

MyHealth Record app

CONSUMERS who have registered for My Health Record (MyHR) can now access and view their data on mobile devices with the soft launch of the Healthi app, reports *Pulse+IT*.

The new offering is the first authorised consumer app to link into the national system since the My Child's eHealth Record app was released back in 2013.

Developed by Adelaide-based IT consulting firm Chamonix, Healthi accesses data through MyGov.

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Cannabis advisory group



A BROAD cross-section of medical and health representatives, including the national vice president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), have been appointed to the government's newly established Australian Advisory Council on the Medicinal Use of Cannabis.

Michelle Lynch, who joined the board of the PSA in 2014 and has been a pharmacist since 1996 working in hospital and community pharmacy, has been appointed as the pharmacy profession representative for the new council.

Pharmacologist Professor Jennifer Martin from the University of Newcastle, and drug toxicologist Professor Wayne Hall from the University of Queensland are also notable appointments with extensive drug expertise.

Patient advocacy representative appointments with a vested

interest in the value of cannabis for their patient groups include Liz Callaghan (Palliative Care Australia), Carol Ireland (Epilepsy Action Australia) and Professor Helen Zorbas (Cancer Australia).

Other members of the council have expertise in palliative care and pain, while there are also representatives of the Australian Federal Police and the NSW Department of Primary Industry.

Professor James Angus, Chair of Victorian Independent Medical Advisory Committee on Medicinal Cannabis, will chair the Council with deputy chair Emeritus Professor Anne Tonkin, Chair of South Australian Medication Advisory Committee while Ria Pryce from the Centre for Medicinal Cannabis Research and Innovation is the NSW Government nominee.

The Health Department said "the medicinal cannabis scheme allows for the safe cultivation and manufacture of medicinal cannabis products that will be safe to use and have standardised dosing [to] benefit adults and children suffering from painful and chronic conditions".

US psoriasis drug OK

THE US Food and Drug Administration has announced the approval of Valeant Pharmaceuticals' Siliq (brodalumab) injection for the treatment of adults with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis.

Brodalumab binds to a protein that causes inflammation, inhibiting the inflammatory response that plays a role in the development of the condition.

Under the authorisation, patients must sign a Patient-Prescriber Agreement Form because of an observed risk of suicidal ideation and behaviour associated with the medication.

In addition, pharmacies must be certified with the program and must only dispense to patients who are authorised to receive Siliq.

New Guild website

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has revealed further details of its new website (**PD** 19 Jan 2017).

Launching next month, the portal will "provide members with easy access to proven business support designed to help pharmacies grow their business through viable and effective professional services."

The Guild said its business support suite included a range of "easy-to-use diagnostic tools" including the Customer Experience Index, ScriptMAP 2020, Professional Service Viability Tool, Opportunity Analysis Tool and Health Advice Plus.

"We are focused on delivering the best support available to our members in the interests of a healthier community and a healthier bottom line," Guild executive director David Quilty said.

"Through these tools, we are assisting members identify current opportunities, target business areas that require attention and then provide the operational support to do something about it."

"Importantly, this new version of the website will allow genuine online engagement between the Guild and members," Quilty emphasised, with input monitored and collated to inform Guild policy.



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Qld dispensing catchup

RECENT changes to Queensland legislation mean that community pharmacies across Australia can now ensure the continued supply of some medicines to patients, according to an article in the latest Pharmacy Guild *Forefront*.

The adjustments to legislation in Queensland bring the state into line with the rest of the country under the Continued Dispensing of PBS Medicines in Defined Circumstances arrangements.

At this stage Continued Dispensing applies only to statins and oral contraceptives, allowing the continued supply of a single full pack (maximum PBS quantity).

The legislation provides for pharmacists to continue supply when "it is not practicable to obtain

a prescription, the medicine has been previously prescribed as a pharmaceutical benefit, therapy is stable and safe, and there has been prior clinical review by the prescriber that supports ongoing treatment."

The Guild said it believed Continued Dispensing could be extended to other medicines used for chronic health conditions, such as for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, asthma and mental health so that patients who meet the conditions can receive a full pack of their medicine as a PBS benefit, without the added stress of needing to see their GP within a few days to ensure ongoing treatment with that medicine.

The cost to the Federal Government was "negligible", the Guild said, and would address barriers to improved adherence.

Expansion of the scheme would also be of great value in times of catastrophe such as floods, fires and cyclones to ensure patients had ongoing supply.

CLICK HERE for more details.

PBS pause in March

THE Health Department has confirmed its intention to "pause" the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits next month, as part of a major system upgrade.

Because of this the full set of files and outputs will not be produced for the Mar 2017 schedule, with the current schedule to remain effective until the Apr 2017 schedule is published.

SAS consultation

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has launched a new consultation about proposed changes to accessing unapproved therapeutic goods via the Authorised Prescriber (AP) and Special Access Schemes (SAS).

Another initiative resulting from the government's response to the Review of Medicines and Medical Devices Regulation, the TGA is proposing the development of an online system to improve the pathways for access to unapproved therapeutic goods, which includes allowing applicants to enter information directly into the system.

An analysis of Authorised Prescriber applications shows that less than 1% were rejected, and those rejections arose because there was an alternative product included in the ARTG.

Of 20,000 Special Access Scheme category B (non-life-threatening) applications received annually just 0.3% were rejected - but despite this there was a high administrative burden for applicants and the TGA.

"The percentage of rejections identifies that a significant number of therapeutic goods currently used under the SAS B do not appear to pose an issue for public health and safety," the consultation document states.

