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Dispensing error death

PHARMACEUTICAL Defence Limited (PDL) has highlighted a recent coronial inquest which found a pharmacist's dispensing error was a contributing factor to the death of an elderly consumer.

The patient was wrongly dispensed rosuvastatin instead of the prescribed simvastatin 40mg tablets, with the error discovered in hospital where the patient died of rhabdomyolysis.

A "critical failure in pharmacy practice" was identified because the consumer's husband identified that the dispensed item appeared different to normal, but was reassured about the discrepancy.

PDL said consumer concerns and queries should always be taken seriously, with pharmacy managers advised to instruct staff to refer all questions around medication to the pharmacist on duty.

SHPA opioid safety push

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists (SHPA) yesterday convened its inaugural Medicines Leadership Forum, with key health system stakeholders gathering in Canberra to identify "proven and potential measures to reduce the incidence of opioid harm in patients after surgery".

Delegates discussed preliminary recommendations from a landmark SHPA report on the topic, which will be released in the coming weeks.

SHPA president Michael Dooley said the collaborative forum was a key step towards improving the safe use of opioids, which are commonly prescribed after the 2.2 million surgeries in Australia each year.

"Demand for surgery in Australian hospitals continues to grow, and hospital-initiated opioid use is frequent and can induce long-term misuse or abuse and significant harm," Dooley said.

GPs, anaesthetists, pharmacists, pain management and addiction specialists were part of yesterday's

event along with consumer health and government representatives.

Strategies identified included supporting analgesic stewardship, managing medication supply, working with prescribers, empowering patients and supporting transitions of care.

The discussions were informed by data from 135 public and private hospitals on their opioid practices, via SHPA's recent hospital pharmacy landscape study (*PD* 16 May).

Dooley said pharmacists can play a key role in providing education and feedback to prescribers.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, our weekly **Guild Update** feature, as well as a full page from **Pharmacy Connect**.

New PBS listings

THE government has confirmed the PBS listing of Eisai Australia's Fycompa (perampanel) for epilepsy effective from 01 Aug, with the potential to help 50,000 patients.

Also newly listed is Ryzodeg 70/30 (insulin degludec/aspart) from NovoNordisk, the first diabetes pen to contain two types of insulin.

Pharmacy Student of the Year

LAST weekend's PSA18 conference included the naming of Ben Coghlan from the ACT as the 2018 PSA Pharmacy Student of the Year.

Coghlan's award was announced at the PSA18 gala dinner on Sat night, with PSA national president Shane Jackson saying "we saw many rising stars of pharmacy apply their clinical knowledge and communication skills in this year's competition".

The finalists are pictured above, including Vanessa Koumi from the University of SA (SA/NT); Rhiannon Froude, Monash University (Vic); Irini Moutsatsos, University of Tasmania (Tas); Stephanie Figgins,



Griffith University (Qld); Ben Coghlan, University of Canberra (ACT); Charlotte Earl, Curtin University of Technology (WA); Katherine Pollard, University of New England (NSW); and Gabrielle Wilson, La Trobe University (NAPSA wildcard entry).

The competition was sponsored by Mylan, with Coghlan receiving an expenses-paid trip to an international pharmacy conference.

New Special Access Scheme platform

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) yesterday debuted a new online system to enable the electronic submission of Special Access Scheme (SAS) applications and notifications.

The platform aims to reduce the administrative burden on health practitioners, and while not mandatory it is the preferred method of submission.

The TGA is aiming to move the submission of all applications and notifications online by 01 Jul 2019.

The initiative is part of the streamlining of access to medicinal cannabis for Australian health practitioners promised by the Commonwealth and State and Territory Health Departments earlier this year (*PD* 13 Apr).

The SAS online system allows prescribers of unapproved medicinal cannabis products to make a single application to the TGA and state/territory health departments for approval to supply the products.



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Dispensary Corner

PHARMACIST vaccinators, be careful what you wish for!
 A highly dangerous drug dealer in Brazil has kidnapped two male nurses and ordered them to immunise his local community against yellow fever.
 The operation allegedly run by Thomas Vieira Gomes, also known as "2N", is based in the Salgueiro region of Rio de Janeiro, one of the poorer areas of the city.
 While officials are currently dealing with an outbreak of yellow fever across the country, apparently they were a little slow in getting to the impoverished suburb, so 2N took matters into his own hands.
 Along with some henchmen he went to a clinic, grabbed syringes and vaccine doses and took the nurses to a Salgueiro bar where they spent several hours immunising the locals before being returned safely home.
 While 2N is one of the country's most wanted criminals, he is now being hailed as a modern-day Robin Hood, with one politician tweeting "He is still an a**hole but his actions were a public service".

