific advice relating to the safety, quality and efficacy of medicines, including issues around pre-market and post-market functions.

Visit [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au) for more details.



## 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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## Win with wotnot

This week Pharmacy Daily and Wotnot are giving readers the chance to win a prize pack each day including Wotnot SPF30 Family Sunscreen- 150gm, Wotnot biodegradable travel wipes and a Wotnot tote bag - perfect for a beach day.

Wotnot products are GMO free and are also free from sulphates, petrochemicals, parabens, artificial preservatives and fragrances - 100% wots good, 0% wots not! Wotnot formulas are so close to nature we know your family will love them as much as you do. See more at [www.wotnot.com.au](http://www.wotnot.com.au)

To win, be the first person from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

What is the key ingredient found in all Wotnot facial wipes?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Kristy-Lee Albrecht from University of Western Australia.



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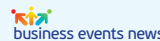
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