

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from Pharmabroker Sales.

West Vic opioid scripts

OXYCODONE is the most commonly prescribed opioid in western Victoria, despite the fact that it is not used to treat the most common conditions in this area, according to research from the University of Sydney and Deakin University.

The study found that 3.4% of all scripts in the Western Victorian Primary Health Network were for oxycodone, compared with the Australian average of 1.9%.

Authors say the high levels of use can't be explained by demographics, and instead say illicit use may be to blame.

CLICK HERE to access the study.

Men underestimate skin cancer threat

ONLY about a third of Aussie men (32%) consider themselves at high risk of skin cancer, despite 82% reporting at least one known risk factor, such as fair hair, skin that burns easily, or spending time outdoors, according to a survey conducted by the Australasian College of Dermatologists.

Furthermore, most men (61%) have delayed a doctor visit despite their concern about a health issue, with more than a quarter of full-time workers claiming to be unable to spare the time - dermcoll.edu.au.

S3 advertising expansion

THE list of Schedule 3 items allowed to be advertised to consumers is set for a significant boost, with the Therapeutic Goods Administration proposing the addition of 24 new substances to the existing 19 items on Appendix H of the Poisons Standard.

The TGA has launched a consultation as part of the revised Scheduling Policy Framework, with a review agreeing that the "policy intent for advertising of Schedule 3 substances should allow these substances to be advertised directly to consumers unless it is determined they should not be".

The major change will also come with a new labelling requirement for these items, stating "Ask your pharmacist - they must decide if this product is right for you" under the draft revised Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code.

The consultation is proposing the addition of adrenaline, clobetrixol, chloramphenicol, clobetasone, famciclovir, fluourides, glyceril trinitrate, glucagon, isoconazole, isosorbide dinitrate, ketoprofen, levonorgestrel and metoclopramide

FDA web warning

THE US Food and Drug Administration has formally warned nine online networks operating a total of 53 websites that they must "stop illegally marketing potentially dangerous, unapproved and misbranded versions of opioid medications".

Formal responses have been requested within 10 working days.

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(for nausea linked with migraine).

Also set to be added to Appendix H are naloxone, oxiconazole, paracetamol, podophyllotoxin, podophyllum emodi, podophyllum peltatum, salbutamol, salicylic acid, terbutaline, tioconazole and triamcinolone.

A further 42 S3 items are proposed for exclusion from Appendix H due to potential misuse, abuse or diversion, interactions or other factors.

The TGA is inviting stakeholders to comment on the substances proposed for inclusion in the Appendix H list which would allow them to be advertised.

Feedback is sought by 09 Jul 2018, with the transition to the new arrangements expected to be "largely complete by the end of 2018" - see tga.gov.au.

Police seek S8 info

FEDERAL investigators want the ability to access patient information in the proposed national real-time prescription monitoring system (**PD** 16 Apr) in order to help identify "criminal entrepreneurs" who are diverting prescription opioids with the assistance of "complicit" pharmacists and doctors.

A submission to the TGA's consultation on tackling opioid abuse (**PD** 22 Jan 2018) by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, has suggested law enforcement agencies should have access to the data, to enable them to identify "misuse and exploitation of the prescription system".

Incontinence surge

THE pharmacy incontinence market grew 3.8% over the last 12 months, with the overall sector now valued at \$36 million according to IRI-Aztec.

The leading brand is Tena with a 46.3% share, and the ageing Australian population is expected to see the category continue to grow for years to come.

With incontinence sufferers needing advice this is "an ideal opportunity for pharmacy to differentiate itself from grocery by providing advice through customer intervention," according to Pharmabroker Sales, which currently has a special Tena offer available - see **page three**.

Cannabis hits cancer

INCREASING doses of pure tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) or pure cannabidiol (CBD) reduces the proliferation of cancer cells *in vitro*, according to a preclinical study into the effects of medicinal cannabis on childhood brain cancer being carried out in conjunction with the Telethon Kids Institute in Perth.

