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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from **Dermal Therapy**.

## Boxed warning update

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has published a comprehensive document clarifying the purpose of Boxed Warnings in Product Information (PI) or Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) documents, along with guidance on how and when to use them.

Boxed Warnings are a risk mitigation measure to highlight special warning statements in the PI and CMI to the prescriber and the public.

They represent one of the most serious types of warnings that can be mandated by a regulatory agency and currently apply to about 30 products on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods, the TGA noted.

For more information see the guidance document at [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## Measles resurgence

**THE** World Health Organization (WHO) data shows a rise in cases in almost every region of the world, with 30% more cases in 2017 than 2016, attributing it to "hesitancy" around vaccination.

WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, looked at measles cases over the past 17 years and found the Americas, Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean region saw the greatest upsurge in cases - visit [who.int](http://who.int).

## New Raven's salary report

**EMPLOYMENT** opportunities remain strong within the community and hospital pharmacy sectors, with shortages of skilled pharmacists leading to wage growth in both metropolitan and regional areas.

That's one of the key conclusions of a newly released report on the pharmacy jobs market from industry recruitment agency Raven's Recruitment, which has collated data and commentary from across the sector to produce the inaugural "Raven's Market Report".

Raven's Recruitment GM Heidi Dariz said the research provided an opportunity for employers to assess how competitive their pharmacy was from a salary perspective as well as giving an insight into the current market conditions and availability of pharmacists.

Job seekers could use the report to assess their value to both prospective and current employers, as well as providing insights into what employers are actually offering in the "real world," she said.

Pharmacists working in regional and rural areas are paid significantly more than their capital city counterparts, with the report indicating total annual salaries for Pharmacist Managers, excluding superannuation, can be as high as \$140,000.

By contrast in Perth, where the lowest pharmacist salaries were reported, pay for Pharmacist Managers was in the range of \$75,000 to \$86,000.

The story was similar at the other end of the experience scale, with

interns in Sydney earning \$46,800 to \$54,000 plus super, versus \$50,000-\$63,000 for those in regional and rural NSW.

The report also provides Indicative rates for Pharmacist in Charge and Pharmacist Roles in various states and territories of Australia along with New Zealand, as well as wages paid to support staff such as Retail Managers and Dispensary Technicians.

Rates for locum work are included, while the report also incorporates a number of case studies on working in rural and regional pharmacy alongside comments from Sigma Health, TerryWhite Chemmart, Pharmacy 4 Less, the Pharmacy Guild, NAPSA and the Pharmaceutical Society.

A pharmacy broker update from AP Group also notes a significant increase in quality pharmacies on the market during 2017-18.

The full report is available free at [ravensrecruitment.com.au](http://ravensrecruitment.com.au).

## Rare cancer drug PBS

**FEDERAL** Health Minister Greg Hunt last week announced an additional treatment option, Somatuline Autogel (lanreotide) from Ipsen will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for patients with a rare type of cancer, known as GEP-NETS or as gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumours.

It is expected that on average, 760 Australians will have subsidised access to this medicine each year, the department said.

## Phebra phosphate

**PHEBRA** has announced the launch of its own brand of Phosphate 500mg effervescent tablets to replace the discontinued Phosphate Sandoz (Novartis generics) product.

Phosphate Phebra is listed on the PBS for the treatment of certain diseases that cause hypophosphataemia.

Phebra CEO Dr Mal Eutick said the company had been working in collaboration with Novartis "to ensure that Australian patients continue to have access to this clinically important medicine".

## Cerebral palsy drops

**THERE** has been a significant decline in the rates of cerebral palsy (CP) in Australia over the last decade, with incidence dropping from two to 1.4 per 1,000 live births.

Findings from the newly released 2018 Australian Cerebral Palsy Register to be highlighted by Governor General Peter Cosgrove at an event tonight also show the severity of CP in children has become milder, with two out of three children with the condition able to walk without assistive equipment, along with lower rates of intellectual disability.

The Register cited numerous advances in the health and care of pregnant women and their babies for the change, including better management of high risk pregnancies, improvements in neonatal intensive care, and a higher number of public health initiatives to prevent accidents.

See the report at [cpregister.com](http://cpregister.com).

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\* Lidocaine (Lignocaine) 2.5% w/w  
Prilocaine 2.5% w/w provides skin analgesia for 2 to 4 hours†

Reference: 1. Data held on file at Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd.

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Review full PI before recommending or supplying Resolve Plus 1.0 PI available on request from Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd, Australia.

