

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from Pharmacy 4 Less.

TGA ad submissions

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has published submissions received in Apr this year as part of its consultation into the new Advertising Code (**PD** yesterday), including input from the Pharmacy Guild, PSA, ASMI, Medicines Australia and more.

Many of the submissions expressed concern about the short time allowed for consultation, which also included the Easter, Anzac Day and school holiday periods, as well as the lack of transitional arrangements.

At the time the new code was expected to be implemented from 01 Jul 2018, but this has now been delayed until 01 Jan 2019, with the TGA also detailing a host of other changes to the framework.

See submissions at tga.gov.au.

Novartis symposium

NOVARTIS is today hosting a symposium titled "Potentially Preventable Hospitalisations" in the lead-up to the 42nd World Hospital Congress in Brisbane.

Presentations will focus on primary care and its role in focusing on prevention and chronic disease management, in line with Novartis Australia's support for several pilot projects in Tasmania and NSW for primary care-based heart failure disease management programs.

See ahha.asn.au for details.

Illicit codeine use decline

THE use of low dose codeine for "non-medicinal/pain purposes" has declined significantly in Australia, according to a new report from the University of NSW's National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) released yesterday.

The Illicit Drug Reporting System 2018 report collates interviews with drug users, including a section on the use of so-called "homebake heroin" in the form of diamorphine extracted from pharmaceutical opioids such as codeine.

In 2018, 27% of the people sampled reported recent use of any codeine (low or high dose) on prescription for pain treatment.

However from 2013-2017 the

use of low-dose codeine for illicit purposes was cited by 14% of those surveyed, versus just 3% for 2018.

The researchers said the data about the decline was not conclusive because participants were only asked about use in the last six months, but prior to the 01 Feb 2018 up-scheduling of codeine.

The full NDARC report also covers changes in use of naloxone, fentanyl and oxycodone, and is available at ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au.

Statin counselling

WITH compliance levels for chronic-disease-states medicines as low as 50%, recent research in the UK has confirmed that counselling has a strong role in enhancing patient adherence to statin therapy.

The new study showed there were five main barriers to the use of statins: scepticism about clinician's motivations; side effects and possible toxicity; cost; unclear benefits, and fear of dependence.

Two themes drove statin usage: believing statins work as a positive step to prolonging good quality of life and convenience in fitting them into the daily routine.

University of Exeter Medical School authors of the meta-analysis involving 888 participants across eight countries, said, "Frank conversations about the benefits and risks for each individual with discussion addressing the patient's specific concerns, priorities and goals are an important step in facilitating statin use and adherence" - **CLICK HERE** to access.

UK adverse reactions system enhanced

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has announced it has improved the functionality of its Yellow Card Scheme for reporting adverse drug reactions (ADRs).

A pilot program to test new Ulysses risk management software is being conducted with the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, which has nearly 200 healthcare sites.

Previous enhancements which saw the Yellow Card Scheme reporting functionality included in clinical systems has ramped up ADR reporting levels, alerting the MHRA to early signs of possible drug safety issues.

MHRA Head of Pharmacovigilance Strategy Mick Foy said the upgrade of the platform was a great step forward for patient safety.

"A good reporting culture is a sign of good patient safety practice within an organisation and we hope the pilot will encourage other healthcare providers to use our Yellow Card Scheme and contribute to improved UK drug safety monitoring," Foy said.

GSK global ad deal

GLAXOSMITHKLINE Consumer Healthcare has awarded its global media account to advertising agency Publicis Media, with the company estimated to spend over \$1.5 billion on promotion annually.

In Australia GSK spent \$33.9 million on media last year, according to Nielsen figures.

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Dispensary Corner

"**DRUNK** birds were 'totally a thing'," US National Parks Service ranger Sharon Stiteler told *KMSP-TV*, when explaining what had alarmed some Minnesota residents.

They had reported to Gilbert Police Department their fears for young robins found intoxicated and flying into windows.

Stiteler said an early frost meant food berries had fermented earlier than usual, causing some to drink and fly.

Police entered into the 'spirit' of the drama saying people should not alert police about birds unless they saw "Bigbird operating a motor vehicle in an unsafe manner" or "Tweety acting as if 10 feet tall and getting into confrontations with cats".

AND while we're on the theme of wildlife, a French animal rights group has launched a campaign to protect the rats of Paris.

Authorities concerned about hygiene and the spread of disease have launched an extermination campaign against the estimated four million rodents in the city.

However not everyone is happy about the move, with the Paris Animaux Zoopolis group putting up posters in Metro stations declaring that rats are "sensitive individuals" that "should not be seen as synonymous with filth".

Work certificates update

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have released the updated Absence from Work Certificates Guidelines for Pharmacists to assist community pharmacists who provide this service for people in their community.

Originally developed by PSA and the Guild in 2008 and revised in 2011, the guidelines have been further updated to provide greater clarity and guidance for pharmacists.

The 2018 guidelines re-iterate



that a pharmacist must define their own scope of practice as stipulated by the Pharmacy Board of Australia and consider issuing certificates within this scope of practice.

The guidelines feature updated terminology and references, as well as a sample information sheet about providing this service.

The new documents also highlight that the responsibility lies with the employee to check with their employer about acceptance of a certificate from a pharmacist.

Guild Update

Location Rules

THE Location Rules [Applicant's Handbook](#) is now available on the [Australian Community Pharmacy Authority website](#).

The new rules took effect from last week.

The key changes to the Location Rules include:

- increased flexibility to allow pharmacists to relocate out of shopping centres;
- amendments to the requirements for replacing a pharmacy that has relocated out of a shopping centre;
- a reduction in the distance that a proposed new large medical centre pharmacy needs to be from existing pharmacies;
- an increase in the time that a pharmacist must remain in one location prior to relocating - from two to five years; and
- introduction of a new rule that allows pharmacies to relocate between 1km and 1.5km from their existing location.

Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away an Aloe Vera prize pack consisting of 2 Plunkett's Hi-Potency Aloe Vera Facial Masks, 1 hair turban and 1 gym towel valued at over \$30.

Aloe Barbadensis 'Natures medicine plant' is renowned for its soothing, cooling and moisturising properties to restore dry and damaged skin. This single use 100% natural Bamboo fibre sheet mask, infused with 90% certified organic Aloe Vera and other nutrients including Jojoba and Allantoin, leaves the skin comfortably hydrated and feeling nourished and soothed. Visit: www.Plunketts.com.au.

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



What are some of the other nutrients used in the mask?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Tony Soffer.



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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper
Managing Editor – Jon Murrie
Reporter – Mal Smith

Contributors – Jasmine O'Donoghue, Adam Bishop, Sarah Fairburn, Anastasia Prikhodko
info@pharmacydaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan and Melanie Tchakmadjian
advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper
accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

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