



Owner declarations

THE Pharmacy Council of NSW has updated its ownership application forms and notices and reminds pharmacists that there are still 6% who have not submitted their annual declaration and who "must do so immediately".

If you held a financial interest in a NSW pharmacy business in the period 01 May 2016 to 30 Apr 2017 you are required to provide the Council with an annual declaration regarding such interest.



Protecting the public
Regulating pharmacists and pharmacies

The Council has also launched a new logo (pictured above) and updated its website with a modern, clean look - to view visit pharmacycouncil.nsw.gov.au.



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Lost scripts to be reported

PHARMACISTS and other health professionals in NSW are being invited to report the loss, theft or forgery of prescriptions via a new online notification form on the Pharmacy Council of NSW website.

The NSW Ministry of Health will now be publishing the prescriber details of the reported prescriptions, in order to help reduce the trafficking of drugs of abuse such as alprazolam, fentanyl and oxycodone sourced through fraudulent scripts.

"Pharmacists are encouraged to be more vigilant in verifying the validity of prescriptions from authorised practitioners who have had their prescription stationery reported lost or stolen," the ministry's website advises.

The NSW Health Department also says pharmacists should be aware that some prescription stationery is printed with a false name, address or telephone number of the prescriber, and says care should be taken when contacting a purported prescriber using the telephone number provided because they may not in fact be speaking to the registered health practitioner.

Hep-B vax shortages

GLAXOSMITHKLINE has confirmed it is experiencing a "supply constraint" of its Twinrix Junior combined hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine, due to a current high demand for hepatitis-B containing vaccines in Australia.

The company expects Twinrix Junior to be back in stock by the end of Nov 2017, while Twinrix Adult is now back in stock following a recent supply issue.

There's also an ongoing constraint on Engerix-B adult doses after recent shortages, with production now back to normal levels but some time taken to rebuild capacity.

There is an intermittent constraint of Engerix-B paediatric doses for the private market, with this issue expected to be resolved by the end of 2017, the company said.

GSK said supply of its vaccines containing hepatitis B to government programs is not impacted by the shortages.

"The prescriber's name may be checked on the AHPRA Register of Practitioners, and the practice address and telephone number should be verified independently through other published sources," the department said.

The reporting of lost, stolen or forged prescriptions is not mandatory under the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966* however the ministry confirmed it was an offence for a pharmacist to dispense S4 and S8 medicines if it appears a script has been forged or fraudulently obtained.

The full list of prescriptions reported lost, stolen or forged can be viewed at health.nsw.gov.au.

Twomey elected as Qld Guild president

TRENT Twomey has been named as the new president of the Pharmacy Guild's Queensland branch after a hotly contested election, which has seen him beat Paul Jaffar in the poll.

Cairns-based Twomey takes the place of Tim Logan who has stepped down after several years as Queensland Guild president.

Chris Owen was elected as the branch's vice-president and national councillor, with others on the state executive including Kos Sclavos and Rick Xynias as vice presidents, and Lucy Walker and Vikesh Kumar as alternative national councillors.

PA management

THE upcoming 2017 Pharmacy Assistant National Conference will feature a "Management Master Class" stream, covering topics from rostering and recruitment through to pharmacy transformation and digital engagement.

According to former Guild president Kos Sclavos, in many cases retail managers and senior pharmacy assistants have limited formal training for their roles, with the stream specially curated to help further develop emerging leaders.

The conference takes place at QT on the Gold Coast 26-28 Oct - see pharmacyassistants.com.

Today's issue of PD

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

Amcal carer care

WITHIN the framework of Amcal's focus on patient-centric care, the Sigma brand is playing a leading role as a platinum sponsor of the 7th International Carers Conference in Adelaide aiming to positively influence how Australia's 2.7 million carers are supported by the health care industry.

Amcal Senior Pharmacist James Nevile will present on day one of the conference, providing insight into the active role pharmacists play in a carer's wider health care team, and the support available to carers and care recipients.

In addition, conference attendees can access a range of health services including heart health checks, medication management reviews and HbA1c testing at the Amcal booth, with pharmacists conducting 15 minute sessions throughout the conference.

The International Carers Conference brings together more than 700 stakeholders and runs 04 to 06 Oct at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

CPD seminar

CLINICAL pharmacist Debbie Rigby will present a clinical update seminar next month at James Cook University in Townsville, Qld.

The event takes place on 12 Nov, with full details and registrations at pharmeducation.com.au.

Vic asthma service

THE Victorian Government has launched a new "thunderstorm asthma" warning system in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology and Melbourne and Deakin universities.

