



AHPRA closure today

THE call centre operated by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA) will be closed from 2pm AEST today due to an office relocation, with calls unable to be taken after this time.

Normal service will resume from 9am next Mon 08 May.

Web enquiry forms will still be available, while urgent complaints or concerns can be lodged on the AHPRA notifications line on 03 8708 9107 between 2pm and 5pm today.

UK pharmacy lobby

BRITAIN'S Royal Pharmaceutical Society has issued a new "general election toolkit" aiming to inform candidates in the country's upcoming election about the pharmacy profession and its role in the UK health system.

The snap poll called by PM Theresa May will take place on 08 Jun and the Society is urging pharmacists to give copies of the new document to their local members - www.rpharms.com.

New drug name change tool

THE Federal Health Department, together with professional groups, has developed a

counselling tool on ingredient name changes for items listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, with pharmacists urged to invest time explaining the changes when dispensing affected products.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has updated over 200 active ingredient names used in Australia as part of the International Harmonisation of Ingredient Names (IHIN) reform.

A full list of affected products is available at tga.gov.au.

Most changes relate to simplified mild phonetic spelling changes such as "th" to "t", "y" to "i", "ph" to "f" but where there are less intuitively obvious changes, dual labelling will be required with the old name in brackets after the new name until



2023, the PBS document explains.

All affected medicines must be labelled

appropriately from 2020 although adrenaline products will be permanently dual-labelled as Adrenaline (Epinephrine).

The temporary dual-labelling will cease in 2023 with only the new ingredient names being shown on the label.

"The counselling tool provides a handy table of the most common changes that will be seen by consumers and health professionals during 2017," the Department said.

"The tool confirms that while some ingredient names are changing, the actual medicine, brand name (in most cases) and the medicine's effect have not changed."

A copy of the pharmacists' counselling tool is available for download at pbs.gov.au.

Free supermarket flu vaccinations

NEW Zealand's Countdown chain of supermarkets is offering free influenza vaccinations to all of its 18,000 staff this winter, with the immunisations to be administered by the group's own in-house pharmacists, reports NZ publication *Pharmacy Today*.

Countdown, which is owned by Australia's Woolworths Group, has 177 stores across the country and added pharmacy to its offering in 2012, currently operating about 15 in-store pharmacies.

US vax survey

THE American Pharmacists Association is conducting a national study across the US aiming to assess the extent to which community pharmacies engage in immunisation activities.

The Auburn University study will involve 2,000 randomly selected community pharmacies and is being funded by GlaxoSmithKline.



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EV-015-RO-RO	Evodia Victoria Rose Fragrance Roll On 15ml	3	12.95	
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EV-180-SO-CN	Evodia Whitsunday Coconut & Lime Soap Bar 180gm	3	13.95	
EV-180-SO-SJ	Evodia Adelaide Hills Jasmine Soap Bar 180gm	3	13.95	
EV-180-SO-LA	Evodia Tasmanian Lavender Soap Bar 180gm	3	13.95	
EV-100-HC-FR	Evodia Byron Bay Frangipani Hand Cream 100ml	3	17.95	
EV-100-HC-CN	Evodia Whitsunday Coconut & Lime Hand Cream 100ml	3	17.95	
EV-100-HC-SJ	Evodia Adelaide Hills Jasmine Hand Cream 100ml	3	17.95	
EV-100-HC-RO	Evodia Victoria Rose Hand Cream 100ml	3	17.95	
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EV-200-BM-CN	Evodia Whitsunday Coconut & Lime Body Mist 200ml	3	25.95	
EV-200-BM-SJ	Evodia Adelaide Hills Jasmine Body Mist 200ml	3	25.95	
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National 'opt-out' urged

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has said it welcomed the success of the My Health Record pilot projects which have confirmed the overwhelming benefits of the 'opt out' model involving automatic creation of patient records.

The formal evaluation of the trials, released yesterday, has recommended that the Federal Government proceed to a national opt-out approach, a recommendation which is fully supported by the Guild.

"Taking all the data into consideration we can see no reason not to proceed with an opt-out approach in one national step rather than any progressive staged approach," the report said.

The pilot opt-out programs were conducted in the Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (PHN), and in the Nepean Blue Mountains PHN, with the final

report on the trials completed late last year (**PD** 30 Oct 15).

Community pharmacists were among the healthcare providers participating in the project.

When compared with two opt-in trials conducted in Ballarat and Perth, the opt-out trials achieved better outcomes in terms of participation, understanding and some aspects of use of the My Health Record system.

Guild national president George Tambassis said, "The Guild has long supported an opt-out model for My Health Record as the clearest path to meaningful use of a national digital health record system", which can provide key clinical data at important points of care across a patient's journey through the health care system.

"An opt-out model will also provide a greater opportunity to further realise community pharmacies' digital health potential within the patient-centric care model," he added, with the Guild working with the Australian Digital Health Agency to explore ways to maximise the utilisation of community pharmacy in the system.

Indian prescribers rebel against generics

THE Indian government may force doctors to only prescribe generic medications, with prime minister Narendra Modi recently slamming medical practitioners for writing prescriptions "in such a way that poor people do not understand the handwriting, and he has to buy that medicine from private stores at high prices".

In response, the Medical Council of India, which regulates the health profession, has reiterated guidelines released last year requiring doctors to prescribe only generics and to write in a "legible and understandable way".

However doctors are apparently persisting in writing scripts for branded drugs, with Modi's statements seen as a hint that a legal framework may be introduced to mandate the change.

Beware the Gorilla

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a formal warning about "Black Gorilla" tablets (**pictured**), with a new safety advisory stating the products pose a serious risk to health.

The tablets contain the undeclared prescription substance sildenafil, with TGA investigations showing a number of people in Australia may have bought the product online.

