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## Pharmacy vax worry

WHILE both the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia provide guidelines on the administration of immunisation services in pharmacy, a few concerning cases of incorrect vaccine administration have been brought to light by the Pharmacy Council of New South Wales.



"We were recently made aware of several

people injected with influenza vaccination given by a pharmacist high in the shoulder joint instead of in the deltoid muscle," the Council said in its newsletter to pharmacists.

The letter said mistakes like this have the potential to erode customer confidence - refer to Vaccination Standards - [CLICK HERE](#).

## NPS on new drugs

THE latest edition of *Australian Prescriber* from NPS MedicineWise highlights three new drugs on the Australian market.

Brexpiprazole (Rexulti from Lundbeck) is a new antipsychotic for schizophrenia, is structurally similar to aripiprazole and has a similar mechanism of action.

Somavert (pegvisomant) by Pfizer binds to growth hormone receptors and is indicated for acromegaly as a powder for reconstitution.

Thirdly, NPS writes up Gilead's Epcusla (sofosbuvir-velpatasvir fixed combination) for hepatitis C. Visit [nps.org.au](http://nps.org.au) for details.

## New NSW Guild executive

THE results of the hotly contested election of office-bearers for the NSW Pharmacy Guild branch committee (*PD* 04, 05 Sep) have been revealed, with incumbent president Rick Samimi to be replaced by rival David Heffernan.

Others elected include Feras Kareem, Caroline Diamantis and Paul Jones as vice presidents, while Paul Jones and Catherine Bronger are the national councillors.

Alternate National Councillors for NSW include Karen Carter, Sally Sheehan and Caroline Diamantis.

Branch committee members who were not elected include John Black and Richard Walsh who were running for vice president; and Adele Tahan and Judy Plunkett who were seeking roles as Guild national councillors.

Heffernan said he was pleased to take the role of president, thanking Samimi who remains on the NSW Guild Branch Committee.

He said Samimi had fought hard for the sector particularly on issues

## MHR consultation

THE Federal Department of Health has launched a public consultation into Secondary Users of My Health Record (MHR) Systems Data, with the review to be conducted by a consortium led by HealthConsult.

Written submissions are sought in response to a consultation paper, with the project also including 11 public workshops scheduled across the country - to register or for more information [CLICK HERE](#).

relating to codeine.

"Community pharmacy owes a lot to Rick," Heffernan added.

MEANWHILE the Victorian election results have also been declared, with Anthony Tassone re-elected as branch president (*PD* 16 Aug) and national councillor.

Grace Chong and Kin Chong will serve as vice presidents, while George Tambassis has been elected as a national councillor.

Grace Chong and Paul Krassaris were also both elected as alternate national councillors for the Victorian branch of the Guild.

## Nationals back Guild

THE NSW branch of the National Party has confirmed its support for Pharmacy Guild proposals which would enable patients to access codeine without a prescription in certain circumstances, once the medication is rescheduled effective from Feb 2018.

NSW Deputy Premier and Nationals leader John Barilaro said the change would have a heavier impact on rural and regional parts of the state where timely access to doctors is often limited.

Guild national president George Tambassis applauded the NSW Nationals' support for the plan to allow "safe and appropriate access to these medicines to occur without a prescription.

"We all know that simply making these medicines prescription only will not prevent their abuse through doctor-shopping," Tambassis said.

## Medicinal cannabis for pain, palliation

RANDOMISED controlled trials (RCTs) and other studies relating to the management of pain and



palliative care using cannabis or cannabis derivatives have been listed on the Therapeutic

Goods Administration website.

A total of 48 RCTs are listed in the bibliography along with a further 49 other studies relating to pain control while nine RCTs with a further four relating to palliation are listed, a very handy resource for students and researchers.

Visit [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au) to access.

## "Gong" for gummies

SUGAR-FILLED chewable gummy vitamins have received the dubious honour of being included in this year's "Shonky Awards" compiled by consumer group CHOICE.

The 12th annual award list names and shames "the shonkiest products and companies taking advantage of Australian consumers," singling out Nature's Way and Bioglan in particular for their marketing approaches targeting children and using celebrity endorsements.

Claims that the "sticky, sugary" products are good for the teeth were also criticised.

