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WA pharmacists join jab revolution

PHARMACISTS in West Australia will be able to provide an expanded range of vaccinations to patients aged 16 and over, following an announcement by the State's Health Minister, Roger Cook (*PD* breaking news).

Speaking at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Pharmacy WA Forum, Cook revealed that pharmacists in the state will be able to provide the dTpa (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis), MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) and meningococcal vaccines.

"All other Australian states and territories have extended the range of vaccines available via pharmacy without a prescription," Cook said.

"This simple change supplements existing immunisation programs and brings Western Australia into line with the rest of the nation, it improves national consistency in relation to pharmacist-issued vaccines.

"If you are an adult relative, such as a grandparent, who will

be coming into contact with a new baby you can now get a booster shot for whooping cough from your local pharmacist. It will protect your grandchild from a potentially fatal disease.

"People should check with their local pharmacist to see when they will commence administering these vaccines."

Guild WA President, Andrew Ngeow (*pictured*, right with Minister Cook), said the move demonstrated the Minister's understanding and support for the role of pharmacists in the community.

"We acknowledge the Government for acting to protect our community by providing access to these life-saving vaccines for all West Australians no matter where they live," he said.

"There are community pharmacies in 40 towns with no GP service [in WA]. We look forward to a comprehensive vaccination program raising the



level of protection and bringing immunisation within easier reach for all West Australians."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) WA Branch President, Dr Fei Sim, also welcomed the move saying it would "significantly increase the immunisation rates within the community".

"While Australia has a strong childhood vaccination program, there are many areas in Australia with vaccination rates still below the level of coverage required for herd immunity, including for dTpa and MMR," she said.

"Pharmacists can play a key role in addressing this issue."

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus the MIMS Monthly Update.

Use Aust brands

COMPLEMENTARY

Medicines Australia (CMA) is urging athletes to only use reputable supplement brands in the wake of swimmer, Shayna Jack's positive test for a banned substance.

CMA CEO, Carl Gibson, told *Pharmacy Daily*, he will meet with Jack and the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Agency (ASADA), today to discuss claims that a tainted supplement may have contributed to the positive test.

The CMA boss said athletes could be confident in Australian made products featuring an AUST L or AUST R number on the label, and warned against using unregistered products.

Get ready for NDSS ordering

Find out more +

myPharmacyLink

Pharm Connect

EARLY bird registrations for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Pharmacy Connect conference closes on Fri 16 Aug.

The conference will provide a number of sessions offering Group 1 and Group 2 credits.

In addition, all delegates with full registrations receive access to the online session recordings - **CLICK HERE**.

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Pharmacies urged to up-skill staff

COMMUNITY pharmacists need to ensure all staff in their stores are trained to support patients with mental health issues, University of Sydney Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice, Dr Claire O'Reilly, believes.

Speaking at the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA's) annual conference, PSA19, in Sydney on Sat, Dr O'Reilly, told delegates that the profession had a critical role to play in suicide prevention and supporting patients.

O'Reilly noted that one-in-two Australians will experience a mental illness during their lifetime, however, "only 35% of people are actually seeking professional help".

"When we look at the pharmacist's place in mental health there's been an increasing growth in recognition of the pharmacist's

role," she said.

"Given the fact that two-thirds of people [with a mental health condition] are not seeking help... it's really important that we up-skill the workforce in pharmacy."

O'Reilly highlighted the importance of mental health first aid, relayed an anecdote about a patient who went into a pharmacy and spoke to a pharmacy assistant (PA) who had completed training.

The PA took the patient to speak to the pharmacist, and they discovered that the patient had everything she needed to suicide in her garage, instead the pharmacy staff were able to help and she was with her GP within an hour of coming into the store.

"There's very little data about the pharmacist's role in suicide



prevention, yet we know that medications are really common in self-harm," she said.

"Pharmacists are inextricably linked to medicines that cause harm... in mental health your contribution could make a real difference."

PBS site update

FOR the latest information relating to Price Disclosure-affected drugs and much more, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) website has been updated - see pbs.gov.au.

E-prescribing brings fresh errors

ELECTRONIC prescribing systems have "enormous potential to improve medicines safety", but they are introducing new errors, *Australian Prescriber* reports.

The NPS Medicinewise publication noted that a survey of 644 users of electronic prescribing systems in Victoria, including pharmacists, doctors and nurses, found 58% believed the e-prescribing platforms created new types of mistakes.

An audit of discharge medications from a Brisbane

hospital found more errors in computer-generated scripts than those produced using a paper-based system.

The most frequent errors recorded by e-prescribing software include, wrong medication selection and wrong log-in, as a result of a previous user failing to log-out of the system when using a shared terminal.

However, the authors said there was "little doubt that computerised prescribing reduces medication errors".

