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MedView

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus the latest MIMS Update.

Ocrelizumab PBS

MORE than 5,000 Australians every year who suffer from relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis will benefit from affordable access to a major new life-changing medicine from this month with the announcement of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme addition of ocrelizumab.

The Minister for Health Greg Hunt said Ocrevus (ocrelizumab by Roche Products) "decreases the number of flare-ups and slows the worsening of RRMS".

Instead of \$35,100 pa this drug will be available for a maximum of \$39.50 per script - health.gov.au.

For the full list of PBS listings and changes see pbs.gov.au.

Compounding revised

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia reminds pharmacists that its guidance around compounding of sterile injectable medicines has now been brought into effect.

The Board published the guidance on 01 Aug last year to give pharmacists enough time to become familiar with it and implement the required changes in practice before it came into effect.

The guidance provides additional advice to pharmacists who compound sterile injectable medicines to help reduce the associated risks for patients.

The Board has also updated its FAQ page - pharmacyboard.gov.au.

\$200K Guild political donations

THE Pharmacy Guild gave more than \$212,000 to various political parties during 2016-17, according to the latest returns from the Australian Electoral Commission.

The donations were spread across

Codeine scripts

PHARMACIES across Australia have been receiving prescriptions for thousands of codeine tablets, according to a *Fairfax* report today.

Victorian PSA vice-president Jarrod McMaugh was cited as saying he has reported some doctors to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency for inappropriate prescribing.

Medlab Qld/ACT tick

LISTED medicinal cannabis provider Medlab has received confirmation from the Queensland and ACT health departments that the company's current Licence to Sell or Supply Schedule 8 or Schedule 9 Drugs allows Medlab to sell its NanaBis product in the respective territories.

Medlab ceo Sean Hall said the addition of the new jurisdictions means Medlab is now permitted to sell the cannabis-based NanaBis in its primary core territories, with only Tas and NT currently excluded.

"With these new territories and the logistics program for distribution of the NanaBis progressing as planned, Medlab is well positioned to have NanaBis ready for commercialisation under the Government's Special Access Scheme at the end of February 2018," Hall said.

various branches of the Liberal, Labor and National parties.

Other pharmacy sector donors included peak manufacturers body Medicines Australia which gave the major parties about \$70,000, while Novartis/Sandoz gave the Liberal and National parties just under \$100,000 during the period.

Primary Health Care gave \$63,000 in total to the three major parties, while Healthscope gave the Liberal Party \$17,500 during the year.

\$10m for chronic pain

THE Federal Government has committed \$10m to fund new research projects aimed at keeping people out of hospital.

As part of the Medical Research Future Fund, the first \$0.5m will go to a project investigating chronic pain risk reduction.

With one in five Australians living with chronic pain, it is estimated to cost the economy \$34b a year, Health Minister Greg Hunt said.

New poisons standard

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced the release of the latest Poisons Standard Feb 2018 superseding the Oct 2017 edition.

The TGA said there are numerous changes which are detailed in the explanatory statement, with an extensive list of products added to the Standard for the first time from delegate-only decisions.

Visit tga.gov.au for access.

Taking diabetes to heart

TAKING Diabetes to Heart is a new multi-



country study, developed by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) in partnership with Novo Nordisk, focused on CVD awareness and knowledge.

The purpose of the study is to help IDF better understand people living with type 2 diabetes who are encouraged to take the survey by **CLICKING HERE**.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Great Ocean Rd region, VIC (Job# 200011076)
Offering \$40-\$50/hr; Relocation & Rent Assist; New Reg encouraged to apply!
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - WA North Coast (Job# 200014262)
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- **Pharmacist** - Southern Highlands NSW (Job# 200015149)
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Dispensary Corner

FINALLY the world of Pharmacy is in the global comedic spotlight!

A US sitcom series called *Vials* debuted its pilot episode titled "Xanax" late last year and on the back of positive reviews from the public has been approved to make a few more episodes.

The show focuses on the myriad of customers complaints and foibles that Pharmacists inevitably face during the week, from people not wanting to provide personal info, the refusal to wait for scripts and mouthing off about being given the generic versions of medicines.

The show isn't available in Australia yet so you'll have to wait a little bit before you can laugh heartily at someone accidentally wedging a paracetamol capsule up their nostril.



A WOULD-BE comedian certainly found a funny way to attract an audience - he robbed a Fort Lauderdale bank and then stripped naked, running down the street casting bank notes in all directions for any passers-by.

The strip show was due to the red dye covering his clothes when the money's accompanying dye-pack exploded.

Despite the method in his madness, the 26-year-old was found not guilty by reason of insanity - he said a chip in his head compelled his behaviour.

