

Australia's Medication Cloud

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Enabling safer medication management

Smart-pill tech alerts

CHICAGO'S Rush University Medical Center has begun to offer a tech-enabled pill that alerts patients via SMS if they forget to take their daily medicine, according to a report in *Modern Medicine*.

Eight health systems in the US are now using the technology.

A sensor the size of a grain of sand is included in each capsule such that when a patient swallows it, the sensor is activated by stomach acid and sends a signal picked up by a Bluetooth-enabled patch worn on the abdomen.

If the patch fails to receive the signal, the system sends a text warning of the missed dose.

The Proteus Discover system is from Proteus Digital Health.

Stopping vaccination

AN EXPERT in mathematical techniques studying a range of problems relating to the evolution and ecology of infectious diseases has asked the question, at what point do we decide it is safe to stop vaccinating against a disease?

University of Melbourne School of Population and Global Health Research Fellow Rebecca Chisholm said in an article in *The Conversation* that Australia was declared measles-free in 2014, but "the recent importation of a case of measles into Australia from Indonesia illustrates the threat this disease still poses to Australians."

"In short, vaccinating against an infectious disease can stop once the threat of future transmission is deemed sufficiently low," Chisholm said - see theconversation.com.

Competency standards push

THE Australian Pharmacy
Council (APC) is urging Australia's
pharmacists and future pharmacists
to explore the national
competency standards
framework for
pharmacists in Australia
recently released by the Pharmacy
Practitioner Development
Committee (PPDC) (PD 01 Jun).

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APC said it was very keen to ensure workforce education was transformed through specific new competencies including outlining expectations and standards.

The focus is on "pharmacists collaborating and working in partnership to deliver patient-centred care, culturally responsive care, including services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples" as well as "teamwork and inter-professional collaborative practice".

The 2016 framework includes five sections: Professionalism and ethics; Communication and collaboration; Medicines management and patient care; Leadership and management; and

TBN goes Raww

TOTAL Beauty Network will shortly launch an all-new range which is claimed to be the world's first "superfood infused" beauty products, under the Raww brand.

Raww will feature organic skincare and beauty offerings, and will be on counters in Aug this year complementing other TBN brands including Inika, DB Designer Brands and COLOUR by TBN.

Education and research.

The APC said in a statement that as the accreditation authority, australian it looked forward pharmacy to working with the Pharmacy Board of Australia

(PBA) to implement these new competencies for assessment and accreditation purposes into the future.

In collaboration with the PBA the APC will be determining the implementation date with respect to the assessment of interns.

Pharmacy takes up the superbug fight

THE University of Sydney has announced that Professor Hak-Kim Chan and Dr Wojciech Chrzanowski from the Faculty of Pharmacy have been granted \$511,923 by the Australian Research Council to use nano-technology to more effectively treat respiratory infections caused by multidrugresistant bacteria.

The researchers will use liposomes - tiny sacs that can be designed to carry and deliver drugs to the body's cells - to develop antibiotics that can better treat drug-resistant bacterial infections than current forms of antibiotics.

The researchers will first establish an understanding of how nanoscale size drugs that are delivered in liposomes will affect bacteria and cells, and will first target the lungs as a site of infection.

Access the story at sydney.edu.au.

Pharmaxis director

PHARMAXIS has appointed former senior Merck executive Dr Kathleen Metters to its board, with the new director having over 25 years of experience in the development of novel therapies for the treatment of serious diseases.

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Immunisation rates up

THE proportion of Australian children who are fully immunised continues to rise, but significant variation remains across local communities, according to a report released yesterday by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The report, Healthy Communities: Immunisation rates for children in 2015-16, shows that about 93% of Australian five-year-olds were fully immunised in 2015-16.

This is an improvement on 90% registered in 2011-12, but still below the national target of 95%, the penetration level at which herd immunity is most effective.

"Immunisation is a safe and effective way of reducing the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases in the community and protecting against potentially serious health problems," AIHW spokesperson Michael Frost said.

"The good news is that for the first time, all 31 of Australia's PHN areas now have immunisation rates for five year olds above 90%," Frost said, adding that the gap between the areas with the highest and lowest immunisation rates has "started to shrink".

Detailed early childhood immunisation results at three levels of geography are available at myhealthycommunities.gov.au.

NSW quits sugar

NSW Health has announced the phase-out of sugary drinks from all of its facilities over the next six months, as part of its Healthy Choices in Health Facilities policy.

The change will impact vending machines, cafes and catering services in NSW public hospitals, while the department will also target an increase in availability of healthy foods and drinks to at least 75% of what is on offer.

NSW Health chief health officer Kerry Chant said "we are working towards a 5% reduction in overweight and obesity rates in adults by 2020, and there's no better way to start than right here on our own doorstep".

The Australian Beverages Council branded the plan as a "nanny state approach" which will not solve the obesity crisis in Australia.

Zepatier and Stribild

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has published Australian Public Assessment Reports (AusPARs) this month for MSD's hepatitis C therapy, new chemical entity Zepatier (grazoprevir/elbasvir) and for Gilead's HIV treatment Stribild (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/ emtricitabine/ elvitegravir/ cobicistat) - see tga.gov.au.

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ACCC re-authorises e-script pact

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has granted interim authorisation to allow continued revenue sharing between electronic prescription providers eRx and IP MDS Pty Ltd (formerly MediSecure Pty Ltd).

The organisations requested an extension of their existing agreement (PD 17 May) which sees them share equally in the 6CPA electronic prescription fee.

eRx is a wholly owned subsidiary of Guild offshoot Fred IT Group, which is also 50% owned by Telstra Health, while MDS merged with Simple Retail last year.