HEALTHY ageing? Perhaps - or early onset of irrational behaviour.
 A 64-year-old Bulgarian man has set a new world record for the longest distance swum while wrapped in a sack.
 Yane Petkov also had his feet bound and his hands tied behind his back to perform the feat, swimming more than two miles across Lake Ohrid in Macedonia.
 It took him about three hours to complete the distance - but what's more remarkable is that he didn't drown in the attempt!

Hepatitis drug claims today

GILEAD Sciences is reminding pharmacists that today is the last day to claim "price variation credit" for its PBS listed hepatitis treatments Eplusa (sofosbuvir/velpatasvir), Harvoni (ledipasvir/sofosbuvir) and Sovaldi (sofosbuvir).
 The products enjoy a price cut effective from tomorrow 01 Aug so to account for the price reduction, Gilead asks that all community and hospital pharmacies provide their wholesaler with a referenced screenshot of their inventory system confirming the quantities of the relevant products by close of business today.
 The screenshot must include the date (31 Jul 2018), the product description and quantity of stock on hand.
 All claims will be processed through wholesalers and Gilead asks that pharmacies do not return stock of the medications in order for this credit to be processed.
 Once approved, a credit/recharge will be applied for the claimed quantities from wholesalers for the approved pricing difference.
 For further information

pharmacies are advised to contact their wholesalers directly.
 Health Minister Greg Hunt also yesterday confirmed the 01 Aug PBS listing of Abbvie's Maviret (glecaprevir/pibrentasvir), a new once-daily eight-week therapy for treatment naive, non-cirrhotic adults with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection.
 Pharmacists are being urged to discuss treatment options with at-risk groups such as injecting drug users to help provide an "important bridge" that leads to the diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C.
MEANWHILE the government has launched a community awareness campaign about hepatitis C, after an "alarming drop" in the number of Australians accessing the PBS-listed cures for the condition.
 The "Test, Cure, Live" campaign has been welcomed by Hepatitis Australia, with ceo Helen Tyrrell saying "it is a tragedy that hundreds of thousands of Australians are missing out on life-saving therapies which can cure hepatitis C in a matter of weeks...when these cures are readily available".

Pharmacy of the Year Guild Update

Pharmacy of the Year entries closing soon
NOMINATIONS for the Guild Pharmacy of the Year award close this Friday 3 August.
 The Pharmacy of the Year Award 2019 is a Pharmacy Guild initiative, sponsored by Care Pharmaceuticals and the Quality Care Pharmacy Program, which acknowledges the most innovative and adaptable pharmacy businesses that strive to provide more healthcare services to their patients.
 The awards recognise those community pharmacy businesses that achieve excellence in providing consumers the best care, medication, advice and professional services.
 Guild members can enter in the three categories:

- Excellence in Business Management
 - Excellence in Community Engagement
 - Excellence in Professional Innovation
- If you think your pharmacy stands out, enter now. Or if you believe the local community pharmacy you use is exceptional, encourage it to enter.
 Further competition details are available on the [Pharmacy of the Year website](#).

WIN WITH MICRODACYN


Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and **Microdacyn** are giving away **Microdacyn Hydrogel 60ml** AND **Microdacyn Solution 120ml**, valued at over \$30.

Microdacyn is the next generation hospital grade wound care that promotes rapid healing, prevents infection and reduces inflammation, now available in pharmacies. Microdacyn hydrates wounds, creating a moist environment while improving oxygen supply. The no sting and no stain formula is in an easy, no touch spray. Microdacyn is recommended for higher risk wounds including post op wounds, diabetic ulcers, burns and slow healing wounds. For more info head to: www.microdacyn.com.au

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

Does Microdacyn sting wounds?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Gayleene Chapman from Health Focus Pharmacy, Macksville.





PHARMACY CONNECT

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Know what's going on in your pharmacy

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>> IMPLEMENT NEW TECHNOLOGIES

SESSION: Digital disruption – what's the hype and what really matters for your pharmacy?

Friday, 7 September, 12.05pm



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