

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news including our weekly Health & Beauty feature.

Script faker arraigned

THE NSW Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) has successfully brought GP Kooshyar Karimi before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal accusing him of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct.

Karimi was alleged to have been associated with creating and using a false registration certificate to obtain Botox from a pharmaceutical company, in the form of a letter on Medicare letterhead making claims about his prescribing rights.

The HCCC also alleged that during a period in which he was unregistered, the defendant had prescribed for 12 patients, some of whom were drug dependent or on opioid treatment programs.

He also allegedly prescribed in the name of staff members, who were not his patients, to obtain stock for the practice.

The Tribunal found him guilty of falsifying documents, prescribing whilst unregistered, and inappropriate and unauthorised prescribing, cumulatively amounting to conduct of such a serious nature as to justify the suspension of his registration.

The court ordered his reprimand, suspension of his registration for six months and subsequent registration to be subject to certain conditions around Schedule 8 or Schedule 4D drugs, practice restrictions and supervision.

PSA supports pill testing

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has released a new position statement in support of a trial of pill testing and drug checking services.

The announcement follows a spate of recent deaths from illicit drug use at music festivals, with PSA National President, Dr Chris Freeman, saying the PSA believed further pill testing trials should be conducted in environments where illicit drug use occurs.

"Pill testing is a harm minimisation service that analyses the content of illicit drugs to warn people about unknown and potentially lethal contaminants," Freeman explained, with illicit drug use causing 2.3% of the total burden of disease and injury in Australia according to 2011 figures.

He said PSA considered pill testing to be consistent with principles of harm reduction.

"Pill testing informs people of the risks of illicit drugs without giving the impression that the drugs are safe - they are still illegal and potentially harmful," he said.

Freeman noted that pharmacists have had a long and established role in harm minimisation, such as

Opioid Replacement Therapy and needle and syringe programs, as well as the provision of naloxone.

"However Australia is lagging behind other countries where pharmacists play a more prominent role in minimising harm from illicit drugs...outside of emergency settings Australia has no ongoing sanctioned pill testing services, even though evidence shows young people are supportive of these services and would use them".

He noted that several European jurisdictions were already providing such services, such as Austria, France, Portugal and the Netherlands.

"The evidence from Europe is clear: pill testing saves lives.

"It's time to invest in national trials and research so we can make informed decisions about pill testing," Freeman said.

"Law enforcement by itself does not stop people from dying but pill testing, as a supplement strategy, can," he concluded.

Daybreak funding

HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt has announced \$3m in funding of a program which aims to help over 20,000 Australians reduce their alcohol intake "safely, conveniently and anonymously".

The funding for online community Hello Sunday Morning, which operates the Daybreak Program, a treatment and early intervention mobile app that provides online support to individuals seeking help in reducing risky drinking habits.

See hellosundaymorning.org.

Qld digital tender

CONSULTING firm PricewaterhouseCoopers has been awarded a \$500,000 contract to develop a "digital plan" for rural and remote health facilities in Qld.

The project is an element working towards the state's Digital Health Strategic Vision for 2026 - for more details see health.qld.gov.au.

TGACC first meeting

THE new Therapeutic Goods Advertising Consultative Committee (TGACC) has published details of its first meeting, which took place last Oct in Canberra.

Members of the Committee include a diverse range of stakeholders with an interest in the advertising of therapeutic goods, including representatives of the ACCC, ASMI, Complementary Medicines Australia, the Consumers Health Forum, Country Women's Association, Food Standards Australia NZ, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

During the inaugural meeting members shared the key issues they see in relation to therapeutic goods advertising, including the need for early consultation on how the Advertising Code applies to advertisers and protects consumers; ongoing clarification of the Advertising Code; low health literacy levels amongst Australian consumers; the opportunity for advertising to assist consumers to appropriately manage their health; and the "complex interface between foods, chemicals/cosmetics and therapeutic goods, particularly with regards to complementary medicines."

The meeting also clarified the role of the TGACC, and accepted the Key Performance Indicators for advertising complaints handling as a useful tool for monitoring the new complaints handling system.

The next meeting of the committee will take place in the first quarter of 2019.

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AMH AUSTRALIAN MEDICINES HANDBOOK

Corum calls remuneration EGM

LISTED pharmacy software supplier Corum Group yesterday announced an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), to allow its shareholders to vote on a “spill motion” in relation to the company’s board of directors.

