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TGA consultation

THE TGA is seeking comments on options for the use of a



“claimer for efficacy assessed non-prescription medicines,” including what complementary medicines it would apply to and what a suitable visual identifier could look like.

Provide input at tga.gov.au.

Pharmacists shot

A MAN has been charged after he allegedly shot two pharmacists in the Jordanian city of Zarqa.

The assailant pulled out a gun when the pair kicked him out of the pharmacy because he was demanding tranquillisers.

One of the pharmacists was killed instantly, with the Jordanian Pharmacists Association calling for the severest punishment possible.

NSW way behind on RTPM

AN ADMISSION last week by NSW's Chief Pharmacist that the state had no timetable for the introduction of a real time prescription monitoring (RTPM) system has shocked pharmacy officials.

Dr Judith Mackson was testifying at a coronial inquiry looking at six fatal opioid-related overdoses during 2016, and told Deputy State Coroner Harriet Grahame that NSW was waiting for the implementation of a national system.

She said there was significant work involved in such a project including the development of a national data exchange and a makeover of software to connect doctors and pharmacists.

“A timetable for implementation has not been developed, and the costs to NSW to implement real time prescription monitoring have not been determined,” she said in a statement tendered to the court.

Peter Carroll, president of the NSW branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, and his Guild counterpart David Heffernan said they shared the frustration expressed by coroner Grahame

during the hearing.

The pair called on NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard to immediately implement a strategy for the introduction of a real time monitoring system for prescription opioids in NSW.

“Evidence clearly shows that the number of deaths caused by the misuse and abuse of prescription opioids is increasing,” they said, noting that governments in Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia and the ACT had either implemented or developed strategies to introduce a real time monitoring system.

“In the light of the increasing death rate and actions taken by other states, the NSW PSA and PGA presidents find it inconceivable that the NSW Chief Pharmacist could admit that NSW has no timetable for the introduction of a real time monitoring system for prescription opioids,” Heffernan and Carroll said.

NZ Council resignation

LEANNE Te Karu, deputy chair of the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand, has resigned after seven years with the organisation.

Te Karu is a prescribing pharmacist who was among the first cohort of Kiwi practitioners to achieve the qualification.

She is stepping down to pursue a personal passion for her clinical work, with Dr Jeff Harrison accepting a nomination to take on the role of deputy chair immediately, while an additional Council member is also being sought.

Trump plan to push down drug prices

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has in part blamed foreign governments such as Australia that “extort unreasonably low prices from US drugmakers” for the high costs of prescription drugs in the US.

In a speech last Fri the president outlined a raft of initiatives to reduce US pricing, including prioritising the matter in future trade negotiations.

Other measures include a possible requirement to disclose the cost of medicines in TV advertisements in the USA, and speeding up approvals for OTC medications.

The president said he would target “dishonest double dealing” by pharmacy benefit managers who “pocket rebates and discounts that should be passed onto consumers”.

Shares in major US pharma companies such as Pfizer, Eli Lilly and J&J rose after the statement.

Slimming cap alert

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has warned that a product labelled Lishou Strong Slimming Capsule contains the



undeclared prescription-only substance sibutramine, which was withdrawn in 2010 after it showed increased risk of cardiac events.

The supply of the product is illegal, with the TGA saying its investigations have shown a number of people in Australia may have bought it online.

FDA ticks kids MS Rx

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Gilenya (fingolimod) for the treatment of relapsing multiple sclerosis (MS) in children and adolescents aged 10 years & over.


It's the first FDA approval of a drug to treat MS in child patients.

GSK Panadol pitch

GLAXOSMITHKLINE has launched a “winner takes all” review of its creative, digital and public relations accounts for Panadol, seeking a single agency to represent the brand which is managed from its Singapore office.

According to marketing website *Mumbrella*, last year the company spent about US\$1.7 billion globally on advertising brands including Panadol, Sensodyne and Voltaren.

