



## Med shortages risk

**THE** International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has released a new report investigating some of the systems used to report medicines shortages around the world, with a focus on Australia, Canada, Netherlands, Slovakia, South Africa and the USA.

The eight different medicine shortages reporting systems are reviewed, and features such as the scope of the shortages listed, the criteria applied (such as the predicted duration of a shortage) and the sources of information used, are compared.

"Medicines shortages are putting safety and lives at risk," said Andy Gray, co-editor of the report.

"This report aims to guide the development or improvement of reporting systems through the sharing of best practices."

**CLICK HERE** for the FIP report.

## e-Script firms seek ACCC tick

**FRED** IT Group offshoot eRx Script Exchange has lodged an application with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to extend the existing authorisation which allows it to cooperate with rival IP MDS Pty Ltd, formerly known as MediSecure.

The groups both operate Prescription Exchange Systems (PESs), and the agreement sees them share equally in the fee which is charged to a pharmacy user and the government by the system to which a pharmacy is connected.

With the Commonwealth's PES Interoperability Project, electronic prescriptions can be accessed by all pharmacies, regardless of the PES origin of the electronic prescription.

The Commercial Interchange Agreement has been in place since 2012, with the existing ACCC authorisation set to expire 30 Jun.

eRx and IPS are seeking an extension of the existing

authorisation until funding under the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA) ends in 2020.

The application highlights the benefits of supporting the uptake and use of electronic prescriptions, which reduce transcription errors, improve healthcare and offer "general efficiency benefits for both prescribers and dispensers".

The Electronic Prescription Fee (EPF) is payable under the 6CPA and allowing eRx and IPS to share it equally eliminates any incentive to "hinder interoperability".

The 6CPA provides funding of \$12.7m per year to fund payments to pharmacists of 15 cents per eligible electronic prescription.

Presently approximately 75% of doctors and more than 90% of pharmacies use a PES, with hopes to increase that number, eRx said.

Ongoing interoperability of PESs "will yield benefits in healthcare services and better use of medicine," the application promises.

The Pharmacy Guild and Telstra Health each own 50% of Fred IT.

## GSK award opens

**NOMINATIONS** for GSK's Award for Research Excellence are now open until 10 Jul.

The longstanding award seeks to assist leading Australian researchers by providing the winner

with an \$80,000 grant to support their research journey GSK said. It has been

awarded since 1980 to recognise outstanding achievements in medical research with potential importance to human health.

Successful applicants are generally expected to be mid-career researchers with a long-standing commitment to their field.

The winner will be announced on Thursday 12 Oct at the Annual Research Australia Awards, at the Metropolis, Melbourne.

Nominations are now being accepted online at [au.gsk.com](http://au.gsk.com).



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## Willach propels iHealth

**WILLACH** Australia has partnered with Propell Health to offer the iHealth product range on Willach's online shop, making it easier for pharmacists to order them and expand their patient health device category.

The iHealth range includes devices for diabetes, hypertension, weight and fitness monitoring and will sell at wholesale rates to pharmacies to on-sell to consumers.

All products sync directly with a free mobile device app, said Propell Health's md Craig Simmonds.

## Xanamem AD trials

**ASX-LISTED** biotech company Actinogen Medical has reached a milestone in Alzheimer's disease (AD) research with the recruitment of the first patient in a Phase II clinical trial of its cortisol-blocking drug Xanamem.

The researchers plan to enrol 174 patients at 20 sites across Australia, the UK and USA, the largest study of its kind ever conducted by an Australian biotech company.

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## WIN WITH PLUNKETT'S

Each day this week, Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away Plunkett's Vita E Cream, Ointment and Oil.

Plunkett's Vita E combines potent levels of Vitamin E plus rich Rosehip Oil. Natural Vitamin E ensures quick absorption and a soft cream texture while helping skin retain

moisture. Rosehip Oil is rich in vitamins A and C and helps improve skin elasticity. For more **CLICK HERE**.

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)

What is the strength of Vitamin E in Plunkett's Vita E Oil?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Gayle Mennilli from Greenslopes Private Hospital.





## Dispensary Corner

**DESPITE** the labour pains women endure, University of California researchers have shown mothers are more healthy in the long run than childless women.

The team found that childless women are 70% more likely to suffer from heart failure in old age compared to those with one child.

They postulated the effect is due to a spike in oestrogen levels during pregnancy which has a long term protective effect.



**CARBONATED** soft drinks may be even worse for your health than first thought, with even the bubbles having a bad effect.

A university in the Palestinian West Bank studied 16 rats of the same weight, splitting them into four groups.

The first group were given just plain water, the second a sugary cordial with no gas; the third, a 'standard' carbonated soft drink containing sugar; and the fourth a 'diet' fizzy drink containing artificial sweetener.

Interestingly both groups of rats given fizzy drinks ate 20% more than those given flat beverages, apparently because the carbon dioxide boosted their appetites - contrary to the 'diet' image usually promoted for lo-cal sodas.

The British Soft Drinks Association downplayed the results, saying "we can't assume an outcome from a study on rats will be the same as with humans".

## Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy. Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### All About Eyes Rich - by Clinique

Clinique **All About Eyes Rich** is an eye cream with a moisture-rich formula that diminishes the look of under-eye circles, shadows, puffs and fine lines. The fast-absorbing formula gives an immediate effect and continues to work over time. It also helps to protect natural collagen production. The cream works to de-puff and smooth the eye area thanks to soothing botanicals and strengthens the skin's moisture barrier against common irritants. It is safe to use around the immediate eye area and is ophthalmologist tested, the company states.



**Stockist:** 1800 556 948

**RRP:** \$58.00

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

### DU'IT Baby Nappy Change Cream



Especially formulated for sensitive skin, DU'IT **Baby Nappy Change Cream** helps reduce the severity and duration of nappy rash when applied at the first signs of redness. With 20% zinc oxide, certified organic oils and natural plant extracts, this cream forms a thin protective waterproof barrier that moisturises and provides instant calming and soothing relief for irritated skin, sore bottoms and existing redness.

**Stockist:** 02 9965 9600

**RRP:** \$16.95

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

### Furniture Straps by dreambaby

Dreambaby **Furniture Straps** prevent potentially serious accidents by anchoring furniture such as book cases, dressers and display cabinets to the wall with adjustable, heavy-duty straps. This unique dreambaby product helps prevent furniture from toppling over on to playful children who have no idea of what's dangerous and what isn't. A minimum of two straps is required for each piece of furniture while heavier objects may require three or four straps.



**Stockist:** 02 9386 4000

**RRP:** \$10.95

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

### Forever - floral, fresh - White Flower



**Forever** by Mariah Carey is an opulent floral fragrance that opens with notes of neroli, lotus blossom, and dewy green apple before ascending into heart notes of tuberose and gardenia. Notes of white musk complete the scent.

The bottle is made from clear crystal with striking symmetry and elegant lines, reflecting glamour, luxury and style.

**Stockist:** 02 9409 7700

**RRP:** \$39.00

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

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