The unusual move follows a poll at the company’s 2018 Annual General Meeting, in which more than 25% of votes were cast against the company’s Remuneration Report for the financial year.

That was a “second strike” against the company’s board, and as a result shareholders were then required to vote on a resolution on whether a “spill meeting” would be held at which all existing directors must stand for re-election.

Directors Bill Paterson, Gregor Aschoff and Matthew Bottrell were in office when the FY18 Director’s Report was originally approved, and are now subject to a new vote at the special meeting scheduled for 25 Feb 2019.

The Directors noted that the stated intention of the “two strike rule” was to empower shareholders

E-cigs don’t help quit

NEW research published in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* has demonstrated that people who try to use e-cigarettes to ease off regular cigarettes are no more likely to quit smoking in the long term.

While vaping has been shown to help quitting attempts in the short term, it does not have a significant effect after 12 months, reports the *Pharmaceutical Journal*.

The study included 617 people who smoked cigarettes daily and 88 others who supplemented their smoking using e-cigarettes either daily or on “some days per week”.

At six months, dual users were 2.54 times more likely to report abstinence than exclusive cigarette smokers, but there was no significant difference between the two groups in the study at 12 or 18 months.

Researchers said the results cast doubt on the concept that dual use of e-cigarettes alongside tobacco can assist in attempts at smoking cessation.

to constrain remuneration arrangements that they thought to be excessive.

“In the company’s case, business performance was considered to be a significant contributing factor,” they added, saying the Board had undertaken an external review of remuneration for both the Board and senior management.

This has seen changes for the Board by reducing the cash impact of their remuneration by instead issuing a proportion in shares.

“The Board also intends to develop an incentive plan for management in 2019, inclusive of the CEO, that will focus on key KPIs...this will include the development of a detailed strategic and financial plan for the next few years that can be executed upon and aligned to the company’s profitability,” according to an Explanatory Memorandum issued in support of the EGM.

NZ cannabis change

THE New Zealand Ministry of Health has issued a document detailing regulations around the use of products containing cannabidiol (CBD), which are no longer controlled drugs following the passing of the country’s Misuse of Drugs (Medicinal Cannabis) Amendment Act.

Items that meet the definition of a CBD product are now prescription medicines, and Ministry of Health approval is not required to prescribe, supply or administer such products for medical purposes.

Pharmacies and medical practitioners in New Zealand are now allowed to import CBD products, as are persons or companies holding a licence to sell medicines by wholesale.

And individual patients may also import CBD products provided they meet the requirements for importing prescription medicines, but not any other cannabis-based products.

A maximum of three months’ supply is allowed on a prescription for CBD products.

The full regulatory update can be viewed at health.govt.nz.

TBN celebrates record



TOTAL Beauty Network (TBN) has this month hosted its Jan pharmacy conference, following a massive 2018 which saw DB Cosmetics, Raww and Colour by TBN sales topping more than five million units across Australia and NZ.

CEO and owner Tony Rechtman told his team that TBN as a whole had achieved more than 23% sales growth during 2018, versus the global cosmetics market which averaged just 5.9%.

Pharmacy sales for DB Cosmetics grew 17.13%, with the year also including the preview of the company’s new Australian-made bodycare ranges, KIND and GLOW which are now available.

“Raww had a fantastic second year of growth as well, with amazing results across pharmacy and health retailers,” he said, with delegates at the conference given a peek at new products including Coconut Kiss Lip Pencils, Babassu

Oil Eye Pencils, the Aromatherapy range and the all-new Super-HYDRATE ME skincare and Serums & Oils ranges.

Colour by TBN, described as the “cut-price champion” proved to be a strong revenue driver for pharmacies, with a significant number of new stockists taking on the brand, Rechtman said.

“We really are going from strength to strength here at TBN.

“Every year I wonder if we can outdo our previous year’s results and every year the entire team pulls together to hit target after target and keep providing exciting new initiatives to drive consumers into pharmacies,” he said.

Another key achievement during the year was TBN winning the TerryWhite Chemmart Best Service Award for 2018, while a recent customer survey of 922 stockists saw the company receive an 8.57 satisfaction score out of 10.

Win with Plunkett’s



What is Aloe Barbadensis also referred to as?