A website and app will provide forecasts and alerts about potential thunderstorm asthma conditions, similar to the catastrophe in Melbourne late last year that killed nine people and saw pharmacists step in to provide emergency aid.

See emergency.vic.gov.au.



AMH CHILDREN'S DOSING COMPANION 2017 RELEASE IS AVAILABLE NOW!

Designed for health care practitioners in hospital and community settings, the CDC brings evidence-based, peer-reviewed, up-to-date dosing information wherever you are. Available in hard copy or online.

To find out more go to www.amh.net.au



MATES on pain

THE Veterans' Medicines Advice and Therapeutics Education Services (Veterans' MATES) project has released a new module titled Understanding Chronic Pain.

Featuring information for both health professionals and veterans and their carers, the module states that understanding pain is the first step to recovery for patients with pain that has persisted for more than 12 weeks.

It urges a "biopsychosocial" strategy to help understand how patients might overcome the pain - see veteransmates.net.au.



Dispensary Corner

THE US Food and Drug Administration has a lot on its plate - and it's not just related to medicines regulation.

The agency has attracted attention overnight after issuing a formal warning to a Massachusetts-based bakery, in relation to several matters including an ingredient listing.

The Nashoba Brook Bakery sells a particular type of breakfast cereal (or granola) and lists "Love" as one of the ingredients.

"Love" is not a common or usual name of an ingredient, and is considered to be intervening material because it is not part of the common or usual name of the ingredient," the FDA wrote.

The reprimand is among a range of issues raised by the FDA, which insists it was more concerned about matters of hygiene within the bakery.

Nashoba said it would rectify the sanitation issues, but described the FDA's approach to listing 'love' as an ingredient as "so George Orwell".

Harvey kicks CW-AFL behind

PUBLIC health advocate and health industry watchdog from the Monash School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Associate Professor Ken Harvey, has lodged a formal complaint with government health authorities around last weekend's Chemist Warehouse - Swisse-Voost AFL grand final promotion (**PD** 28 Sep).

The activation, described by the company as the largest it had ever undertaken, was defined by Harvey as "irresponsible because it was distributed at public venues containing children of all ages.

"Patrons were encouraged to take the packs home," he said, with items including a free sample of Swisse Ultiboost Magnesium tabs.

"The container was not child-proof and had no information on the recommended upper limit of magnesium intake (as a supplement) for young children," Harvey wrote in his submission.

He argued that the promotion "breached the Object of the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code 2015 (the Code) and the spirit of s.4(8)," while claims on the

product pack, the promotion to children and the exclusive 'buy one, get one free' offer also breached the Code.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration, the Australian Health Practitioners Registration Authority and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission were all contacted by Harvey, who suggested the company distributing the 110,000 packs of Swisse product worth \$20.99 each be fined the equivalent amount of the retail value of the giveaway, or \$2.31 million.

Vaping a life-saver?

A NEW study out of Georgetown University Medical Center in the US estimates the years of life that could be saved in the US if smokers switched to e-cigarettes, or 'vaping'.

Up to 6.6 million premature deaths could be prevented over a ten year period in the US if smokers switched to e-cigarettes, the researchers estimated in a report in the *Tobacco Control* journal - **CLICK HERE** for the study details.

WIN WITH COLOUR BY TBN

This week Pharmacy Daily and Colour by TBN are giving away each day a 'Lost in Your Eyes' Eyeshadow Palette and 'More Than Just a Pretty Face' Eyeshadow, Bronzer & Highlighter Palette.

These two multi-faceted palettes allow you to create a wide variety of eyeshadow and base looks. With a combination of matte and shimmer shades, these palettes are perfect for use during party season with their super-pigmented formula. Visit www.colourbytbn.com.au for more information.

To win, be the first from WA, SA or NT to send the correct answer to the following question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What is the RRP of each palette?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Katy Duldig from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.



WELCOME to Pharmacy Daily's travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by Cruise Weekly.

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For example, take the *Riviera Rhapsody* 10 May 2018 on a 7-day voyage from \$2,240 pp.

Contact your preferred travel agent or oceaniacruises.com.

Book by 30 Nov for Fly-Free APT deals

APT Cruises is offering fly-free and suite upgrade deals for travellers booking by 30 Nov.

There are many options with many other inclusions: for example, sail the 'Majestic Seine & Bordeaux' Paris to Bordeaux for 15 days from \$10,295 pp.

Spectacular castles, contemporary and classic sculptures, the regal Château De Cazeneuve and one of the Bordeaux's finest cooperages await the curious - see your travel agent or aptouring.com.au.

