

Tuesday 21 Mar 2017

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Pharmacist suspended

THE registration of a Tasmanian pharmacist was suspended for six weeks earlier this year, after he admitted to professional misconduct in relation to inappropriate supply of scheduled medications and inadequate record

The Pharmacy Board of Australia referred Michael Meaney to the Health Practitioner's Tribunal of Tasmania for allegedly inappropriately supplying S8, S4 and S4D medications on numerous occasions, inadequate record keeping, inappropriately saving previously dispensed and returned medications, and resupplying as unused medications those that were previously dispensed and returned to the pharmacy.

Meaney was working as the sole pharmacist at a rural Tasmanian pharmacy at the time the alleged incidents occurred in 2013.

The offences included supplying 'emergency' medication outside of the Poisons Regulations, and the supply of medication to several interstate customers without a valid prescription.

The tribunal accepted the admitted conduct was well intended, but "amounted to a misguided approach to the practice of pharmacy".

EpiPen auto-injector recall

ALPHAPHARM, in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), has announced it is recalling four batches of EpiPen 300 microgram adrenaline

injection syringe auto-injectors, due to the potential failure to activate or the need to apply increased force to activate the device.

Pharmacies are to be the point of return for a refund or exchange from a different, unaffected batch free of charge, the TGA said.

EpiPens from the four affected batches have been said to contain a defective part that could result in the auto-injector failing to activate or a need to apply more force than normal to activate.

The affected batch numbers, all with an Apr 2017 expiry, are 5FA665, 5FA6651, 5FA6652 and 5FA6653.

The TGA said there had been two confirmed reports of auto-injectors from these batches failing to activate correctly world-wide from around 80,000 devices distributed.

If this were to happen, there is a risk that the patient may not receive the appropriate dose of



any adrenaline at all, with potential life-threatening consequences such as anaphylactic

adrenaline in a

timely manner or

may not even get

reactions.

The TGA was very specific about no other batches of EpiPen, including EpiPen Jr 150 microgram adrenaline injection syringe auto-injectors, being affected by this issue and were therefore not subject to this recall.

Any questions or concerns around this issue should be addressed to Alphapharm on 1800 274 276.

New pathway consult

THE TGA is inviting submissions on a new Provisional Approval pathway for prescription medicines, which will allow sponsors to seek a "time-limited provisional registration" of drugs that do not

where the potential benefits of earlier availability outweighs risks, with input required by 01 May.

See www.tga.gov.au.



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meet full clinical data requirements. The pathway is intended for use





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Dispensary Corner

FANCY some 3D-printed cheese? Nutritional scientists from Ireland's University College Cork have now made it possible, using a modified commercial 3D printer to test the 'meltability', texture and resilience of the cheese.

The cheese was heated at 75°C for 12 minutes and then run through a modified commercial 3D printer, fitted with a syringe.

The groundbreaking results showed the printed cheese was about 49 per cent softer than the untreated processed cheese.

The technology was used to create several unusual shapes including a cheese teddy bear.



IF YOU want some good looking arteries, looks like you'll need to book a one way ticket to the Bolivian Amazon.

A research team from the University of New Mexico visited real life hunters and gatherers, the Tsimané people, and measured 705 adults from 85 villages to calculate their risk of heart disease.

While 85% had no cardiovascular issues at all, only 13% were at low risk, compared to 50% of Americans with moderate to high heart problems.

Professor Hillard Kaplan suggests an active life paired with a diet low in saturated fats, high in fish, will help reduce heart problems If you can't get to South America.

The report was originally published in The Lancet journal.

NatRUM alerts to med risks

JUST 18% of Australians are aware of the National Return and Disposal of Unwanted Medicines (NatRUM) scheme, with most people simply putting unused drugs into their household rubbish.

That was one of the key findings of an audit of the NatRUM project conducted last year, with the results detailed by Professor Amanda Wheeler from Griffith University during APP this month.

Wheeler and her team surveyed 4,302 Australians online about their awareness of the NatRUM scheme, how medicines should be disposed of and what concerns them most about storage and disposal of drugs.

Despite the general low level of knowledge of the program, 92% of respondents said they would use the system now that they know about it - but there were also misconceptions about what happens to the drugs disposed of, with some thinking pharmacists could claim money back from the manufacturer.

Wheeler said a consumer media

campaign along with pharmacy reminders with their prescription medicine packs could be effective ways to promote safe disposal.

Other key findings from the study were that items disposed of in RUM bins at community pharmacies were mostly PBS listed medicines.

The estimation of PBS waste - including all dispensed and unopened medicines, irrespective of expiry date, was about \$11.6 million collected annually.

AstraZeneca zones in

BIOPHARMACEUTICAL giant AstraZeneca has invested in new futuristic Sydney offices with four "zones" for varying styles of productive work.

Located at Macquarie Park - right next door to Pharmacy Daily world headquarters - the zones, labelled Unplugged, Connected, Base and Virtual, aim to "liberate workers from the desk bound experience," said Angela Ferguson, md of architectural firm Futurespace.

Guild **Update**

APP2017 was once again a resounding success in a great many ways; one of which was the way in which it highlighted the willingness and enthusiasm of community pharmacists to adopt new models of doing business.

During the event, the Guild's Pharmacy Transformation program and tools – of which Health Advice Plus is a core element - were a centre of attention. Many Guild members took the opportunity at APP to speak to Guild staff and learn more about the program, to the extent that many signed up with the initial stage of the Opportunity Analysis to begin their transformation to the pharmacy of the future.

Many of these members no doubt took inspiration from the Pharmacy of the Year winners who were announced at APP's first plenary session. The three winners were Lucy Walker Chemmart Goondiwindi, Queensland, which won the Community Engagement Award and the ultimate accolade of Pharmacy of the Year; Capital Chemist Southlands, ACT, which won the Business Management category; and Capital Chemist Wanniassa, ACT, which took out the Professional Services Innovation award. Capital Chemist Wanniassa, ACT, also won the GuildCare Pharmacy of the Year and the Pharmacy Guild Intern of the Year awards announced at APP.

The videos of their pharmacies, and the speeches they gave on accepting their awards, showed just how far community pharmacy has come over the past few years in accepting and implementing the transformation process for the benefit of patients and for their own businesses.

This week Pharmacy Daily and INNOXA are giving away each day the new INNOVA ANTI-AGEING Anti-Wrinkle + Firm Sleep Mask.

INNOXA is proud to introduce their latest product in the skin care range... and one that works while you are asleep. As part of the

Anti-Ageing Collection, the new INNOXA Anti-Wrinkle + Firm Sleep Mask is an intense antiageing night treatment formulated with active ingredient Reforcyl™ to deliver 7-in-1 antiageing benefits while you sleep. The sleep mask also contains natural skin loving ingredients

including Jojoba Oil, Evening Primrose Oil, Grapeseed Oil, Olive Oil and Vitamin E. Leave on overnight and cleanse in the morning to remove any excess cream. CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE for more info.

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

What is the active ingredient?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Brooke Barnes from NSW Health.

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