



### Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today has two pages of news, our regular health & beauty feature plus a full page from **Pharmacy Solutions**.

### FDA cancer approval

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has approved Nerlynx (neratinib) for the "extended adjuvant treatment" of early-stage, HER2-positive breast cancer, meaning it can help lower the risk of the cancer returning.

## Homeless medication plan

**A FREEDOM** of Information request lodged by a *Pharmacy Daily* reader has highlighted the ongoing availability of the "little-known" Continuing Medication Program, which assists people who are homeless and require help with accessing PBS medications.

Introduced in 1990 in response to the launch of patient co-payments, the scheme aims to help people who are homeless and considered incapable of managing their own affairs, to continue their PBS

medication where non-medication could lead to undesirable medical or social consequences.

Participating pharmacies must have the capacity to operate an account which provides an invoice/receipt for each PBS item dispensed to eligible clients of an approved participating non-profit organisation which provides care to homeless people.

Safety net records must be kept for clients whose payments are charged to this account, and the pharmacy must also be able to provide service to the charity organisation in urgent situations.

The reader said he believed there were many pharmacists and charities in Australia that were not aware of the program, which may help them to provide some assistance to the homeless.

The guidelines can be viewed online at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au).

### Methotrexate dispensing errors

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration's newly constituted Advisory Committee on Medicines has suggested a range of measures to reduce the risk of dosing errors around low-dose methotrexate.

A statement from the Committee's first meeting in Feb, made public yesterday, details advice provided in relation to the weekly methotrexate tablets which have been subject to inadvertent dosing errors, including "accidental daily administration" which has led to serious harm to patients.

Dispensing errors by pharmacists, including incorrect and unclear instructions, incorrect product selection and incorrect packing of methotrexate into dose administration aids were cited as key factors, along with prescribing errors and patient/carer error.

The committee said it was concerned that "avoidable methotrexate dosing errors continue to cause significant harm to a small number of patients, despite this being an identified risk for several decades".

Suggestions to address the issue include revised Product Information to highlight critical safety measures, and a separate 'black box' warning.

Additional risk management measures that could be considered include a patient dosing card, reduced pack sizes to suit weekly administration, collaboration with education providers, and redesigned product packaging including changing the product name to include 'WEEKLY'.

## Octogenarian celebrations

### AUSTRALIAN

pharmacy healthcare provider and Sigma Healthcare offshoot Amcal is marking eight decades as a trusted pharmacy franchise group as it celebrates its 80th birthday this month.

The milestone recognises Amcal's long history in Australia beginning in the 1930s as Allied Master Chemists of Australia Limited (A.M.C.A.L) developing into one of the largest pharmacy brands in Australia.

The brand's heritage stems from its inception in 1937 when 11 pharmacists joined forces to maximise buying power to offer



competitive pricing and a greater product range to customers.

Sigma chief operating officer Gary Dunne (pictured), said pharmacists were extremely excited and proud to be relaunching the Amcal brand this year to commemorate 80 years of being at the

forefront of Australian healthcare.

"Amcal's philosophy has always been to provide outstanding healthcare services to every customer and patient across Australia and we do this through a range of structured professional programs through our vast network of stores," Dunne said.

### Clinical Lead with Management Responsibility in Progressive Pharmacy Group

**UFS Dispensaries is seeking a suitably qualified candidate for our Deputy Operations Manager - Pharmacy Advisor. Package negotiable.**

Are you an enthusiastic, driven and motivated professional wanting to contribute to the overall management of UFS pharmacies? This role requires strong commercial acumen, proven leadership and management skills, and a sound understanding of pharmacy regulations and standards. Tertiary qualifications as a pharmacist and current registration with the Pharmacy Board of Australia are essential requirements.

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For a confidential discussion, call our CEO Lynne McLennan on 03 5327 7757. For the full position description, and to apply, visit [www.ufs.com.au/careers](http://www.ufs.com.au/careers)

We are also currently recruiting for forward-thinking pharmacists.



### New AusPARs posted

**AUSTRALIAN** Public Assessment Reports (AusPARs) have now been posted for three more products.

Janssen Cilag's spondyloarthritis treatment Simponi (golimumab) has had its indications extended under specific conditions; ERA Consulting's Brenzys (etanercept-rch) has been approved as a new biological entity for treatment of several arthritic and psoriatic conditions; and rheumatoid arthritis treatment Cimzia (certolizumab pegol) has been approved for extended indications.

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## Resistance surveillance

**ANTIMICROBIAL** resistance in Australia is now under constant surveillance, giving experts much better and more timely information to help combat the threat, according to a new report from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

A new system set up to provide early warning of the spread of dangerous bacteria has detected over 1,000 cases resistant to last-line antibiotics.

