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CW ups proteins

CHEMIST Warehouse (CW) has welcomed health and wellness brand, Protein World to its stores from Sep this year in an exclusive retail deal that will see the well-known products sold in bricks and mortar stores for the first time globally.

CW Group chief operating officer Mario Tascone said since launching online in 2013, Protein World had become an extremely popular lifestyle brand in the UK and the USA, offering consumers over 250 products across the fitness, wellness, weight loss, beauty and snacking categories.

There are "many Australian customers" who currently buy it online, Tascone said, and now CW customers will be able to access the products locally across the country.

SHPA expands residency program

FOLLOWING a successful inaugural year which saw 30 sites and over 100 hospital pharmacy residents across the country take part (PD 31 Aug), the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) Residency Program is set to expand as applications for 2018 site accreditation open today.

SHPA ceo Kristin Michaels says hospitals accredited to provide Australia's only formalised and structured hospital residency program are leading the way by embedding workforce transformation into everyday practice.

Applications for accreditation via SHPA's online portal close on 01 Nov 2017 - see shpa.org.au.

Medicinal cannabis portal

PHARMAPROGRAMS

has launched the new Medicinal Cannabis Medicines Portal (MCMP) www.mcmp.com.au, designed to provide a streamlined process for medicinal cannabis prescribing and dispensing between health professionals and manufacturers.

The MCMP will ensure a continuity of care between patients, carers, and their existing doctors and pharmacists, PharmaPrograms says.

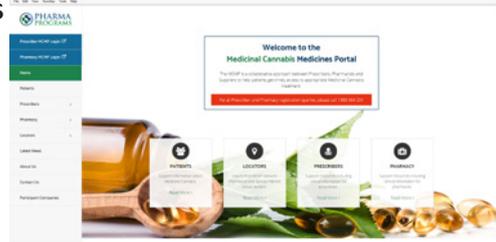
The MCMP is open to all manufacturers of medicinal cannabis and will ensure appropriate supply of Medicinal Cannabis via the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA's) Special Access Scheme (SAS).

Medicinal cannabis from selected multiple manufacturers will be distributed via the trusted community pharmacy network in Australia.

The foundation company participants in the portal are Cann Group Limited & The Hydroponics Company (Canneo Limited).

PharmaPrograms systems architect and pharmacist Kos Sclavos AM believes that the MCMP will ensure that a greater number of health professionals will be able to work together to support patients and carers who require access to medicinal cannabis. Health Professionals will be supported through the regulatory requirements.

"The IT enabled system will support patients and carers,



optimising Quality Use of Medicines (QUM). Initially, supply will focus on selected manufacturers approved to import bulk supplies of medicinal cannabis products, under the TGA SAS (Category B) or Approved Prescribers schemes," Sclavos said.

Cann Group ceo Peter Crock said, "The MCMP will provide a much-needed channel for patients to access product while also bridging the gap with health professionals seeking the information to allow appropriate advice and prescription."

The MCMP provides resources to support healthcare professionals ready to use the system once the portal goes live in late Oct.

Codeine resource hub

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has launched its new Codeine Information Hub providing information for consumers, pharmacists, pharmacy assistants and prescribers, including those in rural and remote areas.

With 01 Feb regulation changes looming, the TGA has prepared a useful set of data for each stakeholder, with special emphasis on the role of the pharmacist in counselling patients about the upcoming changes.

Recommendations around language use include framing conversations about the new restrictions on codeine access "as protecting them from opioid-related harms".

There are tips on open-ended questions, managing expectations, establishing the possibility of substance use disorder, chronic versus acute pain issues and more, each with sample responses that can be tailored to the situation.

The TGA recommends "empathy and validation" with clearly-set boundaries - visit tga.gov.au.



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Dispensary Corner

REGULATORS in California have put a stop to a venture that might have redefined the term "getting high", announcing they will not allow the delivery of cannabis by autonomous drones.

While pharmaceutical prescriptions might be permitted via the US mail service, marijuana will need to be conveyed aboard a human-driven car thanks to a ruling by the California Bureau of Cannabis Control.