MedAdvisor UK

AUSTRALIAN medication management platform, MedAdvisor, will be rolled out in the UK for the first time.

Independent pharmacy chain, Day Lewis Pharmacy Group, has signed a deal with the ASX-listed business, that will see MedAdvisor rolled out across the group's 270 stores in the first quarter of the 2020 calendar year.

As part of the agreement Day Lewis will promote and distribute a branded version MedAdvisor's consumer app.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Yarra Valley, VIC (Job# 200032800)
Supportive Pharmacy Owner; Low script trade; Career progression.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Outer north Brisbane coastal (Job# 200032784)
Small innovative group for career growth; Robotic dispensing; Great roster!
- **Dispensary Manager** - Port Macquarie region, NSW (Job# 200032909)
25-32+ hrs; relocation; sought after group; stepping stone to management.

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Travel & Cruise Weekly



Dispensary Corner

FINDING work can be challenging, and sometimes people exaggerate their skills when drafting their CV, but seldom do "little white lies" put candidates at risk of jail time.

Californian, Kim Thien Le, is currently residing in a state penitentiary, having bluffed her way into the dispensaries of a number of Walgreens pharmacies, despite not being a registered pharmacist.

Le is accused of dispensing close to 750,000 prescription over a 10-month period, including more than 100,000 for opioid medications, such as fentanyl, oxycodone, morphine and codeine, according to Californian Attorney-General, Xavier Becerra.

"Californians picking up medications at their local pharmacy should never have to worry about whether pharmacies are employing licensed pharmacists to dispense prescriptions," Becerra insisted.

Le gave herself up on Fri 26 Jul, and has been held at Santa Clara County Jail since.

The US ABC News reported that the charges against Le stemmed from an investigation by the California Department of Justice Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse.

"The California Department of Justice is committed to protecting patients from anyone who unlawfully practices without a license," Becerra said.

Becerra added Le's case was a warning to fraudsters.

PBS meds out of reach

MEDICINES costs are forcing many disadvantaged Australians to skip or delay accessing vital drugs, pharmacist turned Federal MP, Emma McBride, says.

The former Chief Pharmacist at Wyong Hospital told the House of Representatives that one-in-14 Australians were avoiding taking prescribed medicines due to cost.

McBride said people living in regional Australia needed "good, strong representation and a minister who cares about them and our community", instead of boasts about new listings on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

"One thing about spruiking PBS listings that particularly disturbs me as a pharmacist is: what about people delaying or avoiding filling prescriptions?" she said.

"You can spruik listing any drug on the PBS, but what if people can't afford to fill prescriptions?"

"That is particularly a problem in regional Australia...we know the rate of people skipping prescriptions is twice as high in the



most disadvantaged areas as in the least disadvantaged; it is 10% of people in the most disadvantaged areas.

"This means that the cost of medicines is contributing to healthcare inequality in Australia.

"I've been there in an outpatient clinic, where a mental health patient said to me, 'Which medication can I do without?'"

"These are real people with major mental health problems who need proper support, and they're having to make this decision that no-one should have to make: 'Which one can I skip? Which one can I delay?'"

Win with Dreambaby®

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Dreambaby® are giving readers the chance to win a Dreambaby® care prize pack valued at over \$55.

While Dreambaby® is primarily known for its innovative child safety solutions, it also has many care items in its line up to help keep littlies in perfect health. Prize pack comprises: Rapid Response Digital Thermometer, Silicone Toothbrush, 'Herbert' The Turtle Room & Bath Thermometer, Nail Clippers with Holder and Nasal Aspirator.



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True or False: This Dreambaby® prize pack helps keep littlies in perfect health.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Crystal Yim.

Testavan listed

TESTOSTERONE replacement therapy (TRT), Testavan, has been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for the treatment of hypogonadal in men who meet reimbursement criteria.

The transdermal gel enhances bioavailability of testosterone through the skin.



Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

04 - 07 Aug: Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2019; Mt Buller, Victoria; register your interest here: www.medicicom.au

05 - 07 Sep: Pharmacy Connect; Hilton Hotel, Sydney; for details and to register visit: www.pharmacyconnect.com.au

11 - 13 Oct: Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; Sofitel Brisbane Central; for more info and to register see: www.pharmacyassistants.com

14 - 16 Nov: SHPA Medicines Management 2019 (MM2019); GCCEC, Gold Coast; early bird registrations close 16 Sep: www.mm2019shpa.com