Listed medicinal cannabis company Zelda made an announcement about the positive results via the ASX and had its data presented at the Australian Society of Medical Research (Western Australia) yesterday.

The next step will be to demonstrate the effect of Zelda's own formulations on these cell lines and in animal models.



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A campaign to improve vaccination rates for Flu, run on behalf of our network Pharmacies.



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Pharmacy 777 North West is looking for 2 Full Time Pharmacists

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Please contact Laura Stewart on 0410 605 829 for a confidential discussion on the roles. Or email cover letter and resume to: careers@pharmacy777.com.au. Applications close: 29 June 2018.

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A practical reference that contains the latest evidence-based information on the management of over 70 conditions common in older people, along with general principles of medicines use in this population.

To find out more go to www.amh.net.au

Dispensary Corner

THE ultimate in unhealthy food combinations has been created in New York (where else!) where a brewing company has joined forces with an ice cream manufacturer.

Together they have created "Fudgie the Beer" (pictured below) - an alcoholic version of Fudgie the Whale, a popular whale-shaped ice cream cake sold by Carvel.

The Captain Lawrence Brewing Company's stout beer is brewed using Carvel's "signature chocolate and fudge" and, as well as being pretty sweet, packs a hefty 6% alcohol punch.

The companies say the beer pairs well with smoked foods and chocolate desserts - and as a side note, in line with its beer style, it's likely to make you stout too.



ALSO in the "only in America" category is a new health and safety initiative for new students at a Pennsylvania high school.

The eighth graders have each been given a special gift - bulletproof panels that can be inserted in their backpacks.

The protective devices have been donated by Robert Vito, founder of a company called Unequal Technology who said "when we saw the epidemic happening in the schools, we decided it was time to do something".

NSW pharmacy vax call

PHARMACEUTICAL Society of Australia (PSA) NSW president, Professor Peter Carroll and Pharmacy Guild NSW president David Heffernan have issued a formal proposal to NSW Health to bring the state into line with other states when it comes to pharmacist administered vaccination.

In NSW, pharmacists accredited to vaccinate are only allowed to administer influenza vaccine to people aged 18 years and over, while in some of the other states, accredited pharmacists are approved to administer influenza vaccine plus a range of other vaccines including diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP), and measles, mumps & rubella (MMR).

"Expanding vaccination choice and opportunity in NSW as a public health initiative will further protect against disease across NSW," the presidents said in a joint statement.

Under current regulations, in NSW, if a family of two adults with teenage children under the age of

18 presents to the pharmacy to be immunised against influenza, the adults can be vaccinated but the teenage children cannot.

"All feedback suggests that this situation results in the teenage children not being vaccinated at all," Heffernan and Carroll said.

"We believe these actions will increase herd immunity in NSW, and significantly increase the uptake of influenza vaccination."

In addition, the National Immunisation Program (NIP) is available for influenza vaccination in Vic and WA through community pharmacy, with both presidents saying they believe there should be equitable access to the NIP across all states and territories.

Further, they also argued that "there should also be Government funding for vaccinations by pharmacist immunisers through the MBS in line with other health care professionals - why should pharmacists be treated any differently?"

Win with Nutri-Synergy

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

Nutri-Synergy (NS) combines natural active ingredients to treat dry, sensitive and problem skin. NS works with the skin, not just on the skin's surface. Use NS Sensitive Skin Cleanser to clean and hydrate your skin before applying NS-21 Skin Repair Treatment to restore problem or damaged skin to a healthy state. Visit: www.NutriSynergy.com.au.

To win, be the first from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

NS Sensitive Skin Cleanser does not contain SLS, SLES, soaps or detergents. What natural cleansers does it contain?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Kirsteen Lingoh.



Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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Cunard's QV style exudes timeless splendour and elegance combined with a sublimely relaxing atmosphere, creating the perfect holiday experience.

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