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Medview

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a front cover page from Pharmacy Alliance and a full page from Cancer Council.

Lax-Sachets recall

AFT Pharmaceuticals, in consultation with the TGA, is recalling four batches of Lax-Sachets due to an error in the dosage/administration instructions printed on the back of the sachets.

Affected batch numbers are 7229215, 7229216, 7229217 and 7229219.

The incorrect directions read 'Each sachet should be dissolved in 1 litre of water' although the TGA said correct information was provided on both the product carton and the pack insert.

The instructions should be 'Each sachet should be dissolved in 125 mL water. For use in faecal impaction 8 sachets may be dissolved in 1 litre of water.'
See details at tga.gov.au.

TGA labeling rules update

TO REDUCE medication errors, medicine labels need to be more consistent, with important information made more prominent and easier to read, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has reinforced in a presentation, and now posted online.

The advice was delivered at the end of July this year at PSA17, at the flagship meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, via Catherine Brown, Jenny Burnett, Rosemary Goodenough and Jolanta Samoc.

The TGA says it has introduced changes to help update Australian medicine labels and align them with international best practice.

"The changes will help Australians to make more informed choices about their medicines and to use them more safely," it said, highlighting that these changes were part of its Quality Use of Medicines program.

Key changes include the names of active ingredients being more

prominent in larger font on the front of packs adjacent to or directly below the brand name.

Prescription medicine cartons must include the medicine name on three non-opposing sides to improve identification of medicines in dispensaries and will require a dedicated space for attaching a dispensing label.

Colour contrast rules have changed as well to improve legibility while there will be a Critical Health Information table in a consistent format on OTC medicines.

Declarable substances such as allergens need to be mentioned on the labeling and as has been flagged for some time now, Australian medicine name ingredient spelling is morphing to align with international standards but for a transition period, labels will often contain both spellings for clarity.

See the full PSA17 presentation at tga.gov.au.

S4 to S3 switch plans

WHILE it is understood that the individual pharmacist can not directly influence the Therapeutic Goods Administration S4 to S3 switch policy, individual strategies can be implemented to prepare for those products with a strong likelihood of approval for switch, says the World Self Medication Industry (WSMI).

The 2017 WSMI General Assembly will be held in Sydney 18-19 Oct with an emphasis on the switch strategy for driving future business.

Dr Hubertus Cranz, director general for the Association of the European Self-Medication Industry (AESGP) will be one of the key speakers at the event, along with Consumer Health Products Canadian president Karen Proud and Denise Hope from the School of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, Griffith University, Queensland.

Drugs of interest for switch strategies include those for erectile dysfunction, oral contraceptive pills, triptans for migraine and PPI's for GORD - CLICK HERE for details.

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Thursday 21 Sep 2017





Indication extensions

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has posted broadened indications for two prescription medicines this month.

Merck Sharp & Dohme's Keytruda (pembrolizumab rch) is now also indicated for relapsed or refractory classical Hodgkin Lymphoma (cHL) under specific conditions.

Novartis' asthma therapy Ultibro Breezhaler 110/50 (indacaterol as maleate/glycopyrronium as bromide) is now also indicated for exacerbations of COPD in patients with a history of exacerbations.

These extended uses took effect on 07 and 06 Sep respectively.

Win with Aromababy

This week Pharmacy Daily and Aromababy are giving away five Eczema Care Kits including unscented duo Pure Baby Moisture Cream 125mL, Pure

150mL and best selling Barrier Balm. Aromababy was launched in 1994 as the first, natural baby

brand of its kind.

Baby Wash



Aromababy offers a comprehensive selection of natural and organic products for mother and child including unscented/essential oil free, for sensitive skin and for older children, all of which are free from dairy/goatsmilk, sulphates and parabens. Gift-with-purchase, free samples, testers, training and product for Maternal and Child Health Nurse available to pharmacy. Email info@ aromababy.com or call 03 9464 0888 for more information.

To win, be first from WA to send

Aromababy was formulated as the first natural baby brand of its kind. What year was Aromababy launched in Australian pharmacies?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner,

APC Council 'renewal'

THE president of the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC), Professor Debra Rowett, has announced the upcoming appointment of four new directors to the APC Governing Council and reappointment of one sitting director.

"A number of councillors' terms are soon to expire and therefore the Council will be undertaking a period of renewal," Rowett said.

"The appointments will continue to drive the future direction of the APC through the new councillors who bring with them a continued focus and commitment to strengthen and advance the quality of pharmacy education in Australia and New Zealand," Professor Rowett said.

Professor Iqbal Ramzan has been re-appointed to the Council for a

Online medicine risks

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) says the increasing prevalence of some online services is fragmenting care and poses a serious risk to patient safety.

President of the RACGP Dr Bastian Seidel said patients should not be able to access prescriptions, referrals and/or medical certificates through online systems unless they were being provided by the patient's usual GP or a GP in the patient's usual general practice.

"The big risk with online services performed outside of the usual patient-doctor relationship is that they fragment care and do not provide continuous, comprehensive general practice care to patients," Seidel said.

"They provide patients with prescriptions, referrals or medical certificates without sufficient understanding of their medical history and social context, which is a safety issue and may also affect quality of care.

"There is also no guarantee the patient's usual GP will be informed following a patient accessing an online service, which again leads to fragmentation of medical records."

Go to racgp.org.au for more.

further three-vear term while four new directors have been appointed for two year terms: Professor Rhonda Clifford, head of the School of Allied Health (Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences), University of Western Australia, from Oct 2017, Professor Nicholas Glasgow, acting head, Department of Health Services Research and Policy,

council

australian Australian National pharmacy University, ACT, from Nov; Amanda Galbraith, **Community Pharmacist**

and advocate, ACT, from Nov; and Professor Sarah Roberts-Thomson, Associate Dean (Academic)/ Pharmacy, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, University of Queensland, from Feb 2018.

