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APP 2019



Footy tipping sponsor



AS WE near the kick-off for the NRL and AFL seasons for 2019 we are excited to launch the **Pharmacy Daily** Football Tipping competitions, with sponsorship opportunities now up for grabs.

These tipping competitions run across the entire season, 25 weeks for NRL and 23 weeks for AFL, providing a fun challenge to the trade – who will pick the most winners in your office for bragging rights!

We are currently seeking prize sponsors for these competitions.

As a sponsor, the competitions provide excellent brand exposure in the publication as well inclusion in communication to the tippers week to week.

For sponsorship of one, or both, of these competitions please contact Sean Harrigan by email: sean.harrigan@traveldaily.com.au.

Jurnista recall

JANSSEN, in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration, has announced a “product defect correction” for one batch of its Jurnista (hydromorphone hydrochloride) prolonged-release blister packs due to potential tablet damage.

A misalignment issue with a packaging machine resulted in damage to the outer coating on some tablets in batch number IALS400 with a 12-2019 expiry date.

The TGA said the physical damage to the affected tablets is obvious, and could result in faster than intended absorption or active ingredient degradation - tga.gov.au.

Hunt pharmacy practice push

FEDERAL Health Minister Greg Hunt has made a commitment to build into the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) “the expanded scope of practice, where pharmacy will be involved increasingly in preventive health.”

Hunt was addressing a breakfast at Parliament House in Canberra launching the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia’s (PSA’s) report into the future of pharmacists’ roles toward 2023 (PD yesterday).

New SHPA director

MRS Olivia Rofe, Program Director Pharmacy at Eastern Health in Vic, has been appointed to the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia board.

Rofe fills the casual vacancy left by the resignation of former SHPA President, Professor Michael Dooley (PD 26 Nov 2018) at last year’s SHPA National Conference.

Dooley said the appointment would be a “huge boost to SHPA,” while SHPA CEO Kristin Michaels said she looked forward to working together with Rofe “as we elevate the cause of hospital pharmacy and the broader sector for the benefit of all Australians”.

TGA updates vitamins

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has updated its website relating to the regulation of vitamins in Australia.

The site summarises how the TGA regulates vitamins in the country including the specific criteria vitamins must meet prior to going to market and which ones are subject to post market surveillance.

The TGA urges consumers to seek the advice of their health professional, including their pharmacist - see tga.gov.au.

During his speech, Hunt also committed the Government to involving the PSA as co-signatories to 7CPA and explained that the expanded scope of practice would mean that “pharmacy will be involved increasingly in preventive health, whether that’s across the range of activities such as immunisation – although we’ll need the states to agree in each particular case.

“That will mean that ultimately, as we expand the role of pharmacists in preventive health, we will keep more people out of hospital.

“We will keep more people healthy – whether it’s diabetes or bowel cancer checks, whether it’s all of these areas, at the end of the day you will help people across Australia save lives and protect lives,” the Minister said.

Commenting on the PSA’s report, Hunt said the Government supported the concept of pharmacists broadening their contribution to public health in Australia by practising to their full scope of training.

Health Commission welcomed by Guild

A COMMITMENT by the Labor Party to establish a permanent Australian Health Reform Commission if it wins government at the upcoming election has been welcomed by the Pharmacy Guild.

Shadow Health Minister, Catherine King, outlined the plan yesterday at the National Press Club, saying the proposed Commission would be an independent, legislated body... charged with developing and overseeing a long-term health agenda, rather than being driven by election cycles.

The Commission would aim to improve the healthcare system through reducing inequality and improving its universality, reporting to all governments through COAG.

King also committed the Labor Party to working with pharmacists and the medicines sector to improve access to PBS drugs, as well as an “early and inclusive” negotiation towards a new 2020 Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Cannabis industry group

AUSTRALIA’S medicinal cannabis industry licensees have come together to form a national advocacy body to support the fledgling industry achieve health and economic benefits for Australians.

Launched by Health Minister Greg Hunt in Canberra yesterday, with support from Labor and the Greens, Medicinal Cannabis Industry Australia (MCIA) will be a strong voice for the sector which is committed to producing the highest quality medicinal cannabis products for patients.

