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## Flu vaccines for 2019

**THE** Government's National Immunisation Program (NIP) has secured more than 6 million doses of influenza vaccine to ensure Australians most at risk during this year's flu season are able to access free influenza immunisation.

Those eligible for a free flu shot under the NIP are people 65 years and over (**PD** Fri), pregnant women, those with chronic conditions and, for the first time, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People from six months of age.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and adolescents aged 5-14 years of age will now also have free access to the flu vaccine.

Four different quadrivalent influenza vaccine brands are being supplied this year for people aged under 65 - Afluria Quad (Seqirus), Flu Quadri and Flu Quadri Junior (Sanofi) and Fluarix Tetra (GSK), with enhanced trivalent vaccine Flud (Seqirus) available for over 65s - the four-times potency Fluzone is available on private script.

Find details at [beta.health.gov.au](http://beta.health.gov.au).

## MedAdvisor ramps up platform

**MEDADVISOR** has announced the addition of PharmaPrograms to its Health Services Hub, thereby enabling pharmacy to not only have better access to a suite of programs for their patients but to significantly facilitate claiming.

The first of the programs to be integrated is Reckitt Benckiser's Nurofen program, which the MedAdvisor team (**pictured**) demonstrated at APP2019, showing the improved workflows and claiming system.

PlusOne will now be a central hub for PharmaPrograms.

This means pharmacies working with MedAdvisor will have one platform for their CRM, Professional Services, Medication Management, GP Connectivity all under the heading of PlusOne.

This fully integrated Health Services Hub already includes 33 programs that currently generate an average store revenue increase

from program-specific adherence uplift worth around \$1,000pa, the company said.

**Pictured** at the MedAdvisor stand are L to R: Theo Antonopoulos, Elizabeth Wong, Sonja Budisa, Robert Read, Josh Dore, Jordan O'Donnell and Glenn Carroll.



## Blackmores runs first



**GET** those stretching exercises going, brighten up your running gear and boot up for this year's Blackmores Sydney Running Festival Sun 15 Sep with early bird registration now open.

Experience Sydney Harbour's majestic perspective and take in iconic landmarks by signing up at one of four levels from marathon to family fun run - **CLICK HERE**.

## Malaria vax world 1st

**HEALTH** Minister Greg Hunt last week announced the Government would support clinical trials to test the effectiveness of a world-first malaria vaccine.

Australian Rotary Clubs have raised \$500,000 for the purpose and Hunt said the Government would match this, directing the \$1m to Griffith Uni for trials of malaria vaccine, PlasProtect.

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## ASMI ticks OC pledge

**THE** Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) has welcomed Shadow Minister for Health Catherine King's commitment to asking the TGA to advise on removing barriers so as to improve access to oral contraceptives (OCs). OCs have been identified as a possible product to down-schedule.

## Forbes Flannery's wins PotY



**FLANNERY'S** Pharmacy in the rural NSW town of Forbes has been named the Guild Pharmacy of the Year 2019 (*PD* breaking news Thu).

Michael Flannery and Sarah Hazell currently own the store which has been running for more than 60 years.

The award, conducted by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, recognises pharmacies that are leading the way in providing innovative and optimal healthcare for members of their community.

The ultimate prize-taker was chosen from the four category winners announced earlier in the month (*PD* 06 Mar).

The awards were presented by Minister for Health Greg Hunt at the Australian Pharmacy Professional conference (APP) on the Gold Coast last week.

A spokesperson for the judging group, pharmacist Nick Panayiaris, Guild National Councillor and President of the SA Branch of the Guild, said Flannery's Pharmacy was an exceptional example of the pharmacy of the future.

"The pharmacy's excellent business operations and its investment in its people has established a great working environment with a strong emphasis on delivering a wide range of professional services to the community," Panayiaris said.

"Its refurbished design provides consulting space for other health professionals to provide services to the community from the pharmacy."

Guild National President George Tambassis said Flannery's Pharmacy was a great example of a pharmacy's commitment to the community.

"The pharmacy is optimistic about the future and sees the Guild's Community Pharmacy 2025 (CP2025) project as providing great guidance," Tambassis said.

"Flannery's Pharmacy shows the heights that can be achieved by planning for, and committing to a strong community pharmacy sector into the future."

**Pictured** are the enthusiastic team from Flannery's Pharmacy, Forbes.

## FIP abstract mentors

**THE** International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is offering support to those who do not have extensive experience of submitting abstracts in English to a scientific congress, via its Abstract Mentoring Programme.

Mentors will ensure quality and success for authors - **CLICK HERE.**

## SIGN UP FOR 2019 NRL FOOTY TIPPING

Tipping is back for 2019 with the top tipper from each code winning a \$1,000 gift card from GuildDigital.



