

Managing codeine stocks post 01 Feb

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has posted an update on how to manage stocks of products containing codeine following their rescheduling to S4 on 01 Feb 2018.

Products involved include those for both pain management as well as cough and cold products which also contain codeine.

All states and territories have agreed that S2 and S3 codeine-containing medicines that have been rescheduled to Schedule 4 and are still in a retail pharmacy after 01 Feb 2018 may be dispensed after that date on prescription for a maximum period of nine months (until 31 Oct 2018) or until the end of the shelf life, whichever is earlier, the TGA said.

Other conditions apply, namely, a valid prescription is required, the stock needs to be stored in the dispensary and state or territory laws still need to be observed.

Connect to tga.gov.au for details.

Pharmintercom tracks trends

NATIONAL president of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia George Tambassis hosted the presidents and ceos of the national bodies for community pharmacy from the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, the United States, Canada and South Africa at Pharmintercom last week.

This grouping of community pharmacy leaders has been meeting since 1987 to share knowledge and build mutual understanding of the opportunities and threats facing community pharmacies in the English-speaking world, Tambassis explained in the Guild newsletter *Forefront*.

The Guild president identified common trends across the seven Pharmintercom countries.

There is increased corporatisation of pharmacy with more supply chain vertical integration, while many independent pharmacies choose to differentiate themselves from the "cheap, accurate and fast" corporate pharmacies, he said.

There is also a trend towards capitation and patient outcome based funding models, while evidence is mounting that healthcare by pharmacists utilising the full scope of their professional skills increases adherence and reduces costs, particularly hospital stays, while delivering better health outcomes.

Community pharmacies are growing to be the preferred health destination for treatment of minor ailments, general ill-health, and for preventative health, including immunisation, screening, smoking cessation and managing lifestyle related health risks, he added.

"With hospital and MBS costs ballooning, a targeted and evidence-based investment to enable pharmacists in community pharmacy to practice at the top of their profession in the full medicine management of patients with hypertension is a no-brainer," Tambassis concluded.

Visit guild.org.au for more.

PBS pricing Oct cycle

THE pricing adjustments for the Oct Cycle of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) reductions to take effect 01 Oct have now been posted on the PBS website.

Some big ticket items are affected, namely bleomycin, premetrexed, epirubicin, imatinib, infliximab and voriconazole across multiple brands.

Go to pbs.gov.au for full details.

Global AF awareness

ATRIAL fibrillation (AF) awareness is being championed by the AF Association (AFA) calling for early identification of the undiagnosed person with AF.

#AFAwareWeek is set for 21-26 Nov this year and support materials are on offer for those pharmacies wanting to get involved.

AFA says pharmacies can share and display information about the importance of "Detect, Protect, Correct & Perfect", hold an awareness activity or fundraise and donate - **CLICK HERE** for more.

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Dementia-cardiac link

A WORLD-FIRST experiment by a University of South Australia cognitive neuroscientist could mitigate the impact of heart surgery on thousands of older Australians at risk of dementia. The work could improve outcomes for many over-65s having cardiac surgery - scimex.org.

No prenatal alcohol

RESEARCHERS at the University of Bristol, UK, assessing the impact of prenatal maternal alcohol intake on the foetus via a systematic review and meta-analysis, reported they were surprised to find a lack of strong data.

However, scientists say a lack of evidence of harm does not imply a lack of harm and strongly recommend against any alcohol at all, due to a range of known effects on the developing brain.

Established effects include changes to nerve migration and neurotransmitter production along with cognitive impairment.

In addition, maternal ingestion of alcohol is associated with babies being small for gestational age, preterm delivery, developmental delays and more.

Refer to bmjopen.bmj.com.

Pharmacy vaccination guide

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has developed a Vaccination Service Business Support Guide and Workbook to provide pharmacy owners with information on how to implement a vaccination service within their pharmacy to ensure they are providing a quality and consistent service.

This business support package for Guild members is comprised of a guide, workbook and checklist, and complements clinical training by focusing on the practical requirements of implementing a vaccination service.

The 'Designing Your Vaccination Service' workbook is based on the Continuous Quality Improvement methodology and focuses on the tools and techniques that will allow pharmacists to examine and adjust their business operational plans and workflows in support of implementing and delivering an in-pharmacy vaccination service.

Guild Learning and Development offers training courses for



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia



pharmacists to become pharmacist vaccinators.

Pharmacists will need to complete online training and a face-to-face workshop facilitated by their local Guild Branch.

The Vaccination Service Guide is available for download by members at the Guild website Vaccination Services page.