It's been a busy time at the TGA which also tested "XXXL Penis Enlarging Ointment" which was found to contain tadalafil.

Other safety advisories issued yesterday include warnings about "France T253 capsules" which were found to contain sildenafil and chloramphenicol; "Dragon Power Capsules" which contain sildenafil, zopiclone and phenolphthalein; and "Gold Reallas XXX Capsules" which contain sildenafil.

The TGA said it had also tested "Real Skill Male Sexual Stimulant capsules," "Rize N Shine tablets," "100% Healthy Food for Men tablets," "V9 Male Sexual Stimulant tablets" and "MME Maxman IX capsules", all of which were found to contain undeclared sildenafil.

None of the items have been assessed by the TGA for quality, safety and efficacy, the agency said.



Pharmacy workforce program review

COMMUNITY pharmacists, students, pharmacy assistants, interns and pharmacy graduates are being invited to take part in a series of surveys as part of an ongoing review into workforce programs administered under the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Healthcare Management Advisors have been contracted by the Department of Health to conduct the surveys which aim to assess whether the various schemes "effectively address workforce shortages in rural pharmacy".

The programs include the Rural Pharmacy Scholarship and Mentor Scheme, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme, the Intern Incentive for Rural Pharmacies, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Assistant Traineeship Scheme and the Continuing Professional Education Allowance.

Also covered in the review is the Emergency Locum Service, the Rural Intern Training Allowance, the Rural Pharmacy Mentor Scheme and the Rural Pharmacy Liaison Officer Program.

"The Pharmacy Guild of Australia are fully supportive of assessing the current programs and encourage you to take part," according to an update on the 6CPA website posted yesterday.

A variety of survey links for participating pharmacists, students, pharmacy assistants, interns and graduates are now available at www.6cpa.com.au.

Win with dreambaby

This week Pharmacy Daily and Dreambaby® are giving readers the chance to win each day the new Dreambaby® EZY-Reach Organiser.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Gympie, QLD (Job# 200014039)
Boutique pharmacy - overall management - great team - long term clients.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - South Eastern Melbourne, VIC (Job# 200013934)
Large shopping centre where you will be sole charge & leading a team w/Tech.
- **Dispensary Technician** - Western Sydney, NSW (Job# 200013950)
Full time + PT roles for exp'd DT

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Dispensary Corner

A BRITISH man who ordered a gluten-free meal on a recent flight to Australia was somewhat surprised to be offered just a single banana - along with some cutlery to eat it with.

Martin Pavelka, who has coeliac disease, received the banana (**pictured**) on an All Nippon Airways flight from Tokyo to Sydney, with the piece of fruit labelled GF.

He felt a little miffed as other passengers tucked into a full breakfast of eggs, sausage, mushrooms, toast and yoghurt.



AUTHORITIES in Vanuatu are attempting to tackle an illicit drug problem by giving away free gardening tools.

Apparently young people on the island of Tanna often grow their own marijuana, with the new, perhaps somewhat ambitious, government initiative, aiming to encourage them to grow vegetables instead.

The island's rich volcanic soil is extremely fertile which makes it easy to grow just about anything, and police say the "free tools" scheme is part of a program to boost production of potatoes.

According to *Radio New Zealand*, the "potatoes, not pot" plan has been a bit of a challenge, with the free gardening implements found to work just as well when cultivating cannabis plants as more legitimate crops.

MedAdvisor-Epilepsy Action

LISTED digital medication management company MedAdvisor has announced another partnership with a health group, with a new Epilepsy Action Australia pact aiming to improve health outcomes across the country.

The partnership will see MedAdvisor the national non-profit organisation, working together to affect change at a time when an estimated 250,000 Australians are living with the disorder.

Medication is the first line of treatment in the management of epilepsy and as such MedAdvisor is anticipated to play "a crucial role in increasing medication adherence through its innovative medication management platform," MedAdvisor ceo Robert Read said.

MedAdvisor brings more than 700,000 people across Australia using the platform and is connected with over 45% of Australian pharmacies, Read said.

"In Australia, medication adherence in epilepsy is typically quite low, with just 60% of medication doses taken as



prescribed.

"When doses are missed, there is an increased risk of seizure activity.

"Those who are using MedAdvisor for the management of epilepsy, are 15-20% more adherent to their medications, resulting in better health outcomes," he said.

Epilepsy Action Australia ceo and md Carol Ireland said MedAdvisor would be of great assistance to those living with the condition.

"We are excited to be partnering with MedAdvisor to help our community improve their health outcomes through medication adherence.

"Medications are a significant factor in the treatment of epilepsy and we believe MedAdvisor can deliver benefits to people living with epilepsy in the management of their medication," she added.

FDA to create new Digital Health unit

THE US Food and Drug Administration has confirmed the creation of a new digital health operation to help manage the increasing proliferation of software as a medical device.

Currently the FDA is working on "what clinical validation looks like for software," according to a spokesperson, who added that the organisation was also working through responses to a consultation on draft guidance in the field.

Other work will cover artificial intelligence, advanced analytics, wireless devices, telemedicine, health IT and cyber security, according to a *Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society* report.

Pharmacist sentenced

AN AMERICAN pharmacist who operated two pharmacies in Detroit has been sentenced to 52 months in prison for participating in a fraudulent prescription drug scam.

56-year-old Nadeem Iqbal admitted to illegally distributing more than 220,000 dosage units of controlled substances, as well as health care fraud and money laundering.

The scheme involved 44 defendants in total including six doctors and four other pharmacists.



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.

21 May: 2017 PSA WA Annual Seminar; Pan Pacific Perth; register here: www.psa.org.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.medic.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

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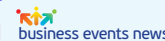
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