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Take-home naloxone

A **TWO-YEAR** trial of take-home naloxone, involving Australians attempting to reverse opioid overdoses, will be funded by the Federal Government to the value of \$7.2 million, *6minutes* reports.

The drug will be offered at more places frequented by people at risk of overdosing under the pilot program.

The government is also giving more than \$100,000 to the Burnet Institute to work with the National Drug Research Institute on developing a nationally consistent distribution program.

Small-scale programs making the drug available to people at risk of overdosing are already running in several states and territories, with the first launched in the ACT in 2012.

The details of this new trial will be established with the states and territories.

Controversially, the government wants to make the take-home version, which can be injected or used in a nasal spray form, more available through doctors and centres such as drug treatment facilities.

The money will go to primary health networks which commission community health projects.

Compounding confusion

SOME pharmacies in Victoria have been carrying out complex compounding in circumstances that do not meet guidelines and/or legislative requirements, the Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) has said in its latest Communiqué.

VPA inspectors reported on concerns around cases where compounding of hazardous substances such as hormones has taken place without appropriate personal protective equipment or without a powder containment cabinet.

“This type of practice presents significant risks to the safety of the public and pharmacy staff,” the VPA said.

“In several cases, compounded medicines were supplied by a compounding pharmacy to another pharmacy for on-supply in breach of therapeutic goods legislation.”

The Communiqué urged all pharmacists undertaking or considering undertaking complex compounding to thoroughly research relevant guidelines and legislation and undertake appropriate risk assessments.

Apart from the VPA’s own guidelines, the Communiqué referenced those of the Pharmacy

Board of Australia, along with the Board’s *Background on the regulation of compounding by pharmacists* and *Professional practice profile for pharmacists undertaking complex compounding*.

The Extemporaneous Dispensing chapter in the current Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and Handbook (APF 24) was also mentioned.

Mental health meds

THE Victorian Branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed the announcement made by the Victorian Minister for Mental Health Martin Foley for the establishment of the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System.

Victorian Branch President Anthony Tassone said, “Pharmacists are an increasingly important part of our community’s response to mental health issues.

“As medicine experts, pharmacists also have a vital role in providing advice to people on medications to help manage mental health conditions such as depression.

Pharmacists and consumers register at engage.vic.gov.au.

Psoriatic arthritis therapy funded



LILLY Australia has announced the Australian Government’s decision to list its interleukin-17A (IL-17A) inhibitor, TALTZ (ixekizumab), on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), Authority Required, for adult patients with severe psoriatic arthritis (PsA) as monotherapy or in combination with cDMARDs in adult patients under certain conditions.

Effective 01 Mar, TALTZ will be reimbursed on the PBS for eligible Australian patients with severe PsA. Available as an authority required listing, TALTZ is administered by subcutaneous injection, delivered via an auto-injector.

University of Queensland Associate Professor Peter Nash welcomed the news saying, “Joint damage can be progressive in psoriatic arthritis with increased disability and reduced quality of life.

“It is important that patients have access to alternate therapies to help improve disease control.”

Visit ebs.tga.gov.au for the PI.

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Voost kicks a goal

VOOST Vitamins has announced a new partnership between Australia's #1 Effervescent Vitamin brand and Richmond Football Club AFL legend Dustin Martin (pictured), set to propel VÖOST Vitamins and ultimately revitalise our nation.

VÖOST Vitamins is based in Melbourne and produced in Germany, creating effervescent vitamins and minerals that deliver dissolvable tablets designed to replenish nutritional gaps.

The partnership between Martin and VÖOST came about off the back of Martin's desire to only align with brands that met with his view on life, namely to have great nutrition, better balance and plenty of energy to be the best version of himself.



Amcal Guardian reveal

SIGMA Healthcare's Amcal and Guardian Pharmacies have announced they will use their upcoming annual two-day retail conference to unveil new projects and models that resonate with 'pharmacies of the future.'

The claims come from Brian Tomlin, General Manager of Amcal and Guardian Pharmacies, as the Amcal Guardian annual retail conference, based on the Gold Coast, is expected to host more than 500 franchise and supplier partners, pharmacy team members, and wider industry experts from Mon 04 Mar 2019.

Tomlin said, "This conference will lead the way about how we are building on the service-orientated strategy for Amcal and Guardian."

"Our partners will be provided with an in-depth look at the way we

are building pharmacy brands for the future, especially topical, given the findings from CP2025 Pharmacy Trend Report.

"We are excited to launch a range of upcoming programs that will drive the industry forward when it comes to our future retail formats, as well as improving local

store profitability and customer satisfaction."

Tomlin also said the organisation would be doubling down on the market-leading professional services sector of the businesses, as well as the industry-leading allied health partners they are working with for "optimum improvements in patient outcomes".

The other topics to be covered include the importance of frictionless customer experiences, retail innovation and a closer look at the shifting healthcare industry.

In attendance will also be the Chairman of the Amcal Guardian National Council, Marc Clavin, who will open the conference with an update on the brands and the strategic direction.

His key address will mark the group's inception which officially reaches one year in Apr.

Amcal and Guardian's 2019 retail conference will be held at the Star on the Gold Coast, with national pharmacy winners to be announced at a specially structured event on Wed 06 Mar 2019.



Canestan Click&Collect



BAYER Australia and Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Pharmacy Click and Collect have partnered together in a program for Canesten Women's Intimate Health.

The Canesten website will connect to the Pharmacy Click and Collect eCommerce platform making it easier and more discreet for women to purchase intimate products.