The National Alert System for Critical Antimicrobial Resistance (CARAlert) system was established by the Commission in Mar 2016, with funding from the Australian Government Department of Health.

CARAlert collects information about highly resistant bacteria as they are confirmed, allowing trends to be identified and giving states and territories information to help containment efforts.

The first annual report of CARAlert reveals 1,064 incidents of highly resistant bacteria were lodged in the system from 17 Mar 2016 to 31 Mar 2017.

Reports from 73 participating laboratories nationwide in the system's first full year of operation found at least one strain of bacteria with a 'critical antimicrobial resistance', defined as bacteria that cannot be treated by last-line antibiotics, reported from every state and territory.

The new report shows that 86 entries were made to CARAlert system each month on average from Apr 2016 to Mar 2017, with at least 37% of the critical antimicrobial resistances (CARs) from patients in the community.

Prior to Dec 2016 carbapenemase-producing *enterobacteriaceae* were the most commonly reported pathogen, but since then, the most frequently reported type of CAR was a strain of the bacterium that causes gonorrhoea that is no longer susceptible to the antibiotic azithromycin, namely *neisseria gonorrhoeae*, accounting for 62% of all CARs reported in Mar 2017 and 67% in Feb.

### Vitamin D-on't

**HIGH** doses of vitamin D will not stop children aged one to five years catching colds, according to a Canadian study published by JAMA.

Previous studies have shown that children are more likely to catch colds if they have low levels of vitamin D, so researchers compared the impact of high dose vs. low dose supplements on infections in the age group.

The University of Toronto authors say their findings do not support the use of high dose vitamin D supplementation in children.

**CLICK HERE** for the study.



## WIN WITH NUTRI-SYNERGY

Each day this week, Pharmacy Daily and NS are giving away a NS pack for Sensitive Skin including NS Sensitive Skin Cleanser 500ml (RRP \$16.50), NS Extra Dry Skin Moisturiser 250ml (RRP \$17.50), NS Protective Hand Cream 60g (RRP \$9.30) and NS Lip Balm 10g (RRP \$6.70).



Nutri-Synergy Extra Dry Skin Moisturiser is formulated with natural active ingredients to give your skin superior moisturisation. NS is rich in Natural Moisturising Factors like urea, glycerine and triglycerides and common irritants are avoided such as petrochemicals, parabens, soap, harsh detergents and perfumes. For more info visit [www.nutrisynergy.com.au](http://www.nutrisynergy.com.au).

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

In which country are NS products made?

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Katy Duldig from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.*

## Meet NAPSAs new team



**LAST** weekend the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association elected a new board at its annual general meeting, held at Melbourne's Monash University.

Sandra Minas from La Trobe University in Bendigo was chosen as the 2017/18 NAPSAs president, leading a board (pictured above) comprising:

- Vasilios Sotiropoulos from the University of South Australia as director of Internal Affairs
- Evangeline Armstrong Gordon from the University of Sydney as secretary
- Jordan Gill from Charles Sturt University Wagga Wagga as treasurer
- Jess Hsiao from the University of South Australia as director of Media and Publications
- Tahlia Murador from the University of Queensland as director of External Affairs
- Ayomide Ogundipe from Curtin

University, Perth as director of Public Relations; and

- Alicia Martin from the University of Canberra as director of Professional Development.

Minas said she was looking forward to serving NAPSAs members, and acknowledged her predecessor, Shefali Parekh.

"I know that I have big shoes to fill but I'm confident that with the dedication and collaboration of all the amazing board members we will be able to succeed in attaining our goals this term," she said.

The weekend also included the NAPSAs Annual Dinner, with keynote speaker Rhonda White from Terry White Chemmart.

NAPSAs supporters at the event included principal sponsor the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and SHPA as well as representatives from Ravens Recruitment, Mylan and LIVIN.

## Faster, Easier MedsCheck Recording!

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## Dispensary Corner

**THERE'S** been a medical miracle at a school in the USA, where a group of year 8 children have created a 3D-printed wheelchair for a kitten with spinal problems.

The students from New Hampshire worked on the labour of love, which has involved several designs and revisions as the six-month-old feline grew.

In fact the kitten has already outgrown the first two-wheeled version (below), with a four wheeled trolley currently under development.



**SPORTING** loyalties run deep in a hospitalised man in Ohio, who has expressed his passionate dislike for the rival state of Michigan despite being unconscious.

Zach Lawrence, 38, suffered a traumatic brain injury while travelling in Europe, and was repatriated to Columbus where doctors thought he had little chance of waking up.

