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Today's issue of PD
Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus our **Winter Spotlight** feature on page 4.

Migraine prevention

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved a new product called Aimovig (erenumab-aooe) for the preventive treatment of migraine in adults.

The treatment is given by once monthly self-injections.

Among is the first FDA-approved preventive migraine treatment in a new class of drugs that work by blocking the activity of calcitonin gene-related peptide, a molecule that is involved in migraine attacks.

Draft PAH report out

THE Health Department has released the draft report for the post-market review of Pulmonary Aterial Hypertension (PAH) Medicines, which is open for public comment until 10 Jun 2018.

More details at pbs.gov.au.

Pharmacist banned from S8s

THE NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal has placed a "Prohibition Order" against unregistered pharmacist Ethan Le, banning him from working in any environment where he would have access to any Schedule 8 drugs.

A decision was handed down yesterday in a case brought against Le by the Health Care Complaints Commission, which alleged that due to a criminal conviction he "is unfit in the public interest to practice the profession of pharmacy".

The practitioner was first registered as a pharmacist in Australia in 2007, and worked at Abbotsford Point pharmacy as the Pharmacy Manager from 2009.

In 2015 police were conducting surveillance on a man named Trent Nguyen and ascertained he was obtaining prescription drugs from the pharmacy via the pharmacist.

They ultimately took the pharmacist to court where he pleaded guilty to supplying restricted drugs and also dealing

with \$8,500 suspected of being the proceeds of crime.

The pharmacist also failed to tell the National Board of his conviction.

In the hearing Le noted he had pleaded guilty at the first opportunity and taken significant steps to reform his behaviour.

However the Tribunal expressed "deep concern" about his activities, which included holding blank stolen prescription pads.

It was ruled that the pharmacist was guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct.

While his registration has lapsed, he is now not entitled to apply for re-registration for a period of 18 months and in that time is also not allowed to have access to S8s.

The Tribunal also recommended that he develop a CPD plan, join a professional organisation, familiarise himself with Pharmacy Board regulations and consider engaging with a mentor who can assist him in improving his pharmacy practice.

Winter Spotlight

SEE page 4 of today's *Pharmacy Daily* for the special feature *Winter Spotlight*, full of products to help through the winter sniffle season, coughs & colds, through to vitamins and hydration.

To feature your winter-essential products next week, contact advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Deprescribing study

SIGNIFICANT reductions in the proportions of residential aged care facility residents prescribed psychotropic medicines, such as antipsychotics and benzodiazepines, was achieved in new Australian research published in the *MJA* this week.

The 'RedUse' study assessed the impact of a "multi-strategic, interdisciplinary intervention" comprising psychotropic medication audit and feedback, staff education, and interdisciplinary case review at baseline and three months; a final audit was conducted at six months.

CLICK HERE to access the study.



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UNSW recruiting smokers to quit

THE University of NSW Department of Medicine's National Drug and Alcohol Research



Centre is recruiting 1,266 smokers into what is called the CESSATE

study, comparing smoking cessation products Champix (varenicline) and Desmoxan (cytisine).

Desmoxan is a medicine that comes from plant sources such as Golden Rain, has been used in Europe for more than 50 years and does not contain nicotine.

Unlike Champix, Desmoxan is currently not available in Australia. Info at ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au.

Indemnity insurance changes possible

RECOMMENDATIONS of a review of the government's Medical Indemnity Insurance Fund may impact pharmacists, with coverage under the scheme likely to be limited to medical practitioners.

The change relates to the High Cost Claims Scheme (HCCS) which was introduced in 2002.

The scheme currently reimburses medical indemnity insurers 50% of any payout from \$300,000 up to the limit of the practitioner's cover.

However the scheme was never intended to apply to pharmacists, but ambiguity in the legislation has allowed Guild Insurance to access the program.

Interestingly the majority of claims under the scheme in respect of health professionals have been made by Guild Insurance, which has warned that changes to the legislation "may result in increased premiums for health professionals".

