

Antibiotics advice in pharmacy

CONSUMERS are being urged to seek advice from a qualified health professional such as a community pharmacist before taking antibiotics, placing pharmacists at the centre of this year's theme for World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2017 from 13-19 Nov.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) initiative highlights that it sees antibiotic resistance as being one of the greatest threats to human health today and antibiotics are a precious resource, making it important to get the right advice before taking them.

Australia is one of the highest global antibiotic users and is ranked 8th among 29 countries evaluated by the OECD, WHO said.

The WHO campaign aims to make antibiotic resistance a globally recognised health issue, raise awareness of the need to preserve the power of antibiotics through appropriate use, increase the recognition that all sectors of society must play their role in the battle and encourage behaviour change and convey the message that simple actions can make a difference.

Pharmacy applications & stationery orders

THE Department of Human Services advises pharmacies that during the holiday period, Section 90 pharmacy applications and PBS stationery orders will not be processed.

CLICK HERE for dates and details.

Emerson to depart from PSA

PHARMACEUTICAL Society of Australia (PSA) ceo Lance Emerson (pictured) has resigned from the organisation after three and a half years.

Emerson will leave in Jan 2018, with PSA national president Shane Jackson applauding his "effective and strategic leadership."

"His dedication and service to the profession - and engagement with key stakeholders - has been admirable and our members would agree he has taken PSA to the next level in terms of advocacy, professional development and practice support."

Jackson said Emerson's many achievements had included transforming the Society from functioning as six separate organisations across Australia to "one unified entity," as well as securing recognition for the PSA as the peak pharmacists' organisation via peak Health Professional Association government funding.

Emerson had been instrumental in boosting public recognition of the role of pharmacists, as well as championing key reforms and sector dialogue on a host of issues including pharmacist wages, Early Career Pharmacists, new career pathways, innovative pharmacist services, community pharmacy reforms, women in pharmacy and equality, Jackson added.

The PSA said a recruitment process for a replacement was now underway, with Emerson saying



he was "incredibly proud to have led PSA to become such a prominent peak national body".

Pharmacy Guild executive director David Quilty acknowledged Emerson's strong

leadership which had seen him be an "effective advocate for the profession with a strong focus on enhancing the role of pharmacists in medication management and primary care."

"The Guild will continue working collaboratively with the PSA under any incoming CEO in the interests of patients, community pharmacies and the pharmacist profession," Quilty promised.

Intern of the year nominations open

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced that nominations are now open for the MIMS/Guild Intern of the Year Award 2017, with the winning intern receiving a travel and educational scholarship to the value of \$4,500 courtesy of MIMS Australia.

Guild National Intern Training Program manager Tim Roberts said the award aimed to celebrate an intern who "has proactively sought to implement positive change to their pharmacy and in the process has demonstrated excellence in one or more of the core judging criteria" - **CLICK HERE** for details.

Spotlight last chance

THE upcoming *Pharmacy Daily* Summer Spotlight feature will now appear from next Tue 14 Nov, with spots still available for suppliers to showcase products and offers for the upcoming holiday season.

Each insertion includes an image, a brief description and a call to action - to profile your brands in this special feature, don't hesitate to call 1300 799 220 or email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

MS cannabis Rx nod

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has registered the first and only oromucosal cannabinoid treatment for prescription (Schedule 8) in Australia for the treatment of moderate and severe spasticity due to multiple sclerosis (MS).

The TGA nod for Sativex (nabiximols) from GW Pharma but sponsored by Emerge Health, brings to 30 the number of countries in which the product is registered.

Dr John Parratt, leading Sydney neurologist, based at Royal North Shore Hospital, welcomed the availability of Sativex in Australia saying, "Spasticity as a symptom due to MS has a major impact on patients and carers' lives so anything that can ease that burden is definitely useful to have as part of the treatment options".

More than 1,500 patients have been treated with Sativex in the clinical studies program to date.



