

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news including our weekly **Health & Beauty** feature.

## Another coroner urges RTPM

**NSW** deputy state coroner Harriet Grahame has recommended the state's Health Minister urgently consider "raising the priority for the introduction of Real Time Prescription Monitoring" (RTPM), after an inquest into the death of a patient from prescription drugs.

Alissa Campbell, 26, saw more than a dozen different doctors in the six months before she died due to codeine and doxepin toxicity, with her two long-term GPs commended for their care of a complex patient.

However, the doctors had no idea their patient was also having scripts filled by after-hours doctors, including one who administered morphine and pethidine injections during home visits.

The coroner noted that it was extremely difficult to get an accurate picture of the scripts being provided to Campbell before her death, highlighting several cases where the patient had private and public scripts filled on the same day at different pharmacies.

Evidence presented by NSW Chief Pharmacist Judith Mackson included her view that the roll-out of RTPM in the state was "years away" with NSW waiting on a national system rather than proceeding on a standalone basis.

## Regulation reform plan

THE Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council has



COAG HEALTH COUNCIL

issued a new consultation paper canvassing a range of possible changes to the National Law governing regulation of health professionals in Australia.

Feedback is sought on a host of issues with the aim of "keeping the National Law up to date and fit for purpose," as a second tranche of amendments following recent changes including the introduction of the national regulation of paramedics and stronger complaints management procedures (**PD** 08 Sep 2017).

The consultation has been welcomed by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), with ceo Martin Fletcher saying "the National law is the cornerstone of how we regulate registered health practitioners in Australia, and we welcome the opportunity for the public and practitioners to have their say".

Possible changes would see the law amended to allow registration to be withdrawn where it has been improperly obtained, without having to commence disciplinary proceedings.

There are also proposed modifications to advertising offences, increasing penalties and modifying the existing prohibition on testimonials in the context of the "internet age and social media".

The paper canvasses giving

AHPRA the power to publish more information on the public

register, including disciplinary information, and empowering a National Board to also remove certain details of a practitioner in cases of domestic and family violence.

Written submissions are due by midnight AEST on Wed 31 Oct 2018, and can be sent via email to [nras.consultation@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:nras.consultation@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

More information can be found at [coaghealthcouncil.gov.au](http://coaghealthcouncil.gov.au).

## Don't rush to Crush 3

THE third edition of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists' (SHPA) *Don't Rush to Crush* handbook was unveiled this morning, with details of 570 oral medicines and how to safely administer them to patients with difficulty swallowing or using enteral feeding tubes.

It has been expanded with 50 new drugs and a new format enhancing the book's focus on patient-centred care.

There's also a new section to aid paediatric administration titled "What to do for doses less than a whole tablet" for selected medicines, with SHPA ceo Kristin Michaels saying *Don't Rush to Crush* "remains an essential frontline resource to manage risk and ensure quality care in all healthcare settings" - [shpa.org.au](http://shpa.org.au).

## Medicinewise Week



**BE MEDICINEWISE** Week, planned for 20-26 Aug 2018, will focus on the theme "Our families matter, so it's important to make safe and wise decisions about medicines and health".

The campaign this year will include education around the use of medicines during pregnancy and while breastfeeding, medicines and children, remembering medicines, dosing and timing, as well as medicine storage.

Health professionals are encouraged to source Medicinewise Week materials and resources such as the toolkit, posters and brochures at [nps.org.au](http://nps.org.au).

## Fentanyl/cocaine fatal

**DEATHS** due to the synthetic opioid fentanyl rose by 29% in the UK in 2017 according to data from Britain's Office for National Statistics, *BBC News* reports.

Fatalities from cocaine use are also reportedly at the highest rate ever recorded, with Scotland having 83 drug deaths per million, followed by England and Wales at 66.1 - more than three times the rate for the EU, Turkey and Norway.

Most deaths are considered accidental, from combinations with heroin or used in the more potent carfentanyl version of the product.

Fentanyl is at least 100 times stronger than other class A drugs, the report noted.