The government has not issued a response to the review at this stage - view the document online at health.gov.au.

UK diabetes recall

BRITAIN'S Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has announced a recall by Roche of its Accu-Chek Aviva and Accu-Chek Performa test strips, with more than 260,000 packs estimated to be affected.

The strips, commonly used by diabetics for blood glucose testing, may give "increased strip error messages" prior to dosing.

In a "very limited number of cases the test strip can produce a biased result i.e. a falsely too high or too low value, which you might not be able to detect easily and which could lead to incorrect therapy".

Accu-Chek Inform II test strips have also been recalled, but are supplied in the UK by Roche for professional use only.

Six batches of Accu-Chek Aviva 50s strips are impacted, along with two batches of Aviva 10s and two batches of Performa 10s.

Customers can check whether their strips are from the affected lots via a portal at accu-chek.co.uk

Webstercare design winners



WEBSTERCARE received two 2018 Good Design Awards at a ceremony at Sydney Opera House last week.

The medication management innovator was honoured for its Webster-pak Interim and Webster-pak 28 products, both of which were named Good Design Award Winners in the Communication Design Category.

Webster-pak Interim is a disposable pack offering patients an accurate continued supply of short-term medication upon hospital discharge for up to four days.

The new Webstercare system ensures medication for each patient is properly reconciled by the pharmacist, and enables residential aged care facilities to liaise with hospitals more easily.

Webster-pak 28 is a disposable dosage solution for customers who may not be able to return folders regularly to the pharmacy, with no

heat sealing required.

Webstercare founder and md Gerard Stevens said "Webstercare is absolutely committed to improving the way in which people take and benefit from their medication.

"We are very proud to be recognised by the Good Design Awards," he added.

Anticoagulants course

NEW Zealand based College Education and Training, a business unit of the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand is providing a live webinar for NZ pharmacists around all matters pharmacy relating to the use of anticoagulants.

The course is sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim, the manufacturers of non-vitamin k anticoagulant (NOAC) Pradaxa (dabigatran) - for more information see psnz.org.nz.

WIN WITH EMTRIX

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Emtrix Nail are giving away the Emtrix Nail 10ml tube, valued at \$44.95 RRP.



Emtrix Nail is an easy to apply topical treatment, that is clinically proven to restore healthy appearance, normalise thickness and reduce discolouration of nails affected by onychomycosis (nail fungus) and psoriasis.

For more visit www.emtrix.com.au. Always read the label, use only as directed, if symptoms persist speak to your health care professional.

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Dispensary Corner

ALL pharmacists know you can patent a drug molecule - but how about trademarking a smell?

US toymaker Hasbro is claiming an intellectual property victory after managing to trademark the characteristic smell of Play-Doh modelling clay.

It is, after all, the smell of childhood, with the company announcing on Fri that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has officially recognised the distinctive odour of Play-Doh as a registered trademark of the brand.

It is formally described as a "sweet, slightly musky, vanilla-like fragrance, with slight overtones of cherry and the natural smell of a salted, wheat-based dough".

A Hasbro spokesman said "by officially trademarking the iconic scent, we are able to protect an invaluable point of connection between the brand and fans for years to come".



LAST weekend's Royal Wedding could end up having some positive health effects, particularly when it comes to eating vegies.

A supermarket in Auckland reported running out of cucumbers last Fri in the lead up to the event, as hundreds of customers stocked up so they could serve cucumber sandwiches to guests at viewing parties.

Flu vaccine supplies impacted

"UNPRECEDENTED demand" for seasonal influenza vaccines has led to a shortage of supplies, according to Australia's Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tony Hobbs, who has been tasked with ensuring as much vaccine is brought into the country as possible.

In a statement issued on Sun Hobbs noted that despite record numbers of seasonal influenza vaccines having been brought into the country this year, it has not been sufficient to deal with an estimated 25-30% increase in demand, with the Department of Health working closely with states and territories to monitor availability.

