



PBS additions

MEDICINES worth \$142 million have been added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from 01 Jul 2017, including Zolinstat (vorinostat) for patients with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma.

Also being listed is Humira (adalimumab) for the treatment of inflammatory skin disease hidradentis suppurativa.

The expanded PBS includes Esbriet (pirfenidone) for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, with the PBS website now featuring the full schedule along with formulary allocations and therapeutic relativity sheets - www.pbs.gov.au.

Fee indexation

SERVICE fees for medication management programs under the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement have been indexed, with new rates applying for services undertaken from 01 Jul 2017.

The 2017/18 service fee for a regular MedsCheck is \$64.70, while for a Diabetes MedsCheck the new payment is \$97.05.

A Home Medicines Review now attracts a fee of \$216.66, while a Residential Medication Management Review pays \$109.56.

New pharmacy-only VMS

GENERIC medicines pharmacy supplier Apotex has announced today the expansion of its activity into the high growth VMS (vitamins, minerals and supplements) category, with the launch of a new pharmacy-only range branded Oviit.

The company said the move signals further diversification of the Apotex over-the-counter portfolio and kicks off with a comprehensive 34-strong product range including formulations across general health, digestive health, immune health, cardiovascular and skeletal health.

There is promise of more to come with plans to create a complete pharmacy VMS solution.

Apotex sales director Ben Sullivan said, "This is a particularly competitive category, and pharmacy customers crave value for money."

"As a premium value, Pharmacy Only range, Oviit is pharmacy's VMS solution to achieving maximum margins for high quality products in an expanding market, whilst building loyalty at the store level from a growing customer base,"



Sullivan added.

"As more and more customers look to community pharmacy as their primary healthcare destination of choice, the Oviit range provides yet another solution from Apotex."

The Oviit range is being rolled out to pharmacies from today right across Australia using the Apotex national sales force.

Allergen labelling

NEW rules for medicine labels will include improved information about potential allergens, according to a Medicines Safety Update issued by the TGA late last week.

While certain allergens such as peanuts and gluten were already required on labels, the new rules include a longer list of substances that must be declared including fish, eggs, crustacea, soya, milk and tree nuts.

Additionally, for the first time prescription medicines are also required to declare potential allergens or include a statement directing consumers to the CMI leaflet for further info - tga.gov.au.

Nursing home IDs

THE Health Department has confirmed effective immediately pharmacists should include the Residential Aged Care Facility Identification Number (RACFid) every time a PBS or RPBS item is dispensed for all of the pharmacy's nursing home patients.

The changes will apply to all PBS/RPBS items, whether they are part of a PBS claim or are being supplied as under co-payment items.

Previously the RACFid was only required for supplies to nursing homes that had started using the National Residential Medication Chart, or a compliant commercial equivalent charting product.

However now the RACFid will be used for PBS/RPBS supplies to all nursing homes.

The department said the changes were being made "to help improve medication safety in the aged care sector, through data-driven quality use of medicines measures".

"Changes to pharmacy dispensing systems will make it easier for pharmacists to make this change," the department advised, with pharmacists able to obtain the correct RACFid numbers from each of the nursing homes to which they supply medicines.



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THE SCIENCE OF SKIN RENEWAL

Dispensary Corner

IT MAY not be the most healthy way to dress - but a New York eatery has come up with a unique way to celebrate National Bikini Day tomorrow, 05 Jul.

The Villa Italian Kitchen has teamed up with food stylist Jessie Bearden to design a (very) limited edition bathing suit made entirely from pepperoni pizza.

The two-piece outfit is hand-braided using home made dough, mozzarella cheese, sauce from fresh California tomatoes and topped with Italian sausage.

The "pizza-kini" will be available for purchase for one day only - at a whopping price of US\$10,000 which includes a consultation and measurement session, creation of the outfit plus a final fitting - because if you're going to blow \$10k on an edible swimsuit you definitely want to make sure it fits.



POLICE in Detroit, Michigan in the USA are combing the neighbourhood for a bald man who stole a hair growth product from a Walgreens pharmacy.

Security video of the nude-nut shows the alleged offender putting seven boxes of Rogaine into a bag before absconding.

Local police chief Ron Haddad appealed to the public, saying they want to arrest the shoplifter despite it being "not the most hair-raising crime".

They suspect the desert-head may strike again because it takes many months of ongoing use of the product to grow hair.

TBN celebrations

MORE than 75 attendees from across the country met at the Melbourne headquarters of Total Beauty Network (TBN) last week, treated to a preview of several upcoming major launches.

Designer Brands Cosmetics and Colour by TBN will release their biggest Christmas product offerings ever, while the conference also saw the announcement of Raww Cosmetics (*PD* 09 Jun) the "world's first Australian superfood infused beauty brand".

TBN's ceo and director Tony and Sharon Rechtman have also been announced as finalists in the 2017 EY Entrepreneur of the Year competition.

UTS faculty expands

THE Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative has officially joined the Faculty of Health at the University of Technology Sydney.

The group has been running studies influencing global practice and policy for the last decade, with the move to UTS following the arrival earlier this year of chief investigator Professor David Currow as the university's Professor of Palliative Medicine.

PSA issues screening position statement

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has issued a new position statement on screening and risk assessment, to assist individual pharmacies and banner groups delivering services to understand the principles that should underpin decisions to offer such services.

Based on the World Health Organisation's principles of early disease detection, the statement says screening and risk assessment services should target conditions associated with a significant burden of disease, and populations where interventions provide the best value.

Interventions must be evidence-based and appropriate for the pharmacy setting; must be subject to documented informed consent from patients; and pharmacists must be appropriately trained and equipped to provide the services, as well as facilitate appropriate follow-up including referral for patients with a positive test.

"Screening and risk assessment - which is within the scope of all pharmacists' practice in Australia - is a key component of Australia's strategy to reduce the burden of preventable disease," said PSA national president-elect, Shane Jackson.

"We suggest pharmacists and pharmacy groups utilise this new screening and risk assessment guideline to review the programs they are offering to the public to ensure these programs are appropriate for our healthcare system," he said.



Welcome to *PD*'s weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is Toni Riley, Community Pharmacist and Project Manager of National Return of Unwanted Medicines.



Lack of consumer awareness

A GENERAL Population Survey conducted by Griffith University in 2016, brought to light that less than 20% of those surveyed had heard of the RUM project - an alarming statistic and the basis for the current public awareness campaign.

60% of the participants had unwanted medicines in their homes, and a quarter of these medicines had already expired. Most people were keeping these unwanted medicines "just in case", while another significant group felt it was a waste of money to dispose of them.

It was also concerning that two thirds of the participants were throwing unwanted medicines into the household garbage; the remaining group felt it was safe to pour them down the drain or flush them in the toilet. They did not believe that there was any likely environmental impact.

Most participants, after having been told about the RUM project planned to take all unwanted medicines to their local pharmacy for disposal from then on.

Consumers generally felt they needed and wanted to be told about the RUM project and believed that the community pharmacist was the best placed health care professional to deliver this message. Visit the RUM website (www.returnmed.com.au) for further information about available resources.

WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Designer Brands are giving away each day three of their DB Cosmetics Longwear Lipsticks.

These smooth, creamy lipsticks deliver all-day wear and opaque colour. Easy to apply, the DB Cosmetics Longwear Lipstick glides onto the lips without dragging or pulling. With super-strong pigments for a rich, intense colour that lasts. [CLICK HERE](#) to see more.

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

How many shades does the DB Cosmetics Longwear Lipstick come in?

[Check here tomorrow for today's winner.](#)

