



Viscotears supply

EYECARE specialist company Bausch + Lomb has confirmed to **Pharmacy Daily** that its Viscotears Eye Gel 10g, Carbomer 2mg/g is now out of stock.

Stock is expected to return to full supply in Jul 2018.

The company has announced that PAA Eye Gel 10g, Carbomer 2mg/g is a generic equivalent and can be substituted in the interim.

See the B+L advertisement on **page two** of **Pharmacy Daily** or ring 1800 251 150 for more details.

Pharmacy pay packets

THE UK 2017 pharmacy salary and satisfaction survey conducted by Britain's *The Pharmaceutical Journal* has highlighted some interesting numbers and attitudes among pharmacists.

Pharmacists in industry roles in general have the highest incomes, consider they have the best work/life balance along with primary care pharmacists, and none of them believed they should be paid less than what they are.

By contrast, some, but not many community, hospital, primary care and academic pharmacists actually indicated they should be paid less, while most industry pharmacists scored highest in terms of believing their salary was appropriate.

Community pharmacists were the least satisfied with their pay packet.

CLICK HERE to access the print infographic summary.



\$1.5m for UTS CM research

UTS Sydney's Australian Research Centre in Complementary and Integrative Medicine (ARCCIM) has been awarded \$1.5 million in funding from the Blackmores Foundation, Bioceuticals and the Jacka Foundation.

Funding will support two new research fellowships led by Distinguished Professor of Public Health and Australian Research Council Professorial Future Fellow, Jon Adams.

Half of the \$1.5m research investment will come from recent US Natural Products Hall of Fame

inductee Marcus Blackmore's personal philanthropic trust, the Blackmore Foundation.

"This new support will help us grow critical and rigorous, public health research into the opportunities and challenges of therapies like naturopathy," Adams said, adding that it would investigate why and how people use naturopathy and other complementary medicines as well as how naturopathic practitioners communicate with mainstream hospital and primary care systems.

"These and other questions are important as we face major challenges that include an ageing population, chronic illness and a health system under stress," said BioCeuticals md Eyal Wolstin.

Codeine 'fake news'

CLAIMS by Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt that "up to 100 lives a year could be saved" by last month's upscheduling of OTC codeine products have been debunked by the ABC's 'Fact Check'.

PSA NSW president Professor Peter Carroll and NSW Guild president David Heffernan had previously warned Hunt that the claim was "misleading and without foundation" (PD 19 Jan 2018).

The Fact Check looked at studies on the issue, with key research showing OTC codeine products were only implicated in 16% of the 100 cases, squarely placing the majority burden for fatalities on prescription codeine products.

Carroll told **Pharmacy Daily** that the upscheduling was very likely to increase the use and potential abuse of codeine given patients will be sourcing from a GP prescription.

GSK challenge

GLAXOSMITHKLINE has launched its 'Discovery Fast Track Australian Challenge', a program designed to accelerate the translation of early-stage research into game-changing new medicines via a new template for drug discovery.

See more on this at gsk.com.

New diabetes listing

PHARMACEUTICAL giants Boehringer Ingelheim and Lilly have jointly announced that their new oral, fixed-dose combination of the SGLT2 inhibitor empagliflozin (Jardiance) and DPP-4 inhibitor linagliptin (Trajenta) will be available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from 01 Apr 2018 as Glyxambi under specific conditions.

Approved PI for Glyxambi can be found at guildlink.com.au.

Subcut methotrexate

THE Department of Health has notified specialist pharmaceutical and medical technology company Link Healthcare that its Trexject methotrexate pre-filled syringes for subcutaneous administration will be listed as a streamlined authority on the PBS from 01 Apr for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and psoriasis.

Trexject is available to pharmacies in Australia in 7.5mg, 10mg, 15mg, 20mg and 25mg pre-measured fixed doses via wholesalers or direct from Link customer service at customerservice@linkhealthcare.com.au or 1800 181 060.

Go to tga.gov.au for approved PI.

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Announcement for Viscotears Eye Gel 10g Supply

Bausch + Lomb have confirmed that **Viscotears Eye Gel 10g**, Carbomer 2mg/g is now out of stock. **Stock is expected to return in July 2018.**

PAA Eye Gel 10g, Carbomer 2mg/g is a generic product of **Viscotears Eye Gel 10g** and is available as an alternative product during this time.