According to tech website *ARS Technica*, several start-up ventures had announced plans to deliver legalised marijuana by drone, but will be prevented by the regulatory bureau.

"Transportation may not be done by aircraft, watercraft, rail, drones, human-powered vehicles, or unmanned vehicles," the regulators ruling says.

"Deliveries may be made only in person by enclosed motor vehicle," it says.



IN INDIA, surgeons have discovered the source of a woman's persistent vomiting and abdominal pain, having removed a 750g hairball from her stomach.

The 25cm matted mass was removed in a procedure at a hospital in Mumbai where it was found to extend through the woman's stomach and duodenum and into her small intestine.

The 20-year-old patient reportedly suffered from a rare psychological disorder involving a compulsion to eat one's own hair.

Pharmacy cancer screen

A PHARMASUISSE campaign that led to a long-term pharmacy service screening people for colorectal cancer was declared the winner of this year's International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Health Promotion Campaign Award, sharing the top spot with the Korean Pharmaceutical Association (KPA) for a campaign on safe drug use.

The awards were two of three presented during the 77th World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science taking place in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

FIP's other professional association award, for best Pharmacy Practice Improvement Program, went to the Royal Dutch Pharmacists Association (KNMP) for its campaign "The first time", which raised awareness about the value of the counselling provided by community pharmacists to patients who have been prescribed a new medicine.

The Dutch campaign not only succeeded in promoting a service provided by pharmacists but also helped to create acceptance

that pharmacists should be remunerated for this service.

Full details of the campaigns, awards and pictures at fip.org.

Osteoarthritis hope

CLAIMS of a breakthrough in the treatment of osteoarthritis using a 60-year old drug have been made, a discovery with the potential to help more than 1.6 million Australians, most of whom are of working age.

A case study that has been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication in *BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders* involved a 70-year-old Adelaide-based woman with advanced osteoarthritis on a waiting list for a complete knee replacement.

The treatment involved the drug Zilosul (pentosan polysulfate sodium), which was injected by her doctor, Professor Jegan Krishnan.

The drug has been used for many years for interstitial cystitis but in this case Bone Marrow Edema Lesions detected by an MRI scan resolved in two weeks - see more at paradigmmbiopharma.com.

Guild Update

HIV medication management

GUILD Learning and Development has announced a new course focusing on the role pharmacists have in providing HIV patients and other healthcare providers with advice on medication management and general health maintenance.

At the end of 2015, an estimated 25,313 people were living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in Australia and of those, an estimated 19,051 people were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART).

HIV-infected individuals are now having fewer complications and can expect to live near-normal lifespans.

Recognising the importance of improving access to ART, in July 2015 valid PBS prescriptions were permitted to be dispensed by community pharmacies irrespective of the source of the PBS prescription.

In the era of life-long therapy for HIV, pharmacists have a role in providing both the patient and other healthcare providers with advice on medication management and general health maintenance.

Guild Learning and Development is partnering with Viiv Healthcare in an online course titled *Community pharmacy guide to the management of HIV*.

To enrol in this course please visit www.myCPD.org.au.

Win with NS-8 Natural Footcare

This week Pharmacy Daily and NS-8 Natural Footcare are giving away NS-8 Heel Balm, NS-8 Leg Care Cream and NS-8 Sports Socks.

Give your feet some love! Spring is here and it's time to make sure your feet and legs are ready - soft and smooth. NS-8 Natural Footcare is based on natural active ingredients rather than petrochemicals to deliver superior results. NS-8 Heel Balm is not greasy, so you don't need socks, and natural exfoliants gradually remove dry, thickened skin, so you don't need foot files. NS-8 Leg Care Cream refreshes and moisturises hot, tired legs, softening and smoothing dry skin. Australian owned and made.

To win, be the first from QLD to send the correct answer to the question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

True/False: NS-8 Heel Balm means no socks and no foot files.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Elisabeth Tan.

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