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett’s are giving away an Aloe Vera prize pack valued at over \$60 each including Plunkett’s Pure Aloe Vera gel 240ml, Plunkett’s Pure Aloe Vera gel 75g, Plunkett’s Pure Aloe Vera Spray 125ml, Plunkett’s Pure Aloe Vera Moisturiser 200ml and one Plunkett’s Pure Aloe Vera facial mask.

Aloe Barbadensis ‘Natures medicine plant’ is renowned for its soothing, cooling and hydrating properties. Plunkett’s Aloe Vera is fragrance and colour free and contains pure certified organic Aloe Vera extracted from Aloe Barbadensis Leaf – rich in vitamins, minerals, amino acids and antioxidants to restore dry and damaged skin all year round. Visit: www.Plunketts.com.au.

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

Congratulations to yesterday’s winner, Kathrina Casella.

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Pharmacy Daily

Dispensary Corner

A CONTENTIOUS sporting loss in the USA this week has seen an optometrist offering free eye examinations for officials.

The "heartbreaking" National Football League (NFL) match between the New Orleans Saints and Los Angeles Rams ended in Los Angeles taking out the win with a score of 26-23 in overtime.

However many fans complained about a "blatant interference penalty" which was not pulled up by the referees.

In the wake of the game, which meant New Orleans missed out on going to the Superbowl, Louisiana Family Eyecare tweeted that it would "GLADLY provide no cost eye exams to all NFL officials prior to next season to prevent the atrocity that occurred tonight.

"We would hate for someone else to feel our pain," the optometrist said.

MEANWHILE on the other side of the Atlantic comes some new drugs research from Kings College London indicating that eels in the city's River Thames are becoming "hyperactive" due to high concentrations of cocaine.

Scientists studied wastewater entering the river from nearby sewers during storms and found traces of the illicit drug remained up to 24 hours after the overflow.

"Compared to other major cities, the level of cocaine entering London's water system - likely through users' urine - is much higher," they wrote, saying this indicated likely daily usage.

Interestingly, the monitoring station used to measure levels was located near the British Houses of Parliament.

Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy. Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Better Nature Pain Relief Cream

This cream is a topical therapy ideal for treating acute, sub-acute and chronic pain including osteoarthritis, neck and back pain, headaches, muscle aches and strains, tendonitis and bursitis. Better Nature **Pain Relief Cream** is a 100% natural alternative that is pliable and viscous, leaves no residue and is fast absorbing. It can also be used with ice packs and heating packs. Better Nature Pain Relief Cream is Australian made and is certified cruelty free.

Stockist: Order via Pharmabroker
RRP: \$7.00 (20g), \$15.50 (50g)
\$26.00 (100g)

Website: www.betternature.com.au



Exfoliating Body Balm by Trilogy



Trilogy Exfoliating Body Balm is an effective body scrub that leaves skin silky smooth, hydrated and glowing. The formula contains finely ground rosehip seed powder,

a biodegradable, ocean-safe alternative to plastic microbeads. A blend of rosehip oil, sweet almond oil and beeswax nourish, soften and protect the skin, while the seed powder gently buffs and refines skin texture without compromising the skin's natural barrier function.

Stockist: 1800 651 146
RRP: \$35.95

Website: www.trilogyproducts.com

Infinite Gloss Longwear Nail Polish

Designer Brands (DB) brings it's new **Infinite Gloss Longwear Nail Polish** to market. This nail polish has a longwear formula that truly lasts, the company says, and maintains its deep colours throughout. It is highly pigmented with a one stroke colour payoff. In addition Infinite Gloss Longwear Nail Polish is chip-resistant with a brilliant glossy finish and comes with a tapered brush for precise streak-free application. This polish is available in 20 different shades ranging from seductively subtle through to stunningly sensual.

Stockist: 03 8544 8000
RRP: \$5.99

Website: www.dbcosmetics.com.au



Baby's Soothing Moisturising Cream



Jurlique Baby's Soothing Moisturising Cream is a gentle and calming moisturiser that helps to deeply hydrate dry and delicate skin. Suitable for babies from one month of age, its nourishing yet non-greasy formula absorbs quickly to leave baby's skin feeling soft and comforted. It contains avocado oil and sesame seed oil to help

nourish and protect, oat kernel to help relieve dry skin and calming calendula and chamomile extracts help soothe and calm dry skin.

Stockist: 1800 805 286
RRP: \$35.00

Website: www.jurlique.com.au