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New PSA digital health pact

HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt yesterday announced a new digital health partnership with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, in its role as the “peak national body representing pharmacists”.

The agreement aims to boost the number of pharmacists using the My Health Record system, with the PSA to review, update and develop professional guidelines for pharmacy practice and implementation tools for digital health, Hunt said.

“The PSA represents 30,000 pharmacists working in all areas of pharmacy across the country and is ideally placed to develop and deliver education, training, information and communications for the pharmacy profession,” the Health Minister added.

PSA national president Shane

Jackson welcomed the agreement, saying there was significant potential for pharmacists to use digital health records as a tool to communicate with other health professionals, particularly during transitions of care.

“My Health Record will provide access to verifiable clinical information such as a shared health summary,” Jackson said.

The move follows confirmation earlier this week that several pharmacy dispensing software systems have been enhanced to allow pharmacists to access and upload information to patients’ My Health Records (**PD Tue**).

Opioid 7-day limit call

DRUG prescribers throughout the USA should establish a seven-day supply limit for initial opioid prescriptions, which should also be written electronically to slow the abuse of the addictive painkillers, a group of pharmacies, pharmacy benefit managers and health plans wrote in a letter to US President Donald Trump this week, reports *Modern Healthcare*.

The group also recommended exploring opioid treatment alternatives, lowering dosages as well as the number of extended-release pills prescribed, imposing closer oversight on prescription drug-monitoring data, expanding drug disposal programs, and bolstering community-backed medication treatment programs.

The recommendations align with Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

“We stand committed to engage in a public-private partnership and to work in the most collaborative fashion across the healthcare system to help solve the national healthcare crisis of opioid abuse,” the companies wrote.

Another emphasis of the group was the use of opioid alternatives, making reference to the newly released *JAMA* published paper (**PD Wed**) which showed that a combination of ibuprofen with paracetamol works just as well as a combination of any of three different opioids with paracetamol.

Queensland pharmacists honoured

LEADING Queensland pharmacists were honoured at the annual Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Queensland Branch President’s Reception and Awards Evening held at the Moreton Club in Brisbane last Fri 03 Nov.

PSA national president Dr Shane Jackson acknowledged the achievements of outgoing Queensland Branch president Bruce Elliot and introduced Jacqueline Meyer as the new president.

Meyer presented the prestigious Gold Medal, awarded for outstanding contribution and exceptional service to the pharmacy profession and the Pharmaceutical Society, to two recipients, Debbie Rigby (**below left**) and Lisa Nissen (**below right**).

Peter Mayne presented the Special Commendation Award to Sally Mellick (**above**).

James Buckley from James Cook University was awarded the

Pharmacy Student of the Year Award while Emma Conway from the Queensland University of Technology and James Buckley were dual winners of the Professor James Dare Graduate of the Year Award.

New PSA Life Members Ian Bennett, Nick Gearing, Tony Lee, Michael Smith, David Stinson and Rhonda White AO were presented with certificates.

Outgoing committee members Nerida Smith, Lisa Nissen and Melissa Cronin were acknowledged, along with retiring staff member Jan Castrisos.



WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS

This week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away a set of three Lavish Lip Oil valued at \$35.97.

Hydrate and add glowing, pigmented colour to lips with this bi-phase lip oil. Give the cute little bottle a quick shake to mix the colour and hydrating oil formula together and get ready for the perfect, pretty pout. Use the integrated tapered cushion applicator to press this decadent treat into lips for a burst of glistening colour. Super comfortable to wear, this lip oil is always smooth on the lips and never sticky. **CLICK HERE** to see more.

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

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Congratulations to yesterday’s winner, Sandra White from Iron Pharmacy Group.





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Take ownership with this sole charge role, salary package of up to \$120,000.
- **Pharmacist** - Bundaberg, QLD (Job# 200014880)
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Dispensary Corner

LOOKING for some top selling Xmas items for your pharmacy?

