

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus the MIMS monthly update.

## Ibuprofen module

**GUILD** Learning and Development has partnered with Reckitt Benckiser in the development of a new CPD-accredited online course titled *Reviewing the gastrointestinal tolerability of ibuprofen*.

The course looks at interactions between non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and the gastrointestinal tract.

"NSAIDs are among the most widely used medicines in the world and gastrointestinal toxicity is the most common adverse effect associated with their use," the Guild said.

The risk of GI adverse effects occurring is dependent on the NSAID, dosage and individual patient factors.

"It therefore is important that pharmacists consider the tolerability profile of each individual NSAID, rather than assuming an overall class effect," with the course looking at factors impacting GI tolerability of NSAIDs and the safety profile of ibuprofen versus other analgesics.

The activity has been accredited for 0.75 hours of Group 1 CPD, suitable for inclusion in an individual pharmacist's CPD plan.

That can be converted into 1.5 CPD credits upon successful completion of relevant assessment activities - to enrol in the course see [www.myCPD.org.au](http://www.myCPD.org.au).

## NZ pharmacists under threat

**THE** advent of Chemist Warehouse across the Tasman (**PD** Mon) is one of several significant threats to New Zealand pharmacies sector, according to a new report benchmarking the New Zealand pharmacy sector.

Major disruption is being forecast by accounting and advisory firm Moore Stephens Markhams, which has just conducted its 2017 survey which collates responses from more than 140 pharmacy businesses across the country.

Retail sales as a percentage of

total revenue have declined over the past five years, with many pharmacies in NZ "finding it increasingly difficult to keep retail sales at historical levels," according to Atul Mehta, director of the pharmacy unit of the consultancy.

"Pharmacies that have performed exceptionally well have found further revenue streams to tap into - providing additional services, being part of a funded trial, or finding new platforms to trade with additional customers," Mehta said.

He said the 2017 survey indicated a mixed bag of results, with average gross profit within pharmacies remaining constant over the last three years despite increasing challenges facing retail generally.

Pharmacies have faced government funding pressure, the threat of deregulation and the encroachment of new players, including competition from non-pharmacists which was described as a "serious threat" as other businesses increasingly sell traditional pharmacy products.

Another key trend noted was the use of robotics in dispensing.

On average the study found pharmacies employing robotic technology had a slightly lower percentage of wages to costs, with some significantly lower.

The study also highlighted the ongoing evolution of the NZ pharmacy sector, with almost a quarter of the 141 participants having had either an ownership change or been set up as a new business in the past three years.

## EU-US mutual respect

**EFFECTIVE** this month, the European Union and the United States of America have agreed to place into operation more aspects of their mutual recognition agreement which allows for acknowledgement of each other's GMP inspection outcomes and hence for better use of inspection expertise and resources.

This is the first time the FDA has agreed to recognise another countries procedures and addresses the fact that for around 85% of medicines sold in the EU, at least one manufacturing step takes place outside the Union, the European Medicines Agency said.

## New Chemists' Own

**ARROW** Pharmaceuticals has this month launched two new products under the Chemists' Own brand.

The additions include Chemists' Own Ibuprofen and Paracetamol Duo tablets - said to be a generic version of Nuromol - as well as a new Hayfever Allergy Relief Budesonide nasal spray which is a generic alternative to Rhinocort.

The analgesic product combines 200mg of ibuprofen with 500mg of paracetamol, with an eight hourly dosing regime and is available in a 12 tablet pack with RRP of \$5.45.

Released in time for the spring hayfever season, the Budesonide item is a liquid suspension delivering 32µg per spray.

Arrow said Chemists' Own was "continuing to rapidly expand its range to serve the needs of more consumers".

## ASMI PPI assurance

**THE** Australian Self-Medication Industry says consumers can have confidence in the safety profile and effectiveness of OTC proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) when they are used as directed.

The organisation was responding to recent media reports about a study published in *Gut* where researchers linked the long-term use of PPIs with a higher risk of doubling stomach cancer.