Accordingly the TGA proposes to enable access to certain unapproved therapeutic goods via a notification process - rather than the current approval process.

Feedback on the proposals is sought, with a deadline for responses of 29 Mar 2017.

See tga.gov.au.

Blackmores launches fridge-free probiotics

BLACKMORES has announced the debut of a new range of six probiotics which do not require refrigeration and are "formulated based on scientific evidence".

"A specialised formulation process and packaging technology helps keep the good bacteria alive," the company says, with the items also including prebiotics and vitamins to complement the probiotics.

The Blackmores Probiotics+ range includes "Daily Health", "Kids Daily", "Immune Defence", "Eczema Relief", "Bowel Support" and "Women's Flora Balance" variants.

Advisory statements on the range include *Always read the label. Use only as directed. Vitamin supplements should not replace a balanced diet. If symptoms persist, see your healthcare professional.*

Win with dreambaby

This week Pharmacy Daily and Dreambaby® are giving readers the chance to win each day a Stroller Fan and Strollerbuddy® drink holder.

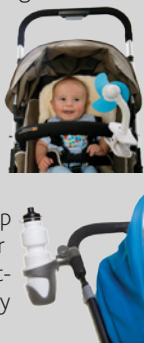
The Dreambaby® Stroller Fan, with its soft foam fins, is ideal to safely keep your baby or toddler cool and is the must-have travel accessory this summer.

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

How many colours do the Dreambaby® Strollerbuddy® Drink Holder come in?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Anita Graetz from Angaston Amcal Pharmacy.



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Dispensary Corner

ONLY in America.

A shortage of drugs used for executions carried out by lethal injection has led to a "bring your own" plan in Arizona.

A newly issued death row protocol states that lawyers for condemned inmates are invited to provide the drugs themselves.

"The inmate's counsel... may provide the department with pentobarbital or sodium pentothal if they can obtain it from a certified or licensed pharmacist, pharmacy, compound pharmacy, manufacturer or supplier," the protocol reads.

Lundbeck banned the use of pentobarbital in executions in 2011, while an attempt by Arizona to illegally import sodium pentothal from India in 2015 was blocked by customs officials in Phoenix, reports *The Guardian*.



AND probably in the same category, authorities on the US/Mexico border have dismantled a massive catapult which they believe was used to fling packages of drugs to smugglers.

The contraption was discovered by officers who saw some people running away from a border fence as they approached.

Searching the area revealed two large bundles of marijuana which had been hurled across from Mexico using the giant spring-loaded device.

Beauty Prescription success

PRICELINE Pharmacy hosted *The Beauty Prescription* last Friday showcasing health and beauty expertise to more than 170 media representing a record potential audience of 39 million people.

The largest event of its type in the health and beauty industries, this was the third time Priceline Pharmacy has managed the event.

"No other retailer in the country has hosted an event on this scale,



O'Keefe also spoke about Priceline Pharmacy's store network and its upcoming milestones for 2017 highlighting the opening of its 450th store and 300th pharmacy.

Three Priceline pharmacists presented on stage to preview the upcoming Mission Health campaign in May focussing on blood pressure awareness and then took part in the trade

show offering manual health checks and checks on the exclusive Digital Health Station (pictured above).



further cementing our position as Australia's leading health and beauty store," said Priceline gm of marketing Mark O'Keefe.

"Our unrivalled range contains some of the newest, innovative, often exclusive and most sought after products, with media and customers alike recognising that we are the number one destination for all their health & beauty needs," he added.

Mussel for ADHD

FATTY acids extracted from the New Zealand green-lipped mussel (*perna canaliculus*) may significantly reduce hyperactivity, learning problems and inattention in children with symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), according to new work out of Swinburne University of Technology.

The research was sponsored by the manufacturers of the mussel supplement Lyprinol.

CLICK HERE to access the study.

'Save our Sons' walk

IN A fund-raising and awareness-raising campaign called *Walk to Save Our Sons*, the father of a 12-year-old boy afflicted with Duchenne muscular dystrophy will walk 300 km over an 11-day period.

Elie Eid, father and founder of Save Our Sons, and other supporters, will walk around the Port Phillip Bay and for part of the way will push his son Emilio who was diagnosed with Duchenne in 2006.

The disease is a terminal severe muscle-wasting genetically inherited condition that affects one in 3,500 boys, and even more rarely in girls (**PD** 13 Feb 2017).

The campaign is supported by national partner Chemist Warehouse, with celebrity ambassador Johnny Ruffo on board. Visit saveoursons.org.au.



Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

3-5 Mar: Annual Therapeutic Update 2017; Crowne Plaza Terrigal; register here: www.psa.org.au

8 Mar: AACP Accredited Pharmacists' Forum: Quality Use of Medicines in the Management of Chronic Medical Conditions; CGold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre; more info at: www.aacp.com.au

9-12 Mar: APP 2017; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; for details visit: www.appconference.com

31 Mar-2 Apr: Extension Seminar in Clinical Medication Management; Novotel Melbourne; register here: www.shpa.org.au

29-30 Apr: Victorian Pharmacy Conference 2017; Monash University, Parkville; register here: www.psa.org.au

16-18 Jun: ConPharm 2017; Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart; find out more: www.aacp.com.au

28-30 Jul: PSA17; Hyatt Regency, Darling Harbour, Sydney; for details see: www.psa17.com

1-3 Sep: Pharmacy Connect; Hilton Hotel Sydney; register here: www.pharmacy-connect.com.au

26-28 Oct: Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; QT Gold Coast; for details see: www.pharmacyassistants.com

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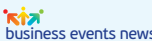
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