The Shonkys also highlighted the Pain Erazor pen for claims offering "drug free pain relief through the science of electro-analgesia".

See more at [choice.com.au](http://choice.com.au).

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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Southern Tablelands NSW (Job# 200014687)  
Want responsibilities + greater challenge + easy drive Sydney or Canberra?
- **Pharmacist** - Wimmera Region, VIC (Job# 200014631)  
Award-winning pharmacy offering work / lifestyle balance. Accom & relocation!
- **Pharmacist In Charge** - North West, QLD (Job# 200013926)  
Starting in December, work across 3 sites including indigenous health.

Have you arranged a Locum for your next break? call us to sort it!

## Dispensary Corner

A RUSSIAN dentist has attracted worldwide attention this week after posting an Instagram video showing him pulling one of his own wisdom teeth.

"Doctor Yakhyaev" has more than 14,000 social media followers, who breathlessly watched him inject himself with anaesthetic, grab a pair of pliers and extract the tooth and then stitch up his bloody gum while looking in a mirror.

The graphic footage, which includes a funky backing track, has been viewed more than 22,000 times - join the trend at [www.instagram.com](http://www.instagram.com).



### ONLY in America?

The makers of a popular breakfast cereal have been forced to reintroduce artificial colours and flavouring, after a consumer outcry following the launch of a healthier version.

General Mills says it will relaunch "Classic Trix" this month, offering it alongside the naturally coloured product which will be relabelled as "No No No Trix".

Fans are said to be thrilled at the change, which will also enable the company to reintroduce bright blue and green pieces to the cereal.

## Mandatory reporting input

ALL health professionals including pharmacists should be exempted from mandatory reporting requirements, according to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

In a submission to a Council of Australian Governments (COAG) review of reporting rules, the PSA has urged the adoption of Western Australia's model for pharmacists seeking treatment for mental health and stress-related conditions.

To achieve a nationally consistent approach, COAG's consultation paper has proposed four options, including the adoption of the WA model (Option 2), which exempts treating practitioners from

mandatory reporting requirements.

PSA national president Dr Shane Jackson said, "PSA strongly supports access to healthcare for health professionals balanced with public safety.

"Pharmacists should be able to seek treatment for health issues confidentially without fear that their professional careers will be at risk," Jackson said.

With rates of suicide among health professionals the highest among Australia's white-collar workforce, Jackson added, "We are concerned that fear of mandatory reporting may reduce access to necessary healthcare for vulnerable health practitioners".

He said Australia's pharmacy profession has a variety of robust codes, standards and guidelines for ethical and professional practice.

"PSA believes that pharmacists are well equipped to exercise professional judgement and meet their professional and ethical obligations to report a serious risk of harm," Jackson added.

The full PSA submission is available online at [psa.org.au](http://psa.org.au).

## PBAC invites input

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) said it deferred six major submissions from consideration at its Nov 2017 meeting and now invites submissions on these from all stakeholders including interest groups, health professionals or patients - see [pbs.gov.au](http://pbs.gov.au) for 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](http://www.colourbytbn.com.au) for more information.

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

Are Colour by TBN products certified cruelty free?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Emily Keleher from Good Price Pharmacy Warehouse.



## PHARMAC tender site

NEW Zealand's Pharmaceutical Management Agency PHARMAC has launched a new e-portal to host its annual tender.

The site is now available for suppliers to trial as of yesterday, the agency said, with suppliers advised to register in the system before the release of PHARMAC's 2017/18 Tender.

See [www.pharmac.govt.nz](http://www.pharmac.govt.nz).



## 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).

**17-19 Oct:** World Self Medication Industry General Assembly 2017; ICC Sydney; for details and to register see: [www.wsmiga2017.com](http://www.wsmiga2017.com)

**21-22 Oct:** 2017 Queensland Medicines Update; Pullman Brisbane; register now: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**26 Oct:** CMA Annual Conference and Industry Awards; Sydney; details here: [www.cmaustralia.org.au](http://www.cmaustralia.org.au)

**26-28 Oct:** Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; QT Gold Coast; for details see: [www.pharmacyassistants.com](http://www.pharmacyassistants.com)

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