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## Statin in over 65s?

**NEW** research from the Netherlands has cast doubt on the appropriateness of initiating statin therapy in those over 65 years. The overweight elderly are at increased risk of type 2 diabetes following the initiation of statins, the study shows - **CLICK HERE**.



## Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Amit Saha, Pharmacist & Technical Manager at Dermal Therapy.**



## Treating Dry Skin Issues

**IN LAST** week's comment I discussed chapped lips and how pharmacist advice might be critical in choosing the right lip care product for a patient. Skin can get affected similarly with peeling, cracking, roughness, tightness, red marks and associated itch due to many external factors; drug side effects, climatic conditions or use of chemicals etc.

Often the first visible sign of eczema, psoriasis and many other dermatological conditions is presence of very dry skin or Xerosis. Patients with diabetes can also present severe dry skin due to the alteration of sweat production. Therefore, choosing the right moisturiser is often a very critical step for a desired therapeutic outcome and cannot be ignored.

A good moisturiser should have the right balance of occlusive to form a protective seal, humectants to draw water from deep layers, emollients to fill in the cracks and barrier repair ingredients. Often a keratolytic agent such as urea is thrown into the mix to help with extra dry and scaly skin. Skin feel, texture, SPF presence and claims such as clinically or dermatologically tested should also be given careful consideration when selecting the right product for the individual.

As always, when in doubt ask for your pharmacist's help.

## SHPA celebrates APP

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) CEO Kristin Michaels has made a supportive statement around presentations by the Minister for Health Greg Hunt and the Shadow Minister Catherine King.

Michaels focused on the value of My Health Record in the transition from hospital to community care, the \$600m pledge for the new Dose Administration Aid program and harmonisation of state laws on the supply of medicines.

Seeking a seat at the 7CPA table, Michaels said hospital pharmacists influence 20% of the PBS budget and therefore have a key role to play in the system's sustainability.

## Rural video comp winners

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced Taroom Pharmacy (West of Bundaberg, Qld) as the winner for Best Video in the rural pharmacy video competition for rural, regional and remote pharmacies across Australia.

The second prize, the People's Choice, was awarded to Gemfields Pharmacy (central Qld), while the Influencing Change award went to Thursday Island Pharmacy.



As part of the "Your Future Is Now" theme of the Rural Pharmacy Forum at APP2019, rural, regional and remote pharmacists and staff were invited to submit a 30-45 second video about their vision for the future of their unique pharmacy.

The "Your Future Is Now" theme aligns with the Guild's major project, Community Pharmacy

2025 (CP2025), which provides "a vision for a vibrant, dynamic and commercial community pharmacy network into 2025 and beyond".

Guild National President George Tambassis said the competition was fast becoming a highlight at APP.

"It is fun and the videos are creative and inspiring. "This year's theme of looking to the future has shown how innovative pharmacists are in these areas and how committed they are to ensuring they can meet their communities' health needs now and into the future," Tambassis said.

"One thing that really shines through in all the videos is how much the pharmacists and staff love working in these areas and how much they are an integral part of their local communities."

**CLICK HERE** to view the videos.

## Dispensary Corner

**FAMILIES** have disinherited over it - divorces have started from it.

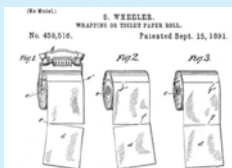
Your pharmacy has it on special from \$4.99, 4-ply?

It is the age-old question - do you hang the toilet paper over the roll, or under it?

That fearless arbiter of all things consumer, *Choice* magazine, has a decision-breaker to end the first-world challenge of all time.

*Choice* said, tongue-in-cheek we're guessing, "Here at *Choice*, we're fearless in finding truth in the most complex consumer concerns" - the patent, awarded to S.Wheeler, has the last word: **OVER**, with no correspondence.

But, the twist: the patent expired 09 Mar 2019 - so it's now your choice - ah, now *that's* a relief.



## Win with John Plunkett

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away the John Plunkett Collagen Eye Lift 15g (with bonus trial size Collagen Lift Moisturiser 10ml) valued at over \$50.

New John Plunkett Collagen Eye Lift is a day and night eye cream packed with peptides including Matrixyl 3000 and Eyeseryl to boost collagen by 100%, and Hyaluronic Acid to provide cushioning hydration, while Rosehip Oil softens and smoothes delicate skin around the eyes. Effectively targets three causes of ageing - fine lines and wrinkles, eye bags and puffiness and dark circles. Visit: [www.JohnPlunkett.com.au](http://www.JohnPlunkett.com.au) for more.

To win, be the first from NSW or ACT to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**Name one of the ingredients in John Plunkett Collagen Eye Lift.**

*Check here tomorrow for today's winner.*