MCIA Chairman Peter Crock, CEO

of Cann Group Limited, said it was important that those engaged in the new sector worked together to build a professional and well respected association to represent the best of Australian industry.

“MCIA members are committed to ensuring medicinal cannabis products meet the highest standards and that patients in Australia and internationally benefit from research and product development,” Crock said.

“We want to work with Federal and State Governments to achieve a harmonised and robust regulatory approach.”

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Dispensary Corner

WE'VE heard of a "calorie bomb" - a fatty, sweet food item guaranteed to go straight to your hips - but this is ridiculous.

Workers at a chip factory in Hong Kong have had a lucky escape after discovering a World War 1 German grenade in a batch of potatoes imported from France.

The unexploded bomb (right) was discovered earlier this month at the Calbee Four Seas Company factory, with a police spokesperson saying it was believed to be in an "unstable condition".



Officers detonated the grenade to remove the threat, in an action which could be literally described as a snack attack.

A GROUP of illicit cannabis users in the US city of Houston may be rethinking their habit after being interrupted while having a quiet smoke by a man-eating tiger.

The Houston Police Department described the incident, in which the druggies broke into what they thought was an abandoned home only to find the big cat inside.

They called an emergency line to report the animal, which was caged and appeared to be well-fed and in good health.

A council animal control crew responded and tranquillized the giant feline before taking it to an undisclosed sanctuary.

Officers said it was legal to own a tiger in Texas as long as you have the required wildlife permits.

RACGP slams Heffernan

ALLEGATIONS about GPs practising so-called "turnstile medicine" by NSW Pharmacy Guild Branch President, David Heffernan, have attracted a robust response from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

RACGP President Dr Harry Nespolon was reacting to comments by Heffernan in an update to members last week, in which he claimed some GPs were focusing on easy, five-minute "low morbidity" clients in order to maximise Medicare payments.

However Nespolon's rebuttal pithily said "the closest thing I see to a turnstile in healthcare is at the cash registers of the pharmacy".

He described Heffernan's comments as "extraordinary and baseless," referring the NSW Guild President to the RACGP's recent 2019/20 Budget submission where the College advocated for appropriate rebates so patients can see doctors for longer visits.

"The evidence is clear; the more time a GP spends with a patient,

the better the outcome.

"I have never seen research showing a similar conclusion for patients who see pharmacists for their minor ailments," he noted.

Nespolon also highlighted the preliminary outcome of the Pharmacy Diabetes Screening Trial (PD 09 Nov 2018) which found that it cost between \$788 and \$6,000 to diagnose a new diabetes patient - the equivalent of 21 to 163 "level B" GP consultations.

The RACGP President said Heffernan's "rant" demonstrated a lack of discipline by the normally proficient Guild lobbying machine.

"There are times when my patient has a straightforward diagnosis.

"But I see my patient in a holistic light; not just their presenting symptoms but the rest of their health, in their context," he said.

"My principal driver is to keep my patient healthy. I want to decrease the number of medications my patients are on, and ensure that when they are on a new medication it is necessary and evidence-based".

Win with SkinB5

This week **Pharmacy Daily** & **SkinB5** are giving away each day the NEW SkinB5's Clear Skin Superfood Booster valued at \$63.90.

Clear Skin Superfood Booster is an innovative nutritional approach to skin wellness for blemish and acne prone skin, using specially selected ingredients to supply the body with key vitamins, minerals, essential fatty acids, amino acids, digestive enzymes, probiotics & prebiotics.

Available from Sigma PDE CODE 301911 and API PDE CODE 43816. Watch the YouTube video **HERE** for more. For more info see www.skinB5.com.au.

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



What is the daily dosage of the Clear Skin Superfood Booster?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Travel & Cruise Weekly*.

Travel & Cruise Weekly

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Classic Journey on Rocky Mountaineer

ROCKY Mountaineer, the world's largest privately-owned luxury tourist train that travels through Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest, is kicking off the new year with two promotions for guests booking trips for the 2019 season.

The 2019 Classic Journey saves guests \$320 per couple on a four-day/three-night trip on Rocky Mountaineer in GoldLeaf Service.

See your travel agent asap to book before 28 Feb, with fares priced from just \$2,230.

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