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Today's issue of PD
Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from **Pharmacy 4 Less**.

Trulicity on PBS

THE Federal Government has approved the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme listing of Trulicity (dulaglutide) for the treatment of type 2 diabetes.

Trulicity is a glucagon-like peptide (GLP-1) receptor agonist and is available on the PBS from 01 Jun as an Authority Required (streamlined) script for use in combination with metformin (dual therapy) or metformin and a sulfonylurea (triple therapy).

Trulicity is available as a ready-to-use single-use prefilled auto injector pen and is administered on a once weekly basis.

New Tyde MHR app

SYDNEY-BASED tech startup Tyde has launched a new smartphone app which allows consumers access to their own My Health Record and will "centralise and organise the storage of your entire family's health information".

The Tyde app also promises to provide a user-friendly way for users to share their information with healthcare professionals, "as and when needed, in its entirety or just selected snippets".

Tyde is a registered Portal Operator with the Australian Digital Health Agency, and says its app also offers interactive adherence tools and cost effective complex disease management - see www.tyde.com.

Pharmacy pay rates up 3.5%

A NATIONAL wage case decision handed down on Fri by the Fair Work Commission has seen a 3.5% increase in pharmacy award minimum pay rates.

The new national minimum wage is \$18.93 per hour effective from 01 Jul, equating to a weekly figure of \$719.20 as a result.

Rates under the pharmacy award have also been boosted due to the ruling, with the weekly minimum for a Pharmacist Manager being \$1,290.90 or \$33.97 per hour.

Pharmacists in Charge will have a minimum wage of \$30.48 per hour or \$1,158.40 per week, while the rate for the Experienced Pharmacist classification becomes \$1,131.80 weekly or \$29.78 per hour.

There are also revised rates across other classifications including Pharmacy Student - Year 1,2,3 and 4, Pharmacy Intern in the first and

second half of training, and the Pharmacist grade which will now have a minimum hourly rate of \$27.19 or \$1,033.40 per week.

Geoff March, president of union group Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA), welcomed the review as a "step in the right direction for pharmacist pay".

He noted that the Fair Work Commission had not yet ruled on the organisation's recent case which proposes increasing the pay of community pharmacists by as much as 30% (*PD* 21 Aug 2017).

Hearings in the long-running "work value" case wrapped up last month, with March saying "PPA believes passionately in the value of pharmacists and wants to see their pay fairly reflect it".

Prescribing forum

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia is urging invitees to the upcoming pharmacist prescribing forum to RSVP by the closing date of 11 Jun.

The event will take place in Melbourne on 26 Jun 2018, bringing stakeholders together to explore the need and opportunities for expanding pharmacist involvement in prescribing in Australia.

Outcomes may include agreement about prescribing models for further exploration and the next steps required to develop proposals for further consultation.

See pharmacyboard.gov.au.

Diabetes myth-bust

DIABETES Victoria has launched a new 'Bust a Myth' campaign which aims to debunk the top five misconceptions about living with diabetes.

The myths being busted relate to sugar consumption, sport, longevity, being overweight and career restrictions, with the campaign centering on five videos of people living with diabetes and dispelling the stigma as they carry on with their lives.

There's also a companion website at bustamyth.org.au, with the campaign scheduled to run from 04-08 Jun to help people become more knowledgeable on diabetes.

The videos can be viewed online at pharmacydaily.com.au/videos.

FDA inspection pact

THE mutual recognition agreement between the USA and the European Union to recognise GMP inspections of manufacturing sites for human medicines has been expanded to also include Lithuania and Ireland.

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References: 1. Ludwig M et al. Respir. Res 2013; 14:124. 2. Koenigshofer M et al. Multidiscip. Respir. Med. 2014; 9:57. 3. Fazekas T et al. BMC Complement. Altern. Med. 2012; 12:147.
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Dispensary Corner

LACTOSE intolerance could lead to a huge payout for two McDonald's customers in Florida, USA, who are suing the fast food behemoth for US\$5 million.

The pair say they are being unfairly charged for cheese that they don't want on their Quarter Pounder burgers.

They're basing the claim by arguing that hamburgers and cheeseburgers are different prices on the McDonald's menu, but when they order a Quarter Pounder without cheese they are still charged the same amount.

"McDonald's is being unjustly enriched by these practices because it receives payment for cheese it does not deliver to its customers," according to the official court filing.



FORGET soy or almond lattes - believe it or not, the latest superfood trend is so-called "cockroach milk".

The Pacific Beetle cockroach, endemic to Hawaii, apparently produces a rare milk crystal which has four times the protein of cow's milk, as well as lots of essential amino acids.

However you probably need a strong stomach, because the precious liquid has to be extracted from the dead insects, with about 2,000 cockroaches required for a single glass.

NPS recognises achievements

NPS MedicineWise has announced the recipients of the 2018 National MedicineWise Awards, as part of last week's 10th National Medicines Symposium in Canberra.

Winning entries this year included new approaches to sustaining mental health, better medicines management in aged care services, new health care apps, pharmacotherapeutics for remote area nurses and initiatives to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Nicole McDerby from the University of Canberra won the Excellence in Consumer Information category for a submission about piloting a residential care pharmacist model within the aged care setting.

The judges said her research highlighted "many promising areas for improving quality use of medicines, including improved safety in medication administration in a population at high risk of medication misadventure".

FSM slams proposed complaints system

FRIENDS of Science in Medicine (FSM) has endorsed a submission by medical activist Ken Harvey about the TGA's plans to implement the new Advertising Complaints Handling System, saying the proposals "leave a lot to be desired".

According to Harvey, the proposed TGA complaint system will be much less transparent and accountable than the current Complaint Resolution Panel, which is no longer accepting complaints.

He has criticised the fact that the TGA will not provide complainants with the priority level their complaint is assigned to, and that the agency "will not provide public determinations on whether Code breaches alleged by the complainant were upheld or not".

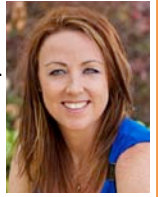
Harvey also says the TGA will not routinely evaluate or publicise whether the regulatory action taken achieves compliance.

"Publishing determinations on all complaints received, including whether compliance was achieved by the regulatory measures undertaken, educates complainants, advertisers and the industry; it is also crucial for monitoring the performance of the regulator," Harvey said.

He said there was "considerable cynicism...about the TGA's ability (and will) to provide an efficient and transparent complaint system".



Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature. This week's contribution is from **Sonja Bella**, Director, Australian College of Weight Management.



Weight management & obesity prevention

THE last study on Obesity in Australia was the National Health Survey which identified the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased from 56.3% in 1995 to 61.2% in 2007-2008 to 62.8% in 2011-2012. Whilst no official study has been done since 2012, most health experts agree that the obesity epidemic is continuing to worsen.

There is growing research to support the necessity of multi-disciplinary approaches to weight management with behavioural changes being identified as a missing link in many programs (which generally focus only on diet and/or exercise). The question, then, is how can we maximise current health structures to incorporate a holistic approach to weight management?

I believe pharmacies are well placed to provide the perfect environment for holistic weight management services; the community already identifies with pharmacies as being reputable when providing health services and often, pharmacies are the first port of call for someone when they are considering going on a weight loss program or just wanting some general weight loss advice. Implementing a weight management program, or clinic, which also addresses behavioural changes could be a game changer in the pharmacy industry and one that could make a significant impact in helping turn around the obesity epidemic.

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Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away an NS prize pack valued at over \$30.

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