However after four months in a coma, he was asked to press a "yes" or "no" button in answer to the question of whether he liked Michigan - and to the delight of his family the lifelong Ohio State football fan hit "no" twice.

He's now begun making sounds, keeping his eyes open and smiling at his children, with his condition considered "semiconscious".

## Health, Beauty and New Products

### BB Cover Foundation/ Concealer

Mikatvonk makeup by Jay Jay has released its

**BB Cover Foundation/ Concealer**

in three subtle shades to match most skin tones: Natural

Beige (pictured), Dark Beige and Skin Beige. This all-in-one offering acts as Beauty Balm, Concealer and Primer. In addition, this foundation cover and concealer of blemishes and tonal variations will moisturise the skin generating an especially smooth texture for all skin types.

**Stockist:** 0413 755 299

**RRP:** \$30.00

**Website:** [www.mikatvonkmakeup.com.au](http://www.mikatvonkmakeup.com.au)



### NaturStyle Hair Colour



The **NaturStyle** hair colour range is a set of permanent home-applied hair colours that deliver an even finish. The ammonia- and resorcinol-free formula is also low in known irritants and gentle on scalp and hair. Naturstyle provides 100% grey coverage, while also revitalising, strengthening and moisturising hair, leaving it healthy and glossy. This popular hair colouring system is now available in

17 tones including Brown Black-2N (pictured).

**Stockist:** 1300 762 025

**RRP:** \$19.99

**Website:** [www.kadac.com.au](http://www.kadac.com.au)

### SkinB5 Acne Treatment Pack

**SkinB5 Moderate to Severe Acne Treatment Pack** is a value pack

ideal for moderate to severe acne and oily skin types. The pack includes a full

system to target acne internally and externally. The kit contains two bottles Acne Control Extra Strength Tablets, one bottle Cleansing Mousse, one bottle Moisturiser creating a full two month treatment.

**Stockist:** 1300 088 655

**RRP:** \$156.40

**Website:** [www.skinb5.com](http://www.skinb5.com)



### Super Organic Coconut Oil Tablets



Nature's Way **Super Organic Coconut Oil Tablets** is a superfood (high-nutrient density) tablet containing pure, unrefined and island-fresh coconut oil. The tablets also contain medium chain triglycerides (MCTs), smaller molecules that are easily metabolised and burned for energy. As a result, the body is thought to use coconut oil as a quick source of energy, making it less likely to be stored in fat

cells. This coconut-based superfood is now available in a convenient tablet form.

**Stockist:** 02 9997 1466

**RRP:** \$19.99

**Website:** [www.natureswaysuperfoods.com.au](http://www.natureswaysuperfoods.com.au)



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Northside Medical Centre Pharmacy for Sale	5737
North Brisbane Pharmacy for Sale	5734
North-West Brisbane Shopping Centre Pharmacy for Sale	5731
Southern Brisbane Pharmacy for Sale	5717
Beachside Sunshine Coast Pharmacy - Partnership Opportunity	5708
Darling Downs Pharmacy for Sale	5705
Western Suburbs Shopping Centre Pharmacy for Sale	5702
South-East QLD Scenic Rim Pharmacies for Sale	5752
Rural Central QLD Pharmacy for Sale	5743
Toowoomba Pharmacy for Sale	5740
North QLD Rural Pharmacy for Sale	5687
Two Sunshine Coast Pharmacies for Sale	5678 & 5681
Southern Downs Pharmacy for Sale	5579

### NEW SOUTH WALES

Northern Sydney Pharmacy for Sale	2375
Northern NSW Pharmacy for Sale	2372
NSW Hunter Valley Region Pharmacy for Sale	2369
Blue Mountains Pharmacy for Sale	2366

### VICTORIA

Melbourne Northern Suburbs Pharmacy for Sale	3662
Melbourne Bayside Pharmacy for Sale	3659
South East Melbourne Shopping Centre Pharmacy for Sale	3653
South East Melbourne Medical Centre Pharmacy for Sale	3650
Southern Melbourne Metro Pharmacy for Sale	3638
North West Melbourne Pharmacy for Sale	3635
Country Victoria Greenfield Opportunity	3632
Inner Melbourne Pharmacy For Sale	3647
Inner South-East Melbourne Pharmacy For Sale	3623

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Australian Rural Pharmacy for Sale	5693
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### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

North Adelaide Medical Centre Pharmacy for Sale	7000
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### TASMANIA

East Hobart Pharmacy for Sale	6021
Northern Metro Hobart Pharmacy for Sale	6018

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