New Products

- **Binimetinib (Mektovi)** is an ATP-uncompetitive reversible inhibitor of mitogen-activated extracellular signal regulated kinase 1 (MEK1) and MEK2 activation. MEK proteins are upstream regulators of the extracellular signal-related kinase (ERK) pathway, which promotes cellular proliferation. Binimetinib has shown significant anti-tumour activity in BRAF-mutant xenograft models, including melanoma. Binimetinib in combination with encorafenib is indicated for the treatment of adults with unresectable or metastatic melanoma with a BRAF V600E or V600K mutation. Treatment should only be initiated and supervised by a physician experienced in the use of anti-cancer medicines. Mektovi tablets contain binimetinib 15 mg in a pack size of 84.
- **Buprenorphine (Buvidal Weekly, Buvidal Monthly)** is a high-affinity partial agonist at the human μ (mu) opioid receptor and is a high affinity antagonist at the δ (delta) and κ (kappa) opioid receptors, as well as being a moderate affinity partial agonist for nociception opioid receptors. Its activity in opioid maintenance treatment is attributed to its slowly reversible properties with the μ -opioid receptors which, over a prolonged period, might minimise the need of illicit opioids for patients with opioid dependence. Buvidal is indicated for the maintenance treatment of opioid dependence in patients who have been stabilised on treatment for opioid dependence, within a framework of medical, social and psychological support. Buvidal is contraindicated in children < 16 years; severe hepatic or respiratory insufficiency; acute alcoholism or delirium tremens; pregnancy and lactation. Buvidal Weekly modified release solution for subcutaneous injection contains buprenorphine 8 mg (0.16 mL), 16 mg (0.32 mL), 24 mg (0.48 mL) or 32 mg (0.64 mL) in a pack size of 1 prefilled syringe. Buvidal Monthly modified release solution for subcutaneous injection contains buprenorphine 64 mg (0.18 mL), 96 mg (0.27 mL) or 128 mg (0.36 mL) in a pack size of 1 prefilled syringe. Buvidal Weekly and Buvidal Monthly are available via an early access scheme.
- **Encorafenib (Braftovi)** is an ATP-competitive small molecule RAF kinase inhibitor. Encorafenib suppresses the RAF/MEK/ERK pathway in tumour cells expressing several mutated forms of BRAF kinase (V600E, V600D and V600K). It does not inhibit RAF/MEK/ERK signalling in cells expressing wildtype BRAF. Encorafenib in combination with binimetinib is indicated for the treatment of adults with unresectable or metastatic melanoma with a BRAF V600E or V600K mutation. Treatment should only be initiated and supervised by a physician experienced in the use of anti-cancer medicines. Braftovi capsules contain encorafenib 50 mg or 75 mg in a pack size of 28 or 42, respectively.
- **Estradiol (as hemihydrate) (EstroGel)** is chemically and biologically identical to endogenous human estradiol, the major and most potent estrogenic hormone secreted by the ovary from menarche to menopause. Estrogens are important for the development and maintenance of the female reproductive system and secondary sexual characteristics, and modulate various physiological processes, including bone resorption. Exogenous estradiol substitutes for the loss of endogenous estrogen production in menopausal women to alleviate menopausal symptoms, and prevents bone loss following menopause or ovariectomy. EstroGel is indicated as hormone replacement therapy for estrogen deficiency symptoms in postmenopausal women; prevention of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women at high risk of future fractures who are intolerant of, or contraindicated for, other medicinal products approved for the prevention of osteoporosis. EstroGel is contraindicated in known, past or suspected breast cancer; known or suspected estrogen-dependent malignant tumours; undiagnosed genital bleeding; untreated endometrial hyperplasia; previous or current venous thromboembolism; thrombophilic disorders; active or recent arterial thromboembolic disease; porphyria; acute liver disease, or a history of liver disease while liver function tests remain abnormal; known or suspected pregnancy; and lactation. EstroGel contains estradiol 0.6 mg/g (\equiv 0.75 mg/actuation) as an 80 g pump in a pack size of 1.

New Presentation

- **Dupilumab (rch) (Dupixent)** is now available as a 200 mg/1.14 mL solution for injection in a pack size of 2.

New Indications

- **Afatinib (as dimaleate) (Giotrif)** is now indicated for the treatment of locally advanced or metastatic squamous non-small cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC) with progression on or after platinum-based chemotherapy.
- **Dupilumab (rch) (Dupixent)** is now indicated as add on maintenance treatment in patients aged 12 years and older with moderate to severe asthma with type 2 inflammation (elevated eosinophils or elevated FeNO), and as maintenance therapy for oral corticosteroid dependent asthma.
- **Ivacaftor (Kalydeco)** is now indicated for the treatment of cystic fibrosis in patients aged 12 months and older who have one of the following gating (class III) mutations in the CFTR gene: G551D, G1244E, G1349D, G178R, G551S, S1251N, S1255P, S549N or S549R.
- **Olaparib (Lynparza)** tablets are now indicated for the maintenance treatment of adults with advanced BRCA-mutated (germline or somatic) high-grade epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancer who are in complete or partial response to first-line platinum-based chemotherapy.

*This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month.
Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.*