Hobbs said it was positive that people had heard the message and were taking action to get vaccinated against influenza.

So far this year the Therapeutic Goods Administration has released 9.6 million doses of influenza vaccines across the National Immunisation Program (NIP), state programs and the private market.

That's already a 10% increase on the 8.3 million total for 2017.

The Department of Health advised that additional doses of trivalent and quadrivalent vaccines would soon be made available

through the NIP.

MEANWHILE mainstream media has also picked up on an *Australian Doctor* article earlier this month titled *Two Bs or not two Bs? Why GPs are questioning this year's flu vaccine*, highlighting that seniors who receive the higher dose trivalent vaccine on the NIP, may also benefit from the extra Brisbane (B strain) coverage by having the quadrivalent vaccine as well, whether in pharmacy or at the GP clinic.

Palliative care MHR

AUSTRALIANS are being encouraged to include My Health Record (MHR) during discussions of 'What matters most?' as part of National Palliative Care week, which is taking place 20-26 May.

Palliative Care Australia ceo Liz Callaghan said MHR makes it easier for the health professional team of patients accessing palliative care services to share information about medications and test results.

"Australians can also share their advance care planning documents through their My Health Record, ensuring all health professionals know what their wishes for their future care are," Callaghan said.

LLiP program

LIFE Long Learning in Pharmacy has finalised the program for its 12th International Conference, which take place in Brisbane from 07 to 09 Jul 2018.

Visit llpharm2018.com to access the full agenda.

Pharmacy Daily Guild Update

1 June price changes

THE Guild has now received from the Government confirmed price changes for 1 June 2018 inclusive of the statutory reductions due to the F1 10-year and 15-year anniversary catch up round

While the confirmed list of F1 anniversary price reductions has seen some medicines removed, many from the indicative list still remain including some commonly used medicines.

A consolidated list of all PBS price changes for 1 June is available on the Guild website guild.org.au to help Guild members prepare for these changes. Member login is required.

For those who have been monitoring orders and stock holdings for the F1 medicines based on the indicative list, we have also provided a comparative list to show those medicines that have been removed.

As with all price changes, members should carefully manage their stock holdings and orders for all affected medicines.

PD NRL ROUND 11 WINNER
Congratulations
KIM MCCLURE
from Vita Gold Products

PD AFL ROUND 9 WINNER
Congratulations
TONG THAI
from Blooms the Chemist - Miller

Winter spotlight

Pharmacy Daily's Winter spotlight is your guide to all the essentials - from products to assist with coughs and colds through to keeping you hydrated and vitamin boosted - ready for this year's Winter season. To feature here email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Immunity Boosters from Medlab

NanoCelle™ D3 - \$23.95 RRP | Manuka-C™ - \$31.79 RRP |
Multibiotic™ - \$57.35 RRP

NanoCelle™ D3 - A clinically trialled high absorption platform providing optimum dosage of immune boosting Vitamin D3 for everyone in the family, as well as being low allergen, dairy and gluten free.

Manuka-C™ - Great tasting, low and recyclable dosage of Vitamin C combined with therapeutic dosage of Manuka Honey. For boosting the immune system and assisting with symptom relief of Upper Respiratory Tract Infections and the common cold.

Multibiotic™ - A family friendly clinically trialled probiotic formulation. Great for improving Gastrointestinal tract health and liver function, as well as boosting your immune system.

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Ref: 1. Ludwig M et al. Respir. Res 2013; 14:124. 2. Koenighofer M et al. Multidiscip. Respir. Med. 2014; 9:57-3. Fazekas T et al. BMC Complement. Altern. Med. 2012; 12:147. *When used at the first signs of a cold.

Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist, see your healthcare professional. Mundipharma Pty Limited, Sydney. ® MUNDICARE is a registered trade mark. CH-0331 05/18

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