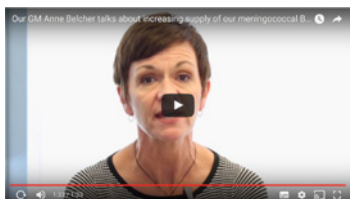




Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from Amcal+.

GSK vaccine video



GLAXOSMITHKLINE general manager Anne Belcher appears in a new video from the company in which she discusses the challenges of vaccine manufacture and GSK's efforts to increase supply.

Belcher confirms that recently there has been a global increase in demand for Bexsero (meningococcal B) vaccine which has also been reflected here, meaning supply to Australia isn't meeting current demand.

GSK is increasing supply by five times last year's volumes - see pharmacydaily.com.au/videos.

Grim UK warning

A LACK of understanding of the pharmacy sector by British politicians may ultimately see the end of community pharmacy in the UK, according to Cormac Tobin, md of Celesio UK which is the parent company of Lloydspharmacy.

Chemist and Druggist quoted Tobin urging Britain's health minister David Mowat to "evolve and develop the industry, or he will stand over its demise".

Penalty rates revolution

YESTERDAY'S Fair Work Commission decision to reduce penalty rates for pharmacy staff working on Sundays (**PD** breaking news) would clearly lead to wage cost savings for pharmacy owners, and a pay reduction for employees working those days, according to Mark Nicholson, partner at pharmacy specialist accounting firm Pitcher Pharmacy.

The Commission has ruled that 7am-9pm Sunday penalty rates for full and part-time pharmacy staff would be reduced from 200% to 150%, and for casuals from 225% to 175%.

Public holiday rates have also been adjusted, from 250% to 225% for full and part-time pharmacy staff and from 275% to 250% for casual employees.

Nicholson pointed out that an issue may be "that there will be sufficient staff willing and able to work at the reduced rates" - otherwise pay would have to increase to attract and retain staff.

The community will benefit from the flow-on effect of more pharmacies being able to open, or open longer, on weekends, Nicholson noted - which in turn should lead to broader economic benefits, and in the medium-to-long term pharmacy staff will benefit from greater business stability for their employer, he said.

The Pharmacy Guild also welcomed the ruling, describing it as "reasonable, balanced and evidence-based".

A Guild spokesperson said the decision was a sensible way forward that balanced the interests of patients, pharmacy staff and pharmacy small businesses.

"It has never been in anyone's interest for pharmacies to be unable to open on Sundays or public holidays... this decision will help pharmacies to meet community expectations that they will be able to access vital health services seven days a week."



The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia acknowledged the decision, and urged owners to continue paying employee pharmacists above award rates.

"It must be remembered that community pharmacies are not like other retail settings," said PSA president Joe Demarte.

"Pharmacists are health professionals and their contribution needs to be recognised and remunerated in a different way to that of other retail workers".

Demarte noted that pharmacists who work on weekends routinely provided care that keeps people from presenting unnecessarily to emergency departments.

Union group **Professional Pharmacists Australia** blasted the decision as undermining the vital service pharmacists provide.

"The rate of pay for pharmacists is already too low, and this cut to penalty rates will put further downward pressure on pharmacists," said PPA president Geoff March.

Risk mgt submissions

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has released the four submissions that were made relating to the draft document *Risk management plans for medicines and biologicals - Australian requirements and recommendations*.

Submissions were received from Biotherapeutics Association of Australasia (BAA), Johnson & Johnson (J&J), Novartis Pharmaceuticals Australia and Pfizer Australia.

Visit tga.gov.au for submissions.

New software alliance

THE Medical Software Industry Association (MSIA) is set to merge with the Aged Care IT Vendors Association (ACIVA), with the aim of providing a united voice for the health and aged care IT sector in Australia.

ACIVA was established in 2009 with the aim of representing the aged and community care sectors and IT vendors working in the area at various national forums in relation to strategic developments and e-health.

Merging with MSIA will see the organisation extend its role helping members "navigate the complex digital health environment in Australasia".

The Pharmacy Guild signed an agreement with the MSIA late last year (**PD** 15 Dec 2016), with a Memorandum of Understanding detailing the common objective to support community pharmacies in performing their role via specifically tailored pharmacy software.



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Jobs of the Week

- **Dispensary Tech** - Northern Rivers of NSW (Job# 200013164)
Bring your surf board + golf clubs fab beachside needs exp'd DT.
- **Dispensary Tech (Aged Care)** - Melbourne East, VIC (Job# 200013786)
F/t role with an award winning employer where you will focus on RACF support.
- **Pharmacist** - Country South QLD (Job# 200000372)
Early Career Team Pharmacist with Professional Services Focus - close to Bris

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Telstra Health cancer register delay

THE start date of the proposed National Cancer Screening Register to be developed by Telstra Health (**PD** 27 May 2016) has been delayed "due to the complexity of assimilating and migrating data from eight state and territory cancer registers".

Commonwealth chief medical officer, Professor Brendon Murphy, announced the postponement yesterday, saying "it is now apparent that based on the current schedule the Register will not be ready in time for the publicised commencement dates".

Previously it had been planned to launch the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program register on 20 Mar 2017, and the National Cervical Cancer Screening program by early May.

Other factors contributing to the delay include "a lengthy pause during the federal election" as well

as later than expected passage of the enabling legislation.

Murphy said the Health Department and its program partners remained firmly committed to delivering the Register "as early as possible within the 2017 calendar year" with a firm timeframe remaining a key priority.

Telstra Health operates a range of e-health technology businesses including holding a 50% stake alongside the Pharmacy Guild in pharmacy dispensing software specialist Fred IT.

Specialty cancer pharmacy locations

US PHARMACY giant Walgreens has this week designated more than fifty of its local specialty pharmacies across America as "cancer-specialised" locations.