Reference: 1. Resolve Plus Product Information Date of Most Recent Amendment: June 13 2017.

ego the science of healthy skin

## Dispensary Corner

**THE** internet has gone predictably crazy over a report by a Harvard professor who suggested the ideal serve of chips should comprise just six French fries.

Eric Rimm from the Department of Nutrition at the Harvard T.H. School of Public Health was quoted in a *New York Times* article noting that the popular side dish was unhealthy “no matter how good it tastes”.

Rimm described potatoes as “starch bombs” and cited earlier studies noting people who ate hot chips two to three times a week had a higher risk of mortality.

“I think it would be nice if your meal came with a side salad and six French fries,” he said.

Responses to the article quickly went viral, with one online commentator describing Professor Rimm as “a monster” and another saying having six chips on the side amounted to “potato croutons”.



**A 28-YEAR-OLD NZ** man who has suffered from stuttering for his whole life has discovered he could speak smoothly simply by pretending to have an Irish accent.

Nick Prosser told the *Rotorua Daily Post* he had never been to Ireland, and had spent years having speech therapy to help deal with the issue.

He found the miracle cure when trying out different accents with a work colleague as a joke.

## Alkyl nitrate input

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration is seeking comment from stakeholders on a discussion paper outlining different approaches to access and safety controls for alkyl nitrates.

The consultation closes on 15 Jan 2019 - more details at [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## Direct supply CSO squeeze

**TENDER** documents for the Community Service Obligation (CSO) issued on Fri have confirmed that controversial exclusive direct supply arrangements for some medications will continue - but such distributors will not be able to access the CSO Funding Pool.

The formal “Invitation to Apply to participate in the Community Service Obligation Funding Pool and supply PBS Medicines and NDSS Products” notes that a CSO Distributor is not required to stock or supply items that are not available to it because of an Exclusive Supply Arrangement, but also will not receive CSO payments in relation to such items.

The CSO Administration Agency will maintain a list of the CSO Products currently subject to Exclusive Supply Arrangements, updated on a monthly basis.

The documents mean that, should a direct logistics supplier such as DHL wish to participate in the CSO, it will be able to do so but will only receive CSO payments for items available through all wholesalers.

Current CSO Deeds will remain in place until the Invitation to Apply process is concluded, with an indicative time-line showing commencement of services under the new arrangements in Mar 2019.

The new Deeds between the Commonwealth and the CSO distributors will end on 30 Jun 2020, with the Government able to extend until 30 Jun 2022.

A further extension through until 30 Jun 2024 is also possible.

The current schedule of Exclusive Supply Arrangements medicines has not been included in the documentation, with applicants required to apply to the Department for access to the list, under a non-disclosure agreement.

The CSO Funding Pool was established under the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement, with CSO Distributors also required to provide services in relation to National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) products with the intention that community pharmacies “will become the sole Access Points for the purposes of the NDSS”.



Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Peter Marshall, Managing Director - Pharmacy Solutions Australia.**



## What can I expect when I sell my pharmacy?

**SELLING** a pharmacy has become increasingly more sophisticated over the last 20 years, ramping up a great deal in the last five. With the banking royal commission having a bearing on banks' willingness to lend, landlords trying to protect decreasing property values, the increasing proliferation of discounters and the continual winding back of the PBS, transacting a pharmacy has become a minefield of commercial issues.

The reality is that rates of return have not changed dramatically over the last few years but the calculation of the businesses adjusted net profit has become much more conservative as financial institutions attempt to lessen the risk of pharmacy purchase.

There is a growing culture of putting an offer on a pharmacy and relying on the bank valuation to assist with ratcheting the price back, should the price paid be over the valuer's opinion. Genuine buyers are highly sought after and are getting more opportunities to purchase than those buyers described above.

So what you can expect when selling your pharmacy is plenty of people telling you what it is worth, so having some trusted, experienced advice along the way is very important.

## Win with Nutri-Synergy

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away NS Protective Hand Cream 80g, NS Hands and Nail Cream 80g and NS Cuticle & Nail Repair Treatment 15g valued at \$30.

Plunkett's have just released a new hand care product – NS Hand and Nail Cream which is a light yet intensive cream delicately scented with natural essential rose oil. It is non-greasy and absorbs quickly leaving your hands soft and silky and your nails strong and supple. Visit: [www.NutriSynergy.com.au](http://www.NutriSynergy.com.au).

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

**Name the 2 essential oils in the NS Hand and Nail Cream formulation.**

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