Both **PAA Eye Gel** and **Viscotears Eye Gel** are indicated as a substitute for tear fluid in the treatment of dry eye conditions and for unstable tear film. It provides soothing long lasting relief from sore, gritty, dry eyes.¹

For any enquiries and questions about **Viscotears Eye Gel 10g** or **PAA Eye Gel 10g**, please contact Bausch + Lomb customer service on 1800 251150



1. Viscotears Eye Gel consumer leaflet and product label © 2018 Bausch & Lomb Incorporated. ®/TM denote trademarks of Bausch & Lomb Incorporated and its affiliates. Bausch & Lomb (Australia) Pty Limited. ABN 88 000 222 408. Level 2, 12 Help Street, Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia. (Ph 1800 251 150) APAC.2018.0542

Dispensary Corner

HERE'S an innovative way to ensure people remain healthy - make dying illegal, reports wn.com.

That's exactly what they've done in the Norwegian town of Longyearbyen in the Arctic Svalbard Islands, where it has been illegal to pass on since 1950. That was the year that authorities discovered bodies in the town were not decomposing because of the year-round deep freeze - meaning deadly viruses within the corpses could potentially reinfect the population if they thawed out.

Similar concerns have actually played out in Siberia, where in a 2016 heatwave an outbreak of anthrax was attributed to the thawing body of a reindeer killed by the virus in 1941.

In Longyearbyen, terminally ill patients are flown off the island, while people who do happen to die there are buried elsewhere.

FAST food can be addictive, but this is ridiculous.

A 37-year-old man in Oregon, in the USA, has been arrested after attempting to destroy the famed "Golden Arches" at a McDonald's, because staff refused to make him 30 double cheeseburgers.

Police arrested Jedediah Ezekiel Fulton on charges of disorderly conduct, criminal trespass and harassment over the incident.

It's reminiscent of a similar situation in Sydney some months ago where a man was arrested over his reaction when his local McDonald's declined to fulfil an early morning order for 200 hash browns - which he had in turn requested because McNuggets were not on the breakfast menu.

Pfizer OTC division sale fail

PHARMACEUTICAL behemoth Pfizer has lost the last bidder for the sale of its OTC business, which includes Advil, Centrum and Chapstick ranges, with GSK announcing it is pulling from the auction field.

Reckitt Benckiser and GSK were the only remaining companies



expressing interest in Pfizer's OTC business sell-off earlier this year (**PD** 05 Feb 18) and when RB dropped the opportunity, GSK was in pole position, but on Friday that all changed.

According to a report in the *Financial Times*, GSK's ceo Emma

Walmsley explained that while the group continued to "review opportunities that may accelerate our strategy, they must meet our criteria for returns and not compromise our priorities for capital allocation".

On Fri, GSK share values jumped 4.6% on the news, highlighting shareholder doubt about the value proposition, a sentiment that had reportedly been expressed by investors to the executive.

The purchase, valued at \$20b, would have broadened GSK's OTC range significantly and "brought healthy cash flows", but with Novartis owning 36.5% of Pfizer's OTC business, the acquisition would also have diluted GSK's ownership across the total, which may have been a factor in investor reaction, some analysts have speculated.

At this stage, Pfizer's consumer healthcare business remains in limbo with no apparent remaining bidders, forcing the company to say it "continues to evaluate potential strategic alternatives".

Footy tipping winners

CONGRATULATIONS to Garry Anderson from Sproutlife Pharmaceuticals, who was the top tipper last weekend in the **Pharmacy Daily** NRL tipping comp.

Margaret Johnson from Greenbrook Pharmacy was the top tipper in the first AFL round - see pharmacydaily.com.au.

Win with Evodia

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and EVODIA are giving away a Life's Little Pleasures gift set valued at \$41.90RRP.

Just in time for Mother's Day, Evodia limited-edition Life's Little Pleasures gift sets capture two of our most cherished fragrance collections in miniature favourites. They're a lovely gesture to show you care, or a little luxury treat for yourself. www.evodia.com.au

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

What date is Mother's Day in Australia this year?

[Check here tomorrow for today's winner.](#)

Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Greg Aspelng**, Owner, gaps.solutions.



The cart before the horse

I'M IN the early stages of facilitating a sale and the buyer is gung-ho about getting contracts drafted. Have they discussed their financial capabilities with a lender or broker? No. Perhaps got a pre-approval? No. So why request contracts at this early stage?

Psychologically, getting contracts signed makes the deal stronger. Sure. But what happens, say, when a number of things go wrong. Valuation doesn't stack up, the seller won't budge on original price and you don't have money to make up the difference? No deal!

My point is, why incur an expense until you have to. When an offer is accepted and signed by both parties, we request you pay a deposit (we ask for an initial 5%). That already provides a clear indication of your commitment! But talk to a lender or broker first. Get an idea on your borrowing capacity.

Here's another old saying from the 1770's, "Take care of the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves". In other words, be prudent on how you spend your money and reap the rewards.

PS. We'll be at the APP2018, Stand F13 adjacent to the registration desk in the foyer. Please feel free to catch up and discuss any of this month's topics.