Multiple myeloma PBS

EFFECTIVE yesterday, Australian patients with relapsed refractory multiple myeloma will no longer be required to use thalidomide prior to accessing Celgene's immunomodulating agent Revlimid (lenalidomide) through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Structurally related to known human teratogen thalidomide, Revlimid will require authority prescription - see guildlink.com.au.

PBA highlights CPD

PHARMACY Board of Australia chair William Kelly has alerted pharmacists to a new Board diagram titled 'Pharmacy regulators and stakeholders' and raised awareness around the Board's expectations of pharmacists in terms of their continuing professional development (CPD) planning, referring to the recent publication of the 'National competency standards framework for pharmacists in Australia 2016'.

Writing in the Board's latest newsletter, Kelly also urged pharmacists to participate in a current survey of recent interns and preceptors - **CLICK HERE** for more.

NAPSA youthful energy

LAST week's NAPSA Congress 2018 was symbolised by Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) president Dr Shane Jackson calling on students to harness their "youthful energy" to brighten the future of pharmacy in Australia.



After days of networking and sharing, the enthusiastic students took to the dance floor for their annual ball at which were recognised high performers with awards and scholarships.

Major sponsors for the event included pharmacy specialist placement group Ravens Recruitment, **pictured** above briefing interested students on their future opportunities.

MedReleaf licensed

AUSTRALIAN joint venture cannabis company MedReleaf has announced its entry into the local market, having been granted 'cultivation and production' and 'import' licenses by the Federal Office of Drug Control.

The company is now taking early orders from pharmacies and hospitals, with product to be initially imported from Canada.

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.

4-5 Feb: Pharmacy Ownership Ready Conference; Gold Coast, QLD; register your interest here: www.medic.com.au

16-18 Mar: Annual Therapeutic Update 2018; Fairmont Resort, Blue Mountains; for details and registrations visit: www.psa.org.au

3-6 May: APP 2018; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; find out more and register at: www.appconference.com

30 May - 1 Jun: National Medicines Symposium (NMS) 2018; National Convention Centre, Canberra; registrations now open: www.nps.org.au

WIN WITH SOUTHERNATURE

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and SOUTHERNATURE are giving away their Kids Omega 3 PLUS, valued at \$36.95 RRP.

SOUTHERNATURE'S Kids Omega 3 PLUS is formulated with a higher content of DHA to EPA to support the growth and development of brain, eyes and nervous system in children. This concentrated fish oil has an IFOS certified 5-star rating for purity, potency and freshness to give parents peace of mind. For more info **CLICK HERE**.

To win, be the first person from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



Why is it important to have a on-going supply of Omega 3 ?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Amy Hunt from HPS.

New Products

- **Trumenba (meningococcal group B vaccine)** prevents meningococcal serogroup B disease by inducing broadly protective bactericidal antibody responses against epidemiologically diverse serogroup B strains. Trumenba is indicated in individuals 10 years and older for active immunisation to prevent invasive meningococcal disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B. Trumenba is contraindicated with severe allergic reaction (e.g. anaphylaxis) after any previous dose of Trumenba or to any component of this vaccine. Trumenba suspension for injection is supplied as a single 0.5 mL prefilled syringe.

New Indications

- **Gazyva (obinutuzumab (rch))** in combination with chemotherapy followed by Gazyva maintenance is now indicated for the treatment of previously untreated advanced follicular lymphoma.
- **Xalkori (crizotinib)** is now indicated for the treatment of ROS1 positive advanced non-small cell lung cancer.

New Contraindications

- Combined oral contraceptives (COCs) including **Brevinor, Brevinor-1, Norimin, Norimin-1 (norethisterone/ethinylestradiol), Loette, Monofeme, Nordette, Trifeme, Triphasil (levonorgestrel/ethinylestradiol)** and **Minulet (gestodene/ethinylestradiol)** are now contraindicated with concomitant use of certain antiviral hepatitis C virus (HCV) medicinal products such as ombitasvir, paritaprevir, ritonavir and dasabuvir ± ribavirin due to increased risk of ALT elevations higher than 5 times the upper limit of normal. COC users must switch to an alternative method of contraception (e.g. progestogen only contraception or nonhormonal methods) prior to starting therapy with antiviral HCV medicinal products. COCs can be restarted 2 weeks following completion of HCV antiviral treatment.
- **Cervidil (dinoprostone)** should not be used or left in place when other labour inducing agents are being given or if they are to be given intravenously within 30 minutes, or when strong prolonged uterine contractions would be inappropriate such as previous major uterine surgery (e.g. myomectomy).
- **Noriday 28 (norethisterone)** is now contraindicated with hepatic adenomas or carcinomas.
- **Prednefrin Forte (prednisolone acetate/phenylephrine hydrochloride)** is now contraindicated with mycobacterial infection of the eye, or narrow angle glaucoma.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.