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Pharmacy Daily



## Dispensary Corner

**MANY** of us like a good scratch - it appears cattle are no different.

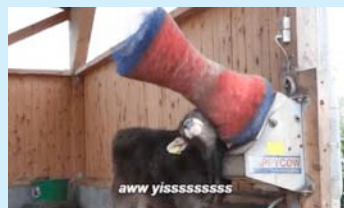
UK research has shown cows worked hard to get access to an automatic brush for a scratch.

In natural environments, cows will use trees and posts to scratch and groom themselves.

Researchers set up gates that required significant effort to push through to access either food, a brush or nothing - and then the weight required to open the gate was gradually increased.

Cows pushed just as hard to get to the automated mechanical brushes to help them scratch that itch as they did to access food.

**CLICK HERE** for the video of the cow's blissful scratching session.



**GROUNDBREAKING** research in the UK has come up with the way to make a sure-fire movie hit.

Scientists from the University of Birmingham analysed more than 6,000 film scripts to identify the so-called "man in a hole" story arc which produced the most box-office success.

The top-performing trajectory involved a happy-sad-happy format, and achieved higher critical acclaim on average than "rags-to-riches", "riches-to-rags" and "Icarus" (a rise followed by a fall) plot lines.

Typical "man in a hole" movies included *The Godfather*, *Blade Runner* and *The Departed*.

## Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy. Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### Blemish Fighting Ice Cleanser

Bioré Blemish Fighting Ice Cleanser is designed for blemish-prone skin. It is formulated with high performance salicylic acid to fight blemishes, deep-clean pores, clear acne and help prevent future breakouts. Refreshing menthol provides a cooling sensation. The formulation is also alcohol-, microbead- and soap-free and is gentle on the skin. To use, wet face, pump cleanser into hands and work into a lather. Massage over the entire face and rinse thoroughly. Use morning and night.

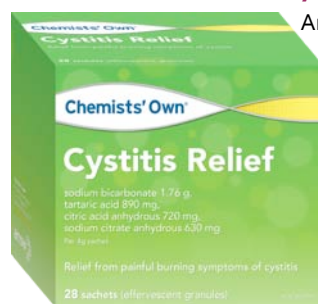


**Stockist:** 1800 468 318

**RRP:** \$9.99

**Website:** [www.biore.com.au](http://www.biore.com.au)

### New Chemists' Own Cystitis Relief



Arrow Pharmaceuticals launches Chemists' Own Cystitis Relief, a private label medicine that delivers relief from painful burning symptoms of cystitis. Cystitis is a common type of Urinary Tract

Infection, an infection in the bladder, urethra, ureters or kidneys. Common symptoms include: frequent and urgent urination, burning pain or a scalding sensation when urinating, a feeling that the bladder is still full after urinating, pain above the pubic bone, cloudy, bloody or very smelly urine.

**Stockist:** 1300 9 ARROW (27769)

**RRP:** 10 sachets, \$4.99; 28 sachets, \$9.49

**Website:** [www.chemistsown.com.au](http://www.chemistsown.com.au)

### Baby 2 in 1 Shampoo & Conditioner

QV Baby 2 in 1 Shampoo & Conditioner is a two-in-one formula that will cleanse and condition baby's hair and scalp. The dual-action, pH-balanced formula contains a conditioning ingredient which assists with combing and detangling hair. It also helps maintain the skin's natural protective properties. Glycerin provides and maintains hydration to the scalp and helps to soften hair. It is paediatrician-tested and free of soap, fragrance and other common irritants. QV SkinCare is an Ego Pharmaceuticals brand.



**Stockist:** 1800 033 706

**RRP:** \$10.99

**Website:** [www.qvskincare.com.au](http://www.qvskincare.com.au)

### New Energast from SciGen



A new food supplement is now available to support the dietary management of gastrointestinal disorders, including diarrhoea and constipation.

Energast may assist in the management of Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) diverticulitis and diarrhoea of different causes. Energast contains sodium butyrate - the predominant short chain fatty acid (SCFA) beneficial for colonic health - and is manufactured with sustained release technology.

**Stockist:** API - product code 36940, or 1800 676 833

**RRP:** \$30.00 60 capsules

**Website:** [www.energast.com.au](http://www.energast.com.au)