The study was conducted on people treated for *Helicobacter pylori* infection, and ASMI said while it provides a "thoughtful analysis of the effect of *H. pylori* eradication...these findings and relative risks cannot be extrapolated to people who have frequent heartburn or gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD) and for whom a short course of OTC PPIs for symptom relief may be appropriate".



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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Melbourne's Inner North, VIC (Job# 200014919)  
Looking for an extra shift or 2? PIC required to join a small professional team. \$\$
- **Pharmacist** - North Coast, NSW (Job# 200013940)  
Stunning beachside location - standout hourly rate plus accom assist and bonus.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Goldfields, WA (Job# 200014928)  
Big money to be earned in the Goldfields plus you could pan for some on day off :)

*our dynamic support can move your business or career forward!*

## Pharmaceutical Grade Warehouse For Lease NSW

- Flexible areas available from 5,000m<sup>2</sup> – 25,000m<sup>2</sup>
- A-Grade, Temp controlled warehouse
- Fully racked
- 21km to Sydney CBD

**CLICK HERE** to view the listing.



Call agents **CBRE** for further details

**Shaun Timbrell**  
0433 302 979

**Michael O'Neill**  
0431 500 939



## Dispensary Corner

**POLICE** in Connecticut will be able to don dodgy facial hair this month - all in the name of health awareness.

The Fairfield Police Department has greenlighted its officers to participate in 'No-Shave November' (not quite as catchy as Mo for Movember, but still), raising awareness for cancer prevention, education and research.

Although this sounds like a positive health campaign, it does raise the question if an officer can arrest themselves for committing a handlebar moustache fashion crime? Mmmm ... ?



**SOMEONE** with an affinity for radical fish consumption may have taken their omega 3 habit a bit too far in Gloucester Massachusetts this week.

A 400-pound headless tuna was uncovered in the wooded area of the town raising questions about how it got there.

Once discovered, the authorities were forced to remove the enormous fish using the services of a rather robust tow truck.

The police have remained tight lipped about what factors may have led to a giant decapitated tuna finding its way to the woods, however, they have revealed that someone by the name of John West is a suspect, citing the man as having an escalating and disturbing proclivity to reject fish.

## Hep C on the way out

**NEW** data released at this year's World Hepatitis Summit in Sao Paulo, Brazil (01-03 Nov) shows Australia is currently on track to eliminate hepatitis C thanks to its huge efforts in enabling population-wide access to treatment.

However, the challenge will be to keep annual treatment numbers high enough to eliminate the virus by 2030, researchers said.

For hepatitis B, progress is slower and more challenges remain, the conference delegates were told.

Hepatitis Australia ceo Helen Tyrell said, "Australia has made a fantastic inroad into its hepatitis C epidemic, but the challenge ahead is to ensure all people with chronic hepatitis C are diagnosed and linked to care...for hepatitis B, the challenges are very significant as the national response is not as well advanced as that for hepatitis C".

She said it was hoped the Third National Hepatitis B Strategy, currently in development, will be the catalyst to both articulate and invest in a range of priority actions urgently needed to get hepatitis B on a track towards elimination.

## Renewal reminder

**THE** Pharmacy Board of Australia has reminded pharmacists across the country that they only have until 30 Nov to renew their registration.

Currently over 28,700 pharmacists hold general or non-practising registration, and this year when completing renewals pharmacists will be asked to check that their qualifications are recorded correctly on the register.

"This extra step will help us maintain the integrity of the national register, which helps to protect the public," the Board said.

Renewal applications received during Dec will incur a late payment fee in addition to the annual renewal fee, while practitioners who do not renew by 31 Dec 2017 will have lapsed registration and be unable to practise in Australia.

The quickest and easiest way to renew registration is online with the process expected to take less than 30 minutes.

BPay and credit or debit card payments are accepted during the renewal process - for details see [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

## TGA updates alert

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has revised one of its alerts relating to counterfeit drugs (**PD** yesterday), to reflect that its concerns were specifically related to a product named Euro Med Clomid tablets.

