

**Today's issue of PD**  
Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, our regular Health & Beauty feature plus a full page from Pharmacy 4 Less.

## Antihistamine can kill

**FOLLOWING** a coronial hearing of a fatal case involving a 74-day old infant being given over-the-counter (OTC) promethazine oral liquid, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a Medicines Safety Update to alert pharmacists.

Promethazine oral liquid is a phenothiazine derivative that is a long-acting antihistamine with mild atropine-like anticholinergic effects and some anti-serotonin effects, and while the coroner did not attribute the baby's death directly to the product, there was a concern expressed around the risk of associated fatal respiratory depression.

The coroner warned that the product should not be given to children under two years of age.

Other OTC products identified by the TGA as containing first-generation sedating antihistamines include brompheniramine, chlorpheniramine, dexchlorpheniramine, diphenhydramine, doxylamine, pheniramine, alimemazine (trimeprazine) and triprolidine.

The agency added that there had been 45 reports of adverse events in children aged under two years in which a first-generation oral sedating anti-histamine is listed as the sole-suspected medicine.

Read the full TGA statement and recommendations at [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## GP pharmacists trial success

**PHARMACISTS** have a valuable role to play in the detection and resolution of drug-related problems as part of a general practice team, according to a new study based on the outcomes of a six month trial in Western Sydney.

The WentWest General Practice Pharmacist Project was commissioned to improve medication management of GP patients, with the study undertaken by University of Technology Sydney researchers and published this month in the *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy*.

A key focus was the performance of medication reviews by the pharmacists to allow the detection of any issues, with the research undertaken from Oct 2016-Mar 2017 aiming to identify and classify

the drug-related problems (DRPs) detected as a result of pharmacist activities within a general practice primary care setting.

The study also compared the number of pharmacist recommendations and their acceptance by GPs as a result of pharmacist-patient consultations across 15 general practice sites.

Six pharmacists recorded the results from 493 patient consultations, with more than 1,100 drug related problems identified by the pharmacists.

The pharmacists made 984 recommendations, of which 685 (70%) were recorded as accepted by the GP.

Key issues highlighted including medication use without indication, as well as over- or under-dosage.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has made embedding pharmacists into the general practice environment a key proposal as part of its 2018-19 Federal Budget submission - see [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au).

## Miconazole warfarin drug-drug interaction

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued an alert to prescribers and dispensers of antifungal miconazole that there is a well-documented potential for drug-drug interaction between the topical drug and warfarin.

Miconazole inhibits one of the main cytochrome P450 isoenzymes involved in warfarin metabolism (CYP2C9), which can result in reduced warfarin clearance and an enhanced anticoagulant effect.

Products the TGA implicated included Daktarin Oral Gel, Decozol Oral Gel and Resolve Thrush Cream.

Warnings on the PI and CMI documents will be enhanced.

See [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au) for more.

## Green-tea caps danger

**NUTRA** Organics Green Tea Extract capsules pose a serious risk to your health and should not be taken, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) states in a safety advisory.

The capsules have been found to contain the undeclared substance sibutramine, a product withdrawn from the Australian and other markets in Oct 2010 after a study showed an increased risk of major cardiac events.

Visit [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au) for details.



## New Rx pathway

**THE** TGA has released details of a new "provisional approval pathway" for prescription drugs, allowing six years of registration on the basis of preliminary clinical data where there is the potential for a substantial benefit to Australian patients.

## Health Services Hub

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Pharmacy Daily

## Generic headaches grow

AS IF pharmaceutical brand originators didn't have enough to worry about with generic copies of their drugs, now it appears that the brand originator can get into trouble when a generic causes harm that had not been identified and warned about by the original research company.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court on Friday said in a decision that Merck & Co. can be sued for recklessness in failing to update the labels of generic versions of their drugs, according to a report by *Regulatory Focus*.

The decision follows a similar one made in California against Novartis that said brand-name manufacturers can be liable, though both these decisions depart from other recent rulings that would not hold brand-name sponsors responsible for labels of generic versions of their drugs.

But while the California decision against Novartis brought up the issue of negligence, in Massachusetts, the decision hinged on whether Merck was reckless by intentionally failing to warn the consumer of known side effects of the drug and its generic version.

The complex issues are by no means consistently applied across

the globe and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is yet to finalise its ruling that would require generic drugmakers to update their labels when new information becomes known.

Although the Massachusetts court declared Merck could be sued for common-law recklessness if it intentionally failed to update the label on its drug knowing about an issue, it said the company could not be pursued for negligence *per se*.

See the full discussion at [raps.org](http://raps.org).



**MERCK**

### Head to Health launch

**THE** Health Department has launched an online service supporting mental health and well being, called Head to Health.

The site provides guidance to resources across a range of topics including healthy eating, healthy sleep patterns and staying connected with others to maintain social health.

There are websites, apps and programs, forums and the opportunity to phone, e-chat and email as well as contacts providing immediate support.

For more information see [headtohealth.gov.au](http://headtohealth.gov.au).

## Wetherill Park Wellness!



**PRICELINE** Pharmacy Wetherill Park in NSW has been highlighted by the Pharmacy Guild as an example of innovation in professional services, with the pharmacy at the centre of a "wellbeing ecosystem".

The team (**pictured**) helps to run a weight management program

which was developed following an analysis of the top 100 medication sales from the dispensary, which highlighted a pressing need in the local community for a targeted weight loss program.

Pharmacist-in-charge Nancy El-Miski has been quoted in a Guild blog post as saying having a pharmacist run the patient-centred program has made a huge difference, particularly as patients journey through weight management into other programs such as diabetes services.

"From our experience, an independent service will eventually taper off, but linked dynamically with the other services, or what we call cross pollination, its limits are raised and the service is enriched," El-Miski said.