Women can self-assess via online questions, choose a one-day, three-day or six-day treatment product then select their local pharmacy and even pay online via the Click and Collect button all at canestan.com.au.

Phebra expands manufacturing site

AUSTRALIAN pharmaceutical firm Phebra has announced a \$4 million expansion of its Sydney multi-purpose sterile injectables site, to be in production by Jun.

The footprint of the current Phebra facility will increase by over 3,000m² with the company taking over the remainder of its building in Lane Cove West following the expiration of the tenant's lease.

Phebra Chief Executive Officer, Dr Mal Eutick, said the expansion would boost the company's current space, warehousing, packaging and support services for its pipeline of critical medicines, as well as catering to meet export needs.

Priceline health conversations



the Be Merri community health festival," Narsey said.

"A great community initiative, this gave us the perfect forum to create awareness of the Health Checks and Professional services that we offer in the Pharmacy.

Our Pharmacist Rusaal (pictured), completed women's health checks, which includes anemia screening, a blood glucose check, total cholesterol check and instructions on how to conduct a breast self-exam.

Rusaal also referred eligible clients for more comprehensive cholesterol (HDL and LDL) and

HbA1c tests (using our amazing COBAS Machine) and whooping cough vaccinations within the pharmacy.

These were conducted at Coburg Mall and at Union Square Shopping Centre.

Narsey concluded, "So good to be part of the Wellness change within the community".

PRICELINE Pharmacy West Brunswick joined forces with local health care service provider Merri Health, to create a 'Health' conversation within the community, reports Priceline Pharmacy owner Alvin Narsey.

"Working towards creating healthy and connected communities, Merri Health initiated



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Dispensary Corner

FAST food isn't great for your health at the best of times, but especially when the delivery driver decides to molest your salsa and cause cross-infection.

After becoming annoyed at only receiving an 89 cent tip from a customer, the driver allegedly filmed his disgust by plonking his testicles into a dipping sauce.

Strangely, the man subsequently posted the vile incident online, stating "This is what you get when you give an 89 cent tip for an almost 30-minute drive".

The delivery company that employed the man issued a full refund to the customer - hopefully the money was clean.



PLAGUE Inc, the cheerful real-time strategy game where the users try to eradicate the world through disease is currently trending on Change.org because of a petition to add "Anti-Vaxxers" as a new twist in the story.

The premise of the game works by starting users off as a small disease where the aim is to become a global pandemic.

The petition is trying to get the makers of the game to include the anti-vax movement as a variable, where not immunising against disease would add to the global threat and would therefore increase your chances of achieving global destruction.

If only this threat was restricted to the gaming world. Sigh.

Ramsay solid H2 for 2018

LISTED Australian and global healthcare company Ramsay Health Care has reported solid H2 results for 2018 with revenue up 14.9% to \$5.1b and Earnings Before Income Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) up 9.8% to \$728.6m.



Drivers for the group's business were the strong showing in the European markets where revenue was up 25.7% to €1.3b and EBITDAR (which includes Restructuring or Rent costs) grew 19.1% to €231.3m and Australia's own performance.

Ramsay Australia performed well delivering 5.7% EBITDA with a focus on operational efficiencies.

The Australian brownfield program delivered \$151 million in completed projects including 169 beds (124 net) and 10 procedural theatres, with a healthy pipeline of future brownfield opportunities.

The UK business was the only handbrake facing a challenging Q1 but recovering with NHS volume

growth in Q2 to finish H1 with revenue up 1.6% to £209m.

UK EBITDAR dropped 9.2% to £44m.

On 07 Nov, Ramsay acquired European healthcare group Capio, which should prove slightly EPS dilutive to the group in FY19 but Core EPS accretive within two to three years.

Demand is expected to continue to drive growth across the sector globally over the long term.

MedAdvisor app comp



MEDADVISOR is launching a 10-month long competition from today to 31 Dec 2019.

Each month the pharmacy with the highest number of patients signed up to the MedAdvisor app will be awarded an Apple iPad 32GB Wi-Fi valued at \$469.

For full details **CLICK HERE**.

Win with Dreambaby®

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Dreambaby® are giving readers the chance to win Dreambaby's new PEE-POD FROG URINAL valued at \$24.95 plus the Dreambaby® Stroller Fan valued at \$12.95.

The PEE-POD FROG URINAL is at last a toilet training tool especially designed for boys. It's the perfect way to introduce toilet training. Complete with spinning target to develop aim, the urinal attaches quickly to the bathroom wall with suction cups, and can be easily removed for cleaning. It's fun frog design helps to encourage toilet training. www.dreambaby.com.au or call (02) 93864000.

To win, be the first person from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What does the Dreambaby's Frog Urinal's spinning target help with?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

New generics/biosims

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved six new generic or biosimilar medicines during Dec 2018.

Generics are nitrofurantoin from Micro Labs, dexmedetomidine injection from Fresenius Kabi, levetiracetam from AdiraMedica, Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate from Hetero, Risperidone by Boucher & Muir and biosimilar trastuzumab by Alphapharm - see tga.gov.au.

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.

07 - 10 Mar: APP 2019; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; to register see: www.appconference.com

22 - 24 Mar: NSW/ACT Annual Therapeutic Update 2019; Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley; register at: www.psa.org.au/atu

22 - 24 Mar: SHPA Foundation Seminar in Clinical Medication Management; Novotel Brisbane; for more info and to register visit: www.shpa.org.au

27 Apr: Diabetes Expo 2019; Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre; register here: www.diabetes-expo.org.au

04 - 05 May: Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar; Crowne Plaza Coogee Beach, Sydney; for details visit: www.pharmeducation.com.au