The new version highlights the fact that 'Euro Med Clomid tablets' are not related to the TGA-approved Sanofi-Aventis Clomid (50mg Clomiphene Citrate) available in a blister pack presentation.

The Sanofi product continues to be marketed in Australia as an approved alternative to address current medicine shortages of clomifene/clomiphene 50mg tablets.



## 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](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**16-19 Nov:** Medicines Management Conference 2017; ICC Sydney; register here: [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au)

**19 Nov:** Victorian Pharmacist Immunisation Training Program; PSA Boardroom, Level 1; register here: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**5-8 Dec:** APSA-ASCEPT 2017 Joint Scientific Meeting; Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre; to register visit: [www.asceptasm.com](http://www.asceptasm.com)

**3-6 May:** APP 2018; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; find out more and register at: [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com)

## WIN WITH SOUTHERNATURE

This week Pharmacy Daily and SOUTHERNATURE are giving away their Ultra DHA for Pregnancy and Lactation each day, valued at \$49.95 RRP.

Southernature's Ultra DHA for Pregnancy and Lactation is formulated to support Omega 3 supplementation with a higher DHA to EPA ratio during pregnancy and lactation. This one-a-day product has an IFOS 5-star rating for purity, potency and freshness to give women a complete peace of mind to consume during pregnancy and lactation.

For more info **CLICK HERE**.

To win, be the first person from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)



*How much DHA does each capsule contain?*

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

## New Products

- **Antizol (fomepizole)** is a competitive inhibitor of alcohol dehydrogenase. Alcohol dehydrogenase catalyses the oxidation of ethanol to acetaldehyde. Alcohol dehydrogenase also catalyses the initial steps in the metabolism of ethylene glycol and methanol to their toxic metabolites. Metabolic acidosis and renal damage are seen with ethylene glycol toxicosis. Metabolic acidosis and visual disturbances (e.g. decreased visual activity and potential blindness) are associated with methanol poisoning. Antizol is indicated for the treatment of ethylene glycol or methanol poisoning. Antizol solution for intravenous infusion (fomepizole 1.5 g/1.5 mL) is supplied in a pack of 4 vials.

## New Indications

- **Fraxiparine (nadroparin calcium)** is now indicated for prophylaxis of venous thromboembolism in high-risk medical patients who are immobilised due to acute illness or hospitalised in an intensive care unit.
- **Keytruda (pembrolizumab (rch))** as monotherapy is now indicated for the treatment of adults with relapsed or refractory classical Hodgkin lymphoma following autologous stem cell transplant (ASCT), or following at least two prior therapies when ASCT or multi-agent chemotherapy is not a treatment option. The approval of this indication is on the basis of objective response rate.

## New Contraindications

- **Invirase (saquinavir)** is now contraindicated with concomitant rilpivirine, dasatinib or sunitinib due to potentially life threatening cardiac arrhythmia, or lurasidone due to potentially serious and/or life threatening reactions.
- **Mersyndol and Panalgesic (paracetamol, codeine phosphate hemihydrate and doxylamine succinate)** are now contraindicated in children younger than 12 years.
- **Mersyndol DayStrength, Panamax Co, Prodeine and Prodeinextra (paracetamol, codeine phosphate hemihydrate)** are now contraindicated in children younger than 12 years.
- **Navelbine (vinorelbine tartrate)** is now contraindicated with neutrophil count  $< 1500$  cells/mm<sup>3</sup>, current or recent infection (within 2 weeks), platelet count  $< 100,000$  cells/mm<sup>3</sup>, or use in combination with yellow fever vaccine.
- **Neulactil (periciazine)** is now contraindicated with previous history of agranulocytosis, risk of urinary retention due to urethroprostatic disorders, children younger than 1 year (due to a possible link between use of phenothiazine containing products and sudden infant death syndrome), or in combination with dopaminergic antiparkinsonism agents.
- **Proctosedyl (cinchocaine hydrochloride, hydrocortisone)** is now contraindicated in bacterial, fungal or parasitic infections.
- **Zomacton (somatropin (rbe))** treatment should be discontinued at renal transplantation in children with chronic renal disease.

*This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month.  
Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.*