The pharmacy is one of the nominees for this year's Guild Pharmacy of the Year award which will be announced during the Opening Plenary of the APP2018 conference on the Gold Coast.

### Mobilee in ANZ

**GLOBAL** joint health complementary products research company Bioiberica has obtained authorisation to sell Mobilee in Australia and New Zealand as a medicinal supplement and non-traditional ingredient for use in functional foods.

As well as registrations with the Therapeutic Goods Administration and Food Standards Australia New Zealand, the product has been approved by the European Commission as a "Novel Food" and in the US has GRAS (Generally Recognised as Safe) status.

Mobilee is described as a "patented natural ingredient rich in hyaluronic acid and other components like collagen and polysaccharides," and can be included in medicinal supplements and food for daily consumption.

Bioiberica's director of the Human Health division Jaume Reguant said, "This approval is key to Bioiberica's international expansion plan in the joint health and mobility area," with the company planning to sign licencing and distribution agreements with local companies in Australia and NZ this year.

### Adherence handbrake

**EVEN** nominal charge fixed copayments may generate inequities in access to health services, according to a real-world population-based study in the *BMJ*.

The study demonstrated that a reduction in copayment could protect from non-adherence and have positive, long-term effects, prompting authors to conclude that copayment scenarios could have significant long-term consequences for health - **CLICK HERE**.

## Win with Belle Botanique

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Belle Botanique are giving readers the chance to win a Collagene Triple Action Anti-Ageing Moisturizer Cream valued at \$79.75 each.

Developed by an expert in formulation-science, COLLAGENE cream provides optimum age-defying nourishment and protection for the skin, suitable for both young and mature women.

[www.bellebotanique.com.au](http://www.bellebotanique.com.au)

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



Glycation is a process when sugar molecules are cross-linked with proteins, causing proteins to malfunction.

What is Collagen; sugar, protein or both?

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Caroline Bahous*



### Dispensary Corner

**A GROUP** of thieves has been captured in Spain after attempting to abscond with several hundred kilograms of stolen oranges.

Presumably in search of a big dose of vitamin C (or hoping to avoid scurvy), the offenders were captured after a bizarre traffic stop where police officers discovered the illicit load in a convoy of vehicles "travelling suspiciously" in the southern city of Seville.

Five people were detained, with a local official saying the arrests were important to "preserve the food security of the possible consumers who would have had these oranges".

Emergency services posted images on Twitter of the dramatic and juicy bust as it unfolded.



**ZOOLOGISTS** in Philadelphia say one of their charges has become obsessed with hygiene, with 18-year-old gorilla Louis taking a stand against having dirty hands.

The primate is now insisting on walking upright when he has his hands full of snacks, rather than the typical stance of leaning forward on his knuckles.

A spokesman for the zoo said keepers also had to install a flattened fire hose across a mud puddle in the ape's enclosure, which the 250kg neat freak uses like a tight rope to avoid getting dirty.

## Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy. Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### Anti-Ageing Anti-Wrinkle Eye Cream



**Innoxo Anti-Ageing Anti-Wrinkle + Dark Circles Eye Cream** targets the appearance of fine lines, wrinkles and dark circles around the eyes. This comprehensive treatment contains snap7 to prevent and slow down lines from forming, haloxy, to prevent the appearance of dark circles and dermaxyl to boost the cell communication and dermal repair mechanism. Hyaluronic acid, vitazyme and ronasphe hydrate, protect and reflect light for finer looking wrinkles. Innoxo Anti-Ageing

Anti-Wrinkle + Dark Circles Eye Cream is not only highly effective at rejuvenating sagging skin, it is suitable for all skin types including sensitive.

**Stockist:** 1300 650 981

**RRP:** \$24.95 for 15mL

**Website:** [www.innoxo.com.au](http://www.innoxo.com.au)

### New Cal-600 from Petrus



New product **Cal-600** from Petrus Pharmaceuticals is a high potency calcium supplement which assists in the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis where dietary calcium intake is inadequate. The Australian recommended daily intake of calcium is 1000mg for adult women and men. The recommended daily intake of calcium for postmenopausal women is 1300mg. Cal-600 taken daily, supplements one's diet to ensure adequate calcium intake everyday. Each film coated

tablet of Cal-600 contains calcium carbonate B.P. 1500mg per tablet equivalent to 600 mg elemental calcium.

**Stockist:** 08 9368 5954

**RRP:** \$10.99 for 120 tabs

**Website:** [www.petrus.com.au](http://www.petrus.com.au)

### Lemon Myrtle Pure Essential Oil

In Essence **Australian Native Lemon Myrtle Pure Essential Oil** is a pure essential oil of backhousia citriodora that comes from a coastal plantation in NSW. Release the special scents of this lemon myrtle to uplift and cleanse the mind and body. Australian native lemon myrtle essential oil is renowned for its antiseptic properties and is ideal to use during the cold and flu season. By virtue of its fresh, lemony aroma, it may aid concentration and boost energy levels.



**Stockist:** 1300 650 981

**RRP:** \$19.95 for 8mL

**Website:** [www.inessence.com.au](http://www.inessence.com.au)

### TBN goes vegan in all new ranges



Colour by TBN has announced that the cosmetic brand's full range is now not only Certified Cruel-free, but is also Certified Vegan. The company claims it is a first for an Australian cut-price brand and said it was celebrating by launching three all-new collections. The first featured

today is the new **Lipstick Collection** in 20 vegan shades in Demi-matte, Satin & Sheer. These super-pigmented finishes provide a hue for every occasion. Colour matching packaging and a sleek form make these lipsticks the perfect handbag hero.

**Stockist:** 1300 765 332

**RRP:** \$3.95 ea

**Website:** [www.colourbytbn.com.au](http://www.colourbytbn.com.au)

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