"Each of these directors brings with them a unique skills-set that complements the Council and ensures good governance and puts the APC in good stead as we pursue our goals to build our reputation as the leader in pharmacy education standards; use contemporary and integrative methodologies for accreditation and assessment standards; broaden our business model; and maintain our leadership in this dynamic and ever-changing regulatory environment."

The renewal process will roll-out over six months, Rowett explained, starting with the appointment of Clifford 01 Oct.

Rowett also warmly acknowledged the valuable contribution of Professor Peter Fricker, a medical practitioner, who retired upon completion of his term in July this year.

Pharmacist-led digital care outcomes

PHARMACIST-LED digital healthcare can improve antihypertensive medication adherence by up to 84%, according to a study presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Hypertension (ASH), held jointly with the American Heart Association (AHA) Council on Hypertension, reports FirstWord.

The finding will lead to enhanced community blood pressure control, according to postgrad Wenhao Qu, Shanghai University of Medicine and Health Science, Shanghai, China, and colleagues.

Retail pharmacy offered a walk-in service and provided pharmacists with the CareLinker solution consisting of bluetooth blood pressure monitor, an App, and more - read the full story at firstwordpharma.com.

Antibiotic paucity

THE World Health Organization has reiterated its warning that there is a serious lack of new antibiotics under development to combat the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance, in an alarming BMJ article.

Only eight of the 51 new antibiotics and biologicals in clinical development to treat antibiotic resistant pathogens are innovative treatments that could add value to the current drugs on offer, with most of the drugs in the clinical pipeline simply modifications of existing classes of antibiotics representing only short term solutions, WHO said - bmj.com.





Thursday 21 Sep 2017



AN INDIANA food processing plant accidently turned the water in the local creek white after a spill resulted in more than 1,135 litres of milk leaking into it.

The spill was cleaned up thanks to a combined effort of the Tipton County Police, Fire, Waste Water and Utilities departments, who had to remove almost 53,000 litres of water in order to return Cicero Creek to its usual colour. There was no crying reported.



STANDING at work is just as bad for you as smoking according to a recent study.

The study published by the American Journal of Epidemiology concluded that those who stand at work for prolonged periods of time are more likely to face cardiovascular and other, more obvious health risk factors.

The researchers tracked more than 7,000 participants in Canada over a 12 year period. They found that of the participants, those who stood a lot at work had a higher incidence of heart disease than those who had smoked on a daily basis.

The smokers reported 5.8% incidence, which was smaller than the 6.6% among standers.

However the study also concluded that those who sit for prolonged periods of time are also likely to face health problems later in life.

Maybe try floating, levitation...

Pfizer sues J&J

ON WEDNESDAY, Pfizer filed a complaint in a US District Court in Pennsylvania alleging that Johnson & Johnson (J&J) is using "improper exclusionary tactics" to maintain dominance in the US market for its blockbuster Remicade (infliximab) despite recently introduced competition, according to a report by *Reuters*.

Pfizer said in the suit that J&J is offering discounts on its Remicade treatment in exchange for essentially excluding Pfizer's drug from insurance coverage, keeping it out of the hands of patients.

J&J said in an e-mailed statement that the lawsuit was without merit and that the company was competing on value and price.

"To date Pfizer has failed to demonstrate sufficient value to patients, providers, payers and employers," said Scott White, President of Janssen Biotech Inc, a unit of J&J.

J&J signed exclusionary contracts with health insurers, hospitals and doctor groups after U.S. regulators approved it as a reasonable substitute for Remicade in 2016, Pfizer said.

AIHW recruiting

THE Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), the country's national agency for health and welfare statistics and information, is seeking consumer representation for its Coordination of Health Care Report Advisory Committee.

The role of the Committee is to ensure the measures reported in upcoming research surveys are meaningful and relevant to those healthcare professionals best placed to improve care.

Interested persons should complete a CHF nomination form available online and attach their CV prior to 24 Sep - CLICK HERE.

Dementia publication fires up neurons

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UNIVERSITY of Queensland experts are keeping people living with or affected by dementia up to date on the latest research and care through the online publication, *The Brain: Dementia*.

Queensland Brain Institute director Professor Pankaj Sah said the 24-page publication, produced in partnership with Alzheimer's Australia, was designed to shed light on all aspects of Australia's second-biggest killer.

"The publication is an essential resource for anyone living with or affected by dementia, one of society's most pressing health problems," Professor Sah said.

"We explain the science behind dementia – its causes and risk factors – in an accessible and informative way."

Visit qbi.uq.edu.au for access to the publication.

Singulair queried

MERCK Sharp & Dohme's asthma medication Singulair (montelukast) has come under severe challenge by Netherland researchers publishing in *Pharmacology Research & Perspectives*.

Paediatrician authors highlighted several adverse events along with neuropsychiatric disorders such as allergic granulomatous angiitis associated with the product.

The data examined demonstrated that montelukast was associated with neuropsychiatric adverse drug reactions such as depression and aggression, authors said.

Nightmares are reported frequently, especially in children, and although allergic granulomatous angiitis was also reported, the relationship was only described as associative and not necessarilly causative.

CLICK HERE for access.



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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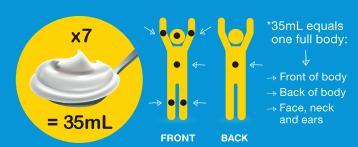
One teaspoon is equal to 5mL of sunscreen

At least one teaspoon for: each arm, leg, front torso, back torso, face (incl. neck & ears)



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