The ACCC originally authorised the revenue sharing arrangement in 2013, with the authorisation due to expire on 30 Jun 2017.

eRx has lodged a submission requesting an extension for a further three years, meaning it would last until the expiry of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement which is the basis of the funding for the electronic prescription payments.

The ACCC said it sought submissions on the authorisation from pharmacy groups, the Australian Medical Association, the Rural Doctors Association and the

Advertising seminar

THE Australian Self-Medication Industry will host a Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code Seminar in Melbourne later this month.

Taking place on 20 Jun at the Royce Hotel, registrations can be lodged at www.asmi.com.au.

Department of Health.

No submissions were received which specifically commented on eRx's request for interim authorisation, and only one submission - from the Pharmacy Guild - relates to the overall application for authorisation.

The decision to grant interim authorisation will allow the parties to maintain the status quo for the industry, with the ACCC saying denying the application could have an adverse impact on the operation and use of electronic prescriptions within pharmacies.

The Commission continues to consider the overall application for authorisation, and said the interim decision should not be taken as an indication of whether or not the final authorisation will be granted.

Community pharmacy not meeting potential

ALTHOUGH community pharmacy has the potential to play a greater role in health care in Australia, it is currently not meeting this potential, according to a new Sydney University study published in Research in Social & Administrative Pharmacy this week.

The research was based on detailed interviews with 27 "key informants" in Australia, with the paper concluding that policy makers should "consider the micro, meso and macro levels of community pharmacy operation when making significant policy changes" - see rsap.org for more.



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Dispensary Corner

POT pizza prescription...

A Massachusetts medical marijuana dispensary has created a culinary delight for patients who don't want to smoke their prescribed cannabis or eat it in the form of sweets.

Only people with state-issued medical marijuana ID cards are eligible to buy the pies.

Quincy-based Ermont Inc. has sold more than 200 cannabisinfused pizzas over the last three weeks, to rave reviews.

Director of Operations Seth

Yaffe says the company has a whole range of marijuana edibles, but he wanted to offer meals



that patients could eat without also consuming a lot of sugar.

The 6-inch cheese pizzas sell for US\$38 each, with the tomato sauce containing 125 milligrams of THC, the psychoactive compound in marijuana.

ONLY in America - a Utah woman has been arrested after pulling two of her son's teeth in a Walmart restroom.

Prosecutors said Monday that the 47-year-old woman bought hand sanitizer and needle-nose pliers from the store, then took them into the toilet and pulled two of her 7-year-old son's teeth, without anaesthetic.

Police in American Fork, Utah, say the boy's older brother heard the child screaming and got him out of the restroom.

The woman was charged with felony child abuse, but has not been named in the press to protect her son's identity.

Pharmacists lose standing

WHILE health professionals generally have again maintained their position in society as the most highly regarded professions in the latest Roy Morgan Research polls, pharmacists have lost ground to GPs and nurses.

Nurses, for the past 23 years running, have consistently ranked top of the list, this year scoring 94% 'high' or 'very high' (up 2%) ahead of GPs at 89% (up 3%) - while the rating for pharmacists declined 2% with the profession scoring 84%.

Last year, pharmacists and GPs both ranked second to nurses, both scoring 86%.

Dentists registered 79% but were pipped by both school teachers at 81% and engineers at 80%.

Of all 30 professions surveyed in 2017, 16 decreased in regards to ethics and honesty while 12 professions increased and only two were unchanged according to the survey conducted in the last week of May with 648 Australian respondents.

University lecturers at 66% (down 2%) rated well below their school teacher colleagues with a gap of 15% in contrast to their closest result in 1988 when only 2%

separated them.

Biggest losers were ministers of religion (34%), talk-back radio announcers (14%), stockbrokers (11%) and car salespeople (4%) all of whom ranked lower scores than previously, with car salespeople scoring the lowest approval for the past 36 years running.

Considering the relatively low numbers of Australians surveyed, the data could have close to a plus or minus 4.5% margin of error, the report said.

See details at roymorgan.com.

Mental health \$73m

HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt yesterday announced \$73 million in funding for mental health, under the National Support for Child and Youth Mental Health Program.

Training and resources on mental health issues will be provided to people who regularly interact with pre-schoolers, primary and high school aged childen.

A \$52.6 million program will be delivered by Beyondblue in partnership with Early Childhood Australia, while Emerging Minds will deliver a \$20.5m program.

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.

- 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
- **24-28 Sep:** 2017 Pharmacy Alliance Members' Forum; Palazzo Versace, Gold Coast; register here: www. pharmacyalliance.com.au
- 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

WIN WITH **DESIGNER** BRANDS

This week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away a set each day of their 2017 Beauty Heaven Glosscar Award Winners. The awards saw DB's Glow Get Em Bronzer win best new bronzer, while their Pro Brow Kit with Stencils won best new brow powder, the Express



Makeup Remover won best makeup Remover and the

Spray and Set Makeup Setting Spray took out the best new tool. CLICK HERE for more.

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

Can DB's Express Makeup Remover be used on the eyes?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Amy Hunt from HPS.

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia Street address: Level 2, Suite 1 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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Publisher/Editor in chief: Bruce Piper Managing Editor: Jon Murrie Reporter: Mal Smith

Contributors: Matt Bell, Jasmine O'Donoghue

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Melanie Tchakmadjian advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

CRUISE Travel Daily





Editorial: info@pharmacydaily.com.au





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