New Products

- **Hexaxim (DTPa-hepB-IPV-Hib vaccine)** combines diphtheria toxoid, tetanus toxoid, acellular pertussis (toxoid and filamentous haemagglutinin), recombinant hepatitis B surface antigen, inactivated poliomyelitis virus and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b polysaccharide conjugated to tetanus protein. Hexaxim is indicated for vaccination of infants from six weeks of age against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, poliomyelitis and invasive infections caused by *Haemophilus influenzae* type b. Hexaxim should not be administered to anyone with a history of severe allergic reaction to any pertussis vaccine; encephalopathy of unknown aetiology within 7 days of administration of a previous dose of any vaccine containing pertussis antigens (whole cell or acellular pertussis vaccines); progressive neurological disorder, uncontrolled epilepsy or progressive encephalopathy until the treatment regimen has been established, the condition has stabilised and the benefit clearly outweighs the risk. Generally vaccination must be postponed in cases of moderate or severe febrile and/or acute disease. Hexaxim is supplied in a 0.5 mL single dose prefilled syringe (without attached needle and one or two separate needles) in a pack size of 1 or 10.
- **NovoThirteen (catridecacog (rys))** is a recombinant human coagulation factor XIII A-subunit. Factor XIII is the terminal enzyme in the blood coagulation cascade. When activated by thrombin at the site of vessel wall injury, factor XIII plays an important role in the maintenance of haemostasis through cross-linking of fibrin and other proteins in the fibrin clot. NovoThirteen is indicated for routine prophylaxis of bleeding in patients with congenital factor XIII A-subunit deficiency. NovoThirteen lyophilised powder for injection is available in a single use vial containing 2500 IU in a pack of 1.
- **Rexulti (brexpiprazole)** is a novel atypical antipsychotic agent with pharmacological activity as a serotonin-dopamine activity modulator. Brexpiprazole combines partial agonist activity at serotonergic 5HT_{1A} and at dopaminergic D₂ receptors with antagonist activity at serotonergic 5HT_{2A} receptors. Rexulti is indicated for the treatment of schizophrenia in adults. Rexulti is available as 1 mg, 2 mg, 3 mg and 4 mg tablets in pack sizes of 30.
- **Somavert (pegvisomant (rbe))** is an analogue of human growth hormone that has been genetically modified to be a growth hormone receptor antagonist. Somavert is indicated for the treatment of acromegaly in patients who have had inadequate response to surgery and/or radiation and/or other medical therapies or for whom these therapies are not appropriate. The treatment goal is to normalise insulin-like growth factor-I levels. Somavert is supplied as lyophilised powder for injection in single dose vials containing 10 mg (packs of 30), 15 mg (packs of 30) and 20 mg (packs of 1 and 30).
- **Tecentriq (atezolizumab (rch))** is a humanised monoclonal antibody that directly binds to PD-L1 and blocks interactions with the PD-1 and B7.1 receptors, releasing PD-L1/PD-1 pathway mediated inhibition of the immune response, including reactivating the anti-tumour immune response. Tecentriq is indicated for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with progression on or after prior chemotherapy. In patients with tumour EGFR or ALK genomic aberrations, Tecentriq should be used after progression on or after targeted therapy. Tecentriq concentrated solution for intravenous infusion is available in a single use vial containing 1200 mg per 20 mL in a pack of 1.

New Indications

- **Lucentis (ranibizumab)** is now indicated in adults for the treatment of visual impairment due to choroidal neovascularisation.

New Contraindications

- **Colifoam Rectal Foam (hydrocortisone acetate)** is now contraindicated with tuberculous or other infections, obstruction, abscess, perforation, peritonitis, fresh intestinal anastomoses, extensive fistulae.
- **Evotaz (atazanavir sulfate/cobicistat)** and **Reyataz (atazanavir sulfate)** should not be used in combination with elbasvir/grazoprevir because of the potential increase in the risk of ALT elevations due to a significant increase in grazoprevir plasma concentrations caused by OATP1B1/3 inhibition.
- **Merieux Inactivated Rabies Vaccine (inactivated rabies vaccine)** pre-exposure vaccination must be postponed in case of febrile or acute disease. Since rabies infection generally results in death, there are no contraindications to post-exposure vaccination.
- **Sporanox Capsules (itraconazole)** and **Sporanox Oral Solution (itraconazole)** are now contraindicated in combination with isavuconazole, naloxegol, lomitapide, avanafil, dapoxetine or eliglustat.
- **Tarka (trandolapril/verapamil)** is now contraindicated in combination with neprilysin (neutral endopeptidase, NEP) inhibitors such as sacubitril and racedotril.

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.