

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus PD's brand new Back to School feature on page three.

SHPA savings

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is offering new and existing members "12-month anniversary memberships" which come with a 15% saving for upfront payment. The new type of membership runs for 12 months from the date of joining SHPA, rather than reflecting the financial year - quote MEMBER15 when signing up to access the offer at shpa.org.au.

Lending warning

PHARMACY owners across Australia are increasingly breaching lending covenants on their loans, as the impact of PBS reforms continues to bite, according to Mark Churchill from Allfin Financial Services.

"The major market shift caused by the PBS reforms is hurting everyone," Churchill said, with some clients reporting shortfalls of up to \$150,000 over a 12 month period.

Breaching loan covenants can see banks raise interest rates by as much as 2%, request a valuation of the pharmacy and possibly require the repayment of large debts.

Churchill said Allfin would be reviewing more client covenants, saying "we are expecting there to be a flux of breaches across the pharmaceutical industry".

Ulipristal S3 from tomorrow

PHARMACISTS will continue to play a critical role in emergency contraception from 01 Feb 2017, when the ulipristal acetate pill will become available as a Schedule 3 (Pharmacist Only) medicine.

According to Dr Deborah Bateson from Family Planning NSW, unplanned pregnancy is a reality for many Australian women, with around 200,000 unplanned pregnancies and 80,000 abortions occurring here each year.

"Emergency contraception (EC) is an important option for preventing unplanned pregnancy, when contraception hasn't been used...or a potential contraceptive failure has occurred such as a broken condom or a missed pill," Bateson said.

She said the re-scheduling of ulipristal acetate reinforces the importance of pharmacy provision of emergency contraception.

Pharmacists will now need to

consider whether ulipristal acetate or levonorgestrel may be most appropriate for their clients.

Key considerations include speed of administration, drug interactions such as those with liver enzyme (CYP3A4) inducing medications & hormonal contraception, and knowing the efficacy differences, with ulipristal acetate showing lower rates of risk of pregnancy than levonorgestrel.

Ulipristal acetate is contraindicated for women who are breastfeeding, and pharmacists are urged to advise a pregnancy test if the patients' next period is late, light or unusual in any way.

Bateson highlighted a range of resources for pharmacists on EC including at fnsnw.org.au.

PBAC decisions

RECOMMENDATIONS made by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) in December 2016 relating to the listing of drugs on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) relate to AbbVie's Humira (adalimumab), Aspen's Chlorsig (chloramphenicol eye drops) and Novartis' Certican (everolimus).

Other drugs named for listing changes were Pfizer's Nitrostat (glyceryl trinitrate sublingual tabs), Phebra's Prenoxad (naloxone injection) and Roche's Esbriet (pirfenidone caps) to be newly listed for the treatment of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis under certain conditions - tga.gov.au.

KAPS rege open

THE Australian Pharmacy Council has announced that registrations for the next Knowledge Assessment of Pharmaceutical Sciences (KAPS) examination will open 01 Feb 2017.

For more information see pharmacycouncil.org.au.

APP 2017

GOLD COAST
CONVENTION &
EXHIBITION CENTRE

9-12 MARCH



MenW on the rise

THE Health Department has confirmed it is in discussion with pharmaceutical companies about options to manage meningococcal disease type W, after a noticeable increase in the rarer strain over the last couple of years.

Overall cases of type B, C and W are down from 688 in 2002 to 262 nationally last year, but type W is still described as a "serious disease".

At this stage there is no active submission to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee to include a vaccine for type W on the National Immunisation Program.

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Dispensary Corner

THE Australian Reptile Park is encouraging brave members of the public to go out and catch deadly funnel-web spiders.

It comes after the zoo announced it was now running low on antivenom following a string of nasty spider bites.

The park is the sole provider of funnel-web venom to antidote producers.

"We rely on community support to keep this program alive," the park's general manager Tim Faulkner told *Reuters*.

"We have tried to catch enough spiders ourselves and we just can't".



A NEW Hampshire Burger King employee known as 'Nasty Boy' had turned his place of work into his very own drive through drug dealing business.

Police confirmed this week that 'in the know' drive through customers were requesting 'Nasty Boy' to serve them before ordering "extra crispy fries" in exchange for a coffee cup full of marijuana.

Police caught 'Nasty Boy' red handed after they posed as a group of customers ordering extra crispy fries.

Cup of marijuana in hand, they had all the evidence they needed!

Student entrepreneur comp

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced the commencement of the 2017 eleventh National Student Business Plan Competition, designed to test "the flair and entrepreneurship of students preparing for a career in community pharmacy".

With the launch last Saturday during the Annual NAPSA Congress in Perth, the Guild also announced Sanofi Consumer Healthcare as new principal sponsor and EBOS as a major sponsor while Gold Cross Products and Services and Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL) continue as foundation sponsors.

The competition, which first ran in 2006, encourages innovation among the future owners of Australian and New Zealand community pharmacies.

In 2017 the focus on innovation will continue, to ensure that tomorrow's owners look for highly differentiated services.



The Guild said the competition aimed to encourage student teams to create new business concepts in community pharmacy through development of competitive business plans.

The competition is open to all students studying pharmacy in Australia and New Zealand, and will provide a total of \$15,000 in cash prizes to the finalists (top three teams) in addition

to registration, flights and accommodation for the 2017 Pharmacy Connect conference.

Baby boomers active

NEW survey findings released this week have found that despite aches and pains baby boomers participate in an average of 14 hours of physical activity per week - just two hours less than 18-24 year olds.

The poll was commissioned by GSK, maker of Panadol Osteo and Voltaren.

Probiotics update

AUSTRALIAN pharmacists will gain insight into the latest scientific evidence for potential benefits of probiotics to intestinal, skin, reproductive and immune health, with Dr Nigel Plummer added to the line-up of APP 2017 speakers.

Plummer will appear courtesy of Blackmores in a CPD-accredited session - appconference.com.



Guild Update

Family Drugs Support Day

FAMILY Drug Support will mark 20 years of supporting families at its annual National Family Drug Support Day to be held at events across Australia on 23 and 24 February 2017.

2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the death of Damien Trimingham from a heroin overdose in 1997, a tragedy which was the catalyst for his father, Tony Trimingham, to establish Family Drug Support.

Mr Trimingham will use the lead up to National Family Drug Support Day to share his learnings and observations from his years of working with families adversely affected by drug and alcohol use through the service he founded, Family Drug.

The three objectives of the National Family Drug Support Day are to:

- Reduce stigma and discrimination for families and drug users
 - Promote family drug support services for families and friends
 - Promote harm reduction strategies for families and friends
- More details are available at **FAMILY DRUG SUPPORT (FDS)**.

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

To win, be the first person from QLD to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



Which children's charity does Wotnot support?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Felicia Woong from Pikes Day and Night Pharmacy.

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Back to School

Pharmacy Daily presents

Pharmacy Daily's Back to School spotlight is your guide to all the essential products for starting the 2017 school year. To feature here email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

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Barker S.C. et al. BMC Dermatology, 10:6. Research sponsored by Key Pharmaceuticals.



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