Vitamin D obesity link

DEFICIENCY of vitamin D during growth and development has been clearly associated with a range of health concerns, including the risk of chronic diseases such as type 1 diabetes, hypertension, multiple sclerosis and many types of cancer, according to a study summarising the effects in the *International Journal of Contemporary Pediatrics*.

The study went on to confirm that vitamin D deficiency or insufficiency is also common to obese and overweight adolescents, and linked to the previously associated chronic conditions - [CLICK HERE](#).

Guild awards open

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has opened applications for the Pharmacy of the Year Award and other awards.

Winners will be announced at the 2018 APP Conference, to be held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre 03-08 May next year - [CLICK HERE](#).

Alzheimer's hope

AUSTRALIAN researchers in Melbourne and China have used experimental drugs to target a recently described molecular pathway that damages the brain after a stroke, bringing these treatments one step closer to the clinic for stroke sufferers.

Using pre-clinical animal models of ischaemic stroke, researchers have now shown that the tau protein, which stabilises the cellular 'train track' that transports molecules around cells, is also involved in stroke.

Published in *Molecular Psychiatry*, the study showed that tau levels could be protected following a stroke and five different experimental drugs were trialled, with ferroptosis inhibitors clear winners for their therapeutic potential in the end.

Visit nature.com for the study.

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- Pharmacist In Charge** - Melbourne SE Bayside (Job# 200014612)
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Dispensary Corner

HOW do you manage a misspelt set of football jerseys?

Vermont's capital city is saying merci to a French city it's named after for plans to send some misspelled soccer jerseys its way.

Vermont, a state in the New England region of the northeastern United States, has its capital city spelt Montpelier with one L not two as in Montpellier, the city in southern France.

Fortunately for Montpelier High School soccer team, Montpellier contacted the Vermont city to let officials know about the gift.

"Bonjour! Merci pour les chemises!" replied the US counterpart - that translates from French to "Hello! Thank you for the shirts!"



ANOTHER tool in the battle against those who flout parking laws is a device that looks as harmless as SpongeBob SquarePants, but sticks to an offender's car like a barnacle.

The device, suitably dubbed The Barnacle, is intended to immobilise a vehicle until the owners pay outstanding tickets.

Deployed in Pennsylvania, US, the device even comes with a GPS device in some models that will help the law track you down.



AMR still dominates at EMA

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) is hosting a joint meeting with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) to discuss antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The event will take place at EMA's premises in London on 19 Sep 2017 and will be broadcast live on the EMA website.

Antimicrobial resistance is an increasingly serious threat to global public health that requires action across all government sectors and society, the EMA said.

A growing number of infections such as pneumonia, diarrhoea caused by *clostridium difficile*, or gonorrhoea, have become more and more difficult to treat because bacteria are becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotic medicines.

Some common pathogens have turned into so-called 'superbugs' that are resistant to a whole range of antibiotics, leaving healthcare professionals with very few options to treat patients.

To win this battle a global strategy is needed, the EMA said.

The webcast meeting will

ultimately develop coordinated efforts on awareness and empowerment of all stakeholders, the EMA said.

A report after the meeting will be posted at ema.europa.eu.

Monash Prof granted RPS fellowship

PROFESSOR William Charman, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, has



been made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS).

The Honorary Fellowship was bestowed at a Royal

Pharmaceutical Society event at the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) world congress in South Korea this week.

The Honorary Fellowship recognises those individuals who have attained distinction in their pharmacy careers.

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 VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Do NS-8 products contain petrochemicals?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Vicki Whalland from the Green Dispensary Pharmacy.

HCP suicide rates

A RETROSPECTIVE mortality study has found that suicide rates for health care professionals (HCP) with ready access to prescription medications was higher than for those in health professions without such access or in non-HCP occupations.

Female HCP rates of suicide were greater than for non-health related occupations, while male rates for medical practitioners were roughly equal to non-HCPs, but male nurses and midwives had higher rates.

Self-poisoning was the most frequent method - see mja.com.au.



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.

24-28 Sep: 2017 Pharmacy Alliance Members' Forum; Palazzo Versace, Gold Coast; register here: www.pharmacyalliance.com.au

17-19 Oct: World Self Medication Industry General Assembly 2017; ICC Sydney; registrations opening soon: www.wsmiga2017.com

26 Oct: CMA Annual Conference and Industry Awards; Sydney; details here: www.cmaustralia.org.au

26-28 Oct: Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; QT Gold Coast; for details see: www.pharmacyassistants.com

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