PD TIPPING WINNERS

 **NRL ROUND 10**

KIM MCCLURE
from Vita Gold Products

AFL AFL ROUND 8

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Dispensary Corner

EAR'S some very good news for people suffering from an auditory deficiency - US army doctors have managed to grow an entire new ear under the skin of a soldier's right arm.

The procedure involved carving the new ear out of cartilage harvested from the ribs of 21-year-old Private Sahnika Burrage, who lost the original in a car crash in Texas two years ago.

No prosthetics were used to create the appendage (pictured) and it was later successfully transplanted onto the head of the soldier who recovered her hearing.

The reconstruction was one of the most complicated ear transplantation procedures ever undertaken, and because it allowed for the formation of new blood vessels in the cartilage Burrage will also have feeling in the new sensory organ.



WHEN it comes to fitness, creativity is a good thing.

But an American student has taken things to extremes this week after setting a new record in the sport of "juggling".

Zach Prescott from Boston University ran a mile in just 4 minutes 43.2 seconds - while simultaneously juggling three balls without dropping them.

If ratified by the Guinness World Records, it will beat the previous best time by 0.6 seconds.

MHR opt out date confirmed

THE Australian Digital Health Agency has announced that the three month "opt-out period" for the My Health Record system will run from 16 Jul-15 Oct 2018.

Every Australian will be offered a My Health Record (MHR) unless they choose not to have one during the

timeframe - and can also cancel their MHR at any time afterwards, or create one, if they opted out.

Health Minister Greg Hunt said a national communications strategy would be implemented to inform all Australians of the benefits of digital health and explain the opt out process.

After the three month opt-out phase, a further month will be required to reconcile the data and finalise processing of paper opt-out forms received from Australians in remote locations and from people without access to a computer.

The new records will be activated when individuals login for the first time or when healthcare providers

access records in treating patients.

Two years of Medicare and PBS data will be uploaded, unless an individual chooses not to include this information.

Individuals will also be able to upload personal notes, advanced care documentation and medication & allergy information.

Access can be restricted to specific information or test results in each person's record if required.

A range of health groups are strongly supporting the MHR rollout including the Pharmacy Guild, with president George Tambassis saying it would support increased use of the system by pharmacists and sustainable healthcare delivery.

"The Guild is committed to helping build the digital health capabilities of community pharmacies and advance the efficiency, quality and delivery of healthcare to improve health outcomes for all Australians," Tambassis said.

My Health Record



Win with SkinB5

This week **Pharmacy Daily** & **SkinB5** are giving away each day the Acne Control Mousse and Moisturiser.

Utilising the power of vitamin B5, SkinB5's innovative Natural Acne Treatment System combines supplements and skincare to eliminate and treat the underlying causes of Acne from the INSIDE OUT. See www.skinb5.com for more.

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

Are SkinB5 products tested on animals?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



Guild Update

Biologics

BIOLOGIC medicines are increasingly being added to the range of tools used to manage auto-immune disorders.

Of these, the monoclonal antibody Cosentyx® (secukinumab) has demonstrated efficacy in, and is indicated in Australia for the treatment of plaque psoriasis, ankylosing spondylitis, and psoriatic arthritis.

By targeting the pro-inflammatory cytokine IL-17A, Cosentyx® (secukinumab) inhibits a number of cellular mechanisms associated with the development of auto-immune disorders.

To assist pharmacists in managing auto-immune disorders, Guild Learning and Development is launching an online course titled Cosentyx®: A guide for community pharmacists.

This activity has been accredited for 1 hour of Group 1 CPD (or 1 CPD credit), suitable for inclusion in an individual pharmacist's CPD plan, which can be converted to 1 hour of Group 2 CPD (or 2 CPD credits) upon successful completion of relevant assessment activities.

To enrol in this course please visit www.mycpd.org.au.

Guild Learning and Development thanks Novartis for its financial support and assistance in the development of this course.