



Akynzeo PBS listing

MUNDIPHARMA'S Akynzeo (netupitant with palonosetron) has been added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for nausea and vomiting, effective 01 Jun.

The listing is a streamlined authority required - see pbs.gov.au.

Ice abuse trend

WHILE recent abuse of methamphetamines has fallen, there is a continuing trend toward 'ice' rather than other forms, such as powder, according to a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The report presents first results from the 2016 National Drug Strategy Household Survey, including information on nearly 24,000 Australians' use of, and attitudes toward, tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs, with encouraging results around the proportion of non-smoker Australians.

The report said that in 2016, 57% of methamphetamine users were mainly using ice, up from 22% in 2010.

"Overall, the most common recently used drugs were cannabis (10%), misuse of pharmaceuticals (5%), cocaine (3%), and ecstasy (2%)," AIHW spokesperson Matthew James said.

"Other drugs, including ecstasy and cocaine, had a higher number of recent users than methamphetamines," James said.

"Australians are, overall, less concerned about the impact of cannabis, heroin and cocaine than in the past," he added.

Go to aihw.gov.au for the report.

SHPA specialties now open

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has opened its new model for Specialty Practice (**PD 11 May**) for enrolment, with 26 streams to choose from.

Each of the Specialty Practice Streams will feature an Interest Group, Practice Group and Leadership Committee, with members now able to enrol in Interest Groups for areas in which they currently practice.

Eligible members will be able to join Practice Groups and Leadership Committees later in the year with Practice Groups to open for application in late Jun-early Jul.

SHPA Kristin Michaels said the new approach "provides members with greater access to the expertise of fellow members working in a field, opportunities to support

peers as they develop their specialty expertise and enables members to be engaged in multiple specialties.

"More broadly, the model provides greater opportunities for members to contribute to SHPA's work in specialised areas of practice, an investment in members and their pharmacy practice that will ultimately lead to better patient care," Michaels said.

Enrol at www.shpa.org.au.

SUSMP #17 posted

THE Jun edition (#17) of the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (SUSMP) incorporates numerous changes to the Poisons Standard Feb 2017.

Among the more obvious changes are those related to international harmonisation to standard spelling of drugs such as "ph" to "f" as in "alfa" and "th" to "t" as in "metamfetamine".

Go to legislation.gov.au for more.

New CSL fellowship

ONE of two CSL Centenary Fellowships, each worth \$1.25 million over five years, has opened for applications from mid-career scientists seeking to undertake world-class bio-medical research at an Australian academic institution.

Two five-year fellowships will be awarded each calendar year, for ten years, CSL said - for more details see cslfellowships.com.au.

Pharmacist fatigue

PHARMACISTS and pharmacy technicians in Minnesota will no longer be able to work more than a 12 hour shift under a new law intended to reduce the errors resulting from fatigue, according to a report in *Drug Topics*.

The new ruling, which takes effect 01 Jul, also demands that pharmacists be given "reasonable time" for breaks.

If they work more than six hours, they are entitled to a 30-minute, uninterrupted break.

In addition, pharmacy personnel are allowed "reasonable time" to use the restroom every four hours.

Minnesota pharmacists came under fire after a *Fox TV* report found that errors at Minnesota pharmacies were on the increase.

The report referred to a case in which a customer suffered a stroke after a pharmacy gave the customer the wrong prescription.

"We are concerned that pharmacies are being asked to do more work and that the prescription volumes are increasing," said Cody Wiberg, PharmD, executive director of the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy.

"Even the best of pharmacists, if you put them in the environment where there are hundreds of prescriptions to fill ... and they are working twelve hours without a break, [mistakes can occur]."

According to the new law, Minnesota pharmacies with only one pharmacist on duty may stay open while the pharmacist is on a break, but cannot dispense prescriptions while the pharmacist is absent.

Calling all Community Pharmacists

Have your say on academic research

We seek Community Pharmacists' views on how Social Pharmacy research can be even more relevant and accessible to pharmacy practitioners. We would also like to learn from individual pharmacists about their preferences for overall practice research.

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We have two well positioned pharmacies located in Sydney shopping centres available to purchase. The T/O estimate for 2017 is in excess of \$8M & \$6M. For a copy of the information memorandum please call Sean Roffey on 0408 882 111 or email sean@pbspharmacybrokers.com.au



Dispensary Corner

TOILET paper is getting political in Mexico, where an enterprising businessman has launched a new brand in response to rhetoric by US President Donald Trump.

The packaging (pictured) features a toilet roll-shaped caricature of the President, along with the slogans "Softness without borders" and "This is that wall that, yes, we will pay for".

The new products are expected to become available later in 2017.

EATING lots of chicken nuggets may not be good for you - and definitely not if you're a fish.

A Texan fisherman has set a new record after catching a gigantic bass using a McDonald's McNugget as bait.

Matthew McNellis was trying to catch fish on a lake with his girlfriend, and when he had no luck she suggested using the fast food to tempt his prey.

Surprisingly it worked and he pulled in his record catch (below), weighing about 5.5kg.



New PBAC appointments

HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt yesterday announced nine appointments to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, in the process increasing the total PBAC membership to 19.

The nine additions include five new appointments and four re-appointments, with Hunt saying expanding the committee would give it greater capacity to deal with a "growing number of increasingly complex submissions".

The new appointments include cardiologist Clara Chow; consumer representative Bel Harper; rheumatologist and epidemiologist Catherine Hill; health economist Kirsten Howard; and oncologist Meena Okera.

Community pharmacist David Newby was reappointed to the PBAC along with consumer nominee Jo Watson, general practitioner Rashmi Sharma, and clinical pharmacologist Christopher Etherton-Ber.

In May 2015 the government committed to increasing PBAC membership to 21 under the PBS Access and Sustainability package of reforms, with further appointments set to be named.

The package also created the PBAC Executive which is now in operation to "triage" applications to improve the capacity, efficiency, flexibility and operations of the Committee, Hunt said.

The Executive includes the chairs of the PBAC and its supporting sub-committees along with a consumer nominee, and "demonstrates the Australian government's commitment to streamline the committee's processes to improve patient access to important treatments on the PBS," he added.

NZ cannabis scripts

NEW Zealand medicines regulatory body Medsafe has provided guidance for prescribers on writing cannabis products, emphasising that an application to the Ministry of Health is required in most cases and a specialist prescriber needs to be involved in the application process.

The details are part of the latest Medsafe Prescriber Update which also references Quetiapine, Levetiracetam, fluoride in toothpaste, dopamine agonists, mitochondrial disorders, blood glucose control products and recent safety communications.

Go to medsafe.govt.nz for details.

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.

4-5 Jun: Naturally Good Expo; ICC Sydney; pre-register for free or \$30 at the door - details here: naturallygood.com.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

5-9 Aug: Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2017; Mt. Buller, Victoria; register your interest here: www.medici.com.au

6-12 Aug: Pharmeducation Pharmacotherapy Update; Cable Beach Club Resort, Broome; details here: www.pharmeducationbroome.com

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

10-14 Sep: 77th FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences 2017; Seoul, Republic of Korea; register here: www.fip.org

17-19 Oct: World Self Medication Industry General Assembly 2017; ICC Sydney; registrations opening soon: www.wsmiga2017.com

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

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