Look no further than an innovation from KFC in Japan, which has released new limited edition bath bombs which allow fast food lovers to literally immerse themselves in the essence of fried chicken.

Complete with KFC's 11 secret herbs and spices, the special toiletry items (pictured below) are unfortunately not actually available in stores, but will be given to the first 100 followers of the KFC Japan Twitter account who retweet a promotional post.



RESEARCHERS in the UK have made an intriguing breakthrough in wound healing, with burns sustained at night time taking significantly longer to get better than ones happening in the day.

The team from the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology studied 118 burns patients, finding night-time burns took on average 11 days longer to heal.

The scientists believe the difference is due to a 24-hour cycle in special skin cells called fibroblasts, which act to close wounds when they occur.

On a microscopic level the "first responder" fibroblasts were found to be more active during the day, pointing to therapies which could boost healing by targeting circadian rhythms.

Apo-Perindropil Arginine recall

APOTEX has written to pharmacists across the country to provide details of recall procedures for contaminated batches of Apo-Perindropil Arginine 2.5mg, 5mg and 10mg tablets.

According to the TGA, it has been identified that some bottles

from batches NC6619 exp 02/2020 (2.5mg), NC6671 exp 03/2020 (5mg) and MX1705 exp 05/2019 (10mg) may be contaminated with



dark particles of silica.

It's presumed the particles have been released from the dessicant cylinder that is placed inside the bottle to ensure the contents are kept dry.

The particles may be large enough to see as small specks, or simply appear as a dust that

discolours the tablets and/or the inside of the bottle.

The potential contamination is classified as a quality defect and is not considered to impact product safety or efficacy.

Consumers are being advised to check the batch number and if it is from an affected batch, return it to a pharmacy for a refund or replacement.

Health problems are unlikely to be experienced as a result of the issue, the TGA said - more information at www.tga.gov.au.

Algorithm predicts pharmacotherapy

HITACHI has announced the development of a machine learning-based outcome prediction and comparison technology that predicts with high accuracy the success and failure of various medication options for patients with type-2 diabetes mellitus, in collaboration with University of Utah Health.

The company said it drew on the knowledge and experience from within its staff as well as doctors, pharmacists and biomedical informaticists at the university.

The technology has the potential to support the selection of the most effective medication depending on multiple factors, the company claims.

MA hails drugs access

PEAK innovator medicines representatives group Medicines Australia (MA) has welcomed the government's response to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee Report: 'Availability of new, innovative and specialist cancer drugs in Australia'.

The report recommended improvements to and streamlining of existing regulatory and assessment processes for new medicines, with many of the issues currently being addressed through reforms of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

"In particular, we look forward to the passage of legislation currently before Parliament that includes provisions for another expedited pathway called Provisional Approval that aims to speed up access to new medicines," MA said.

"Not only does the Agreement provide \$1.8 billion in savings on PBS listed medicines that will be used to pay for new treatments, the Government has committed to reform that will improve and accelerate processes that lead to a medicine being made available on the PBS," the organisation added.

Education=adherence

MEDICATION adherence is not only the mantra of modern medicine, but also the catalyst to achieve prevention, cure, and wellbeing, according to an article in *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, the official organ of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

The role of pharmacists is front and centre in the education of patients around their medicines use and, based on multiple studies, has been demonstrated to improve adherence rates, the report insists, with pharmacists ideally placed to explain the "ins and outs" of each patient's course of therapy.

CLICK HERE to access the report.



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.

16-19 Nov: Medicines Management Conference 2017; ICC Sydney; register here: www.shpa.org.au

19 Nov: Victorian Pharmacist Immunisation Training Program; PSA Boardroom, Level 1; register here: www.psa.org.au

5-8 Dec: APSA-ASCEPT 2017 Joint Scientific Meeting; Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre; to register visit: www.asceptasm.com

3-6 May: APP 2018; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; find out more and register at: www.appconference.com