Each of the locations will be led by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who have advanced cancer training and expertise with a commitment to making sure patients get the medications and answers they need.

"It is increasingly the case that a pharmacist, either over the phone, in person or via a mobile or web chat, will have



the last conversation with a patient prior to the initiation of their oral therapies," said Matthew Farber, Walgreens senior director for oncology disease state management.

"With the continued advances in new oral therapies for cancer care, our pharmacists at these specialty locations are playing an integral role in working with patients' physicians, nurses, social workers and financial counsellors," he said.

\$4m for gut research

THE Federal Government this week confirmed it would provide \$4 million in funding for Australia's first dedicated micro gut health research centre.

The new Microbiome Research Centre at Sydney's St George and Sutherland Hospital campus will investigate microbiota in the gut, looking at how disturbance occurs and then how it causes disease - a critical step in preventing it happening in the first place.

A statement from health minister Greg Hunt said it was estimated that half the Australian population would complain of a digestive problem over the next 12 months, with some imbalances in biota connected to a range of conditions including stroke, asthma, obesity, diabetes, mental health and pre-eclampsia in pregnant women.

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New chair for FGB



FELTON Grimwade & Bosisto's Pty Ltd has appointed Neil Kearney as its new non-executive chairman.

The move is effective immediately, with Kearney replacing the company's owner Peter Abbott in the chairmanship role.

Abbott, who will remain a director and an active member of the board, said Kearney was suitably qualified and experienced to lead FGB Natural Products forward.

"I'm confident that Neil will continue the strong growth of the company and that he will continue our good standing with customers, suppliers and regulators," he said.

Kearney has extensive experience in the agribusiness and food industries, including former senior executive roles with Warrnambool Cheese & Butter, Goodman Fielder and National Foods.

He is also currently non-executive chairman of ASX-listed Huon Aquaculture Group Ltd.

Flexible aged care

MINISTER for Aged Care, Ken Wyatt, yesterday announced 475 Short-Term Restorative Care places, described as "an innovative new form of flexible aged care that will help older people remain in their own homes for longer after injury or illness".

Wyatt said \$34.7 million in funding for the program would help patients manage daily tasks and maintain their independence, offering short term care packages of up to eight weeks to help them get back on their feet.

More information on the new funding package is at health.gov.au.

Pot stocks get higher

AUSTRALIAN listed marijuana company stocks surged dramatically this week on the back of the relaxation of importation restrictions (**PD** yesterday).

Creso Pharma (+8%), MMJ Phytotech (+9%) and AusCann (up 24%) were among the winners, benefiting from the news.

The global market for medical marijuana is estimated in North America and Europe at US\$270b while Australia's market is heading towards \$50b by 2018.

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Dispensary Corner

A MALE inventor in the US believes he has done away with the need for sanitary napkins and tampons with his new invention which literally glues the vagina together when women have their menstrual cycle.

Dr Daniel Dopps of Kansas who is a chiropractor by trade was granted a US patent last month for his Mensez Feminine Lip-Stick.

The product, made of amino acids and oil, is applied to the labia and breaks down when it comes into contact with urine.

"Upon urinating the seal releases and allows the urine along with the menstrual fluid to exit into the toilet," he explains.

Many horrified women have taken to the internet to express their disgust at the invention.



MEMBERS of the Bald Men Club in Tsuruta City Japan have held a special gathering to show off their hairless heads.

The blokes took turns to compete in a baldies game of tug-a-war in which they stuck "suction caps" joined by a rope to their heads then tried to pull off their opponent's cap.

The men said the fun activities gave them a sense of solidarity and make them feel more comfortable about having lost their hair.

Sponsored study biases

IN WHAT amounts to an open challenge to the pharmaceutical industry, a University of Sydney study has found that industry-sponsored studies are more likely to favour products of pharmaceuticals and medical devices than non-industry funded research.

The new Cochrane Library Review, which adds 27 studies to update a previous Cochrane review, confirms earlier analyses by "providing definitive evidence that pharmaceutical industry funding of drug studies biases the results and conclusions to look favourable towards the drug of the sponsor," said senior author, Professor Lisa Bero of the University of Sydney's Charles Perkins Centre.

Bero called for bias assessment tools for drug studies that take funding sources into account, while noting that several journals now require that the role of the sponsor in the design, conduct and publication of the study be described.

Bero said there were several potential ways that industry

sponsors could influence the outcome of a study, including the framing of questions, the design of a study, the conduct of a study, how data are analysed, selective reporting of favourable results, and "spin" in reporting conclusions.

"Currently, we have no validated way to detect or evaluate these subtle but systematic biases," Bero explained.

Co-author of the review, Dr Joel Lexchin from York University, said the results were concerning for both patients and doctors.

"Our views about the effectiveness and safety of many medicines may be distorted.

"Medicines may be both less safe and less effective than we think," Lexchin added.

NZ issues NRT RFP

NEW Zealand's PHARMAC has issued a request for proposals for the supply of nicotine replacement therapy, including but not limited to nicotine gum, lozenges, patches, oral spray and inhaler.

Responses are due by 17 Mar 17.

Win with australis

This week Pharmacy Daily and Australis are giving away a set of both Gold and Pink Liquid Strobe Illuminating Drops each day.

Australis have taken illuminating to the next level with this silky smooth formula to enhance your cheekbones and create a luminous glow. Just a few drops of the new Australis Liquid Strobe Illuminating Drops will add subtle radiance to your face, neck or décolletage. To create a fresh, dewy complexion mix either the pink or gold into your current foundation for a subtle luminosity. Or for a more striking result, apply directly onto your face. For more information head to www.australiscosmetics.com.au.

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



Where do you apply it on your face?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Abbey Butler from SA Health.



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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