

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news including our weekly **Health & Beauty** feature plus a full page from **Razor Group**.

Pharmacy POCT boost

COMMUNITY pharmacies are "well-suited" to deliver a wide range of point-of-care tests, according to a database evaluation conducted by University of Canberra researchers.

Eleven interventional studies reporting on the effectiveness of the point-of-care tests and accuracy studies that investigated their analytical quality, were included in the systematic search of six electronic databases.

Tests around blood glucose, cholesterol, creatinine, uric acid, liver enzymes, INRs, bone mineral density for osteoporosis, forced expiratory volume for COPD, and infection with human immunodeficiency virus were all investigated.

Results demonstrated that community pharmacies were not only suited to these services, but "will allow easier access to various screening and diagnostic tests for patients," authors said.

CLICK HERE to access the study.



Meds shortages threaten PBS: Guild

AUSTRALIA'S Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) may be under threat as a result of measures designed to protect its sustainability, Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, (pictured) warns.

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily*, Tassone said pharmacies across the country have been struggling with medicines shortages.

Tassone said the shortages have been occurring for some time, becoming particularly pronounced over the last 18 months.

"Medications shortages may occur for a variety of reason, possibly difficulty sourcing ingredients or from recalls," he said.

"However, it's got to the point where questions need to be answered as to whether PBS reforms and price disclosure in trying to make the PBS more sustainable are at risk of making it unsustainable from a continuity of supply perspective.

"New PBS listings have been

made possible due to the cost containment and headroom on the PBS from price reductions. This has been a good thing up until now for the Australian public to access new PBS medicines.

"However, going forward PBS spending is forecast to decline in real terms and is one of the few parts of the health budget doing so.

"The lemon has been squeezed dry. Heck, the lemon peel has been thrown out and there is no more juice left unless we're prepared as a health system to buy more lemon and inject new investment for medicine supply."

Tassone said the supply shortages had left pharmacists "foraging for stock when they want to and need to be delivering care for their patients".

He said the Guild had made representations to the Department of Health highlighting the concerns of pharmacists and patients prior to



the election, and expects discussions to resume now the Government is out of 'caretaker mode'.

"One of the main pillars of National Medicines Policy is equity of access for Australians to PBS listed medicines," he said.

"If we can't assure supply to the Australian market, then it risks a very fundamental piece of our health system.

"We have a world-class system in the PBS, but it is at risk of not staying first world without proper investment."

Deprescribing study

MANY older adults with cancer are being prescribed preventive medications at the end of their lives that may harm their quality of life, as a result of failure to deprescribe, research reveals.

The study, published online in *Cancer*, found that deprescribing strategies need to be more widely adopted to help reduce the burden of drugs that have limited clinical benefit near the end of life.

NEW

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- ▶ Indicated for short term treatment of milder forms of eczema, dermatitis and other steroid responsive skin conditions³
- ▶ Chlorocresol free
- ▶ Moisturising base³

*New from Ego Pharmaceuticals.

References: 1. Australian Medicines Handbook (online). Dermatological drugs. Tables: Comparison of potency and uses of topical corticosteroids [Internet]. 2018 [updated 2018 July]; cited 2018 July 25. 2. Dermatology Expert Group. Therapeutic Guidelines: Dermatology, version 4. Dermatitis: Atopic dermatitis. Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd [Internet]. 2018 [cited 2018 July 25]. 3. Kloxema Cream Approved Product Information, 12 September 2017. Before recommending please review full Product Information page.



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PSNZ ECP consult

THE Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand (PSNZ) Early Career Pharmacists (ECPs) Steering Group (led by Fiona Bradley) wants to hear from Early Career Pharmacists - those with less than 10 years of experience post-graduation.

"The aim of the consultation is to ensure Early Career Pharmacists are empowered, have strong representation and adequate support to continually develop their practice and ensure a sustainable fulfilling career," PSNZ says.

The views, opinions, experiences and challenges faced by ECPs will be canvassed - [CLICK HERE](#).

New S3 for BV

FREQUENTLY misdiagnosed as a fungal infection and therefore inappropriately treated, bacterial vaginosis (BV) will shortly be treatable in Australia with new over-the-counter (OTC) product Fleurstat BVgel from Aspen Pharmacare.

Pharmacist, Loujain Sbeanaty, said that finally having access to an OTC option specifically designed to treat BV is a major step forward.

"Having access to Fleurstat BVgel over-the-counter will empower women, who might have gone through many other attempts to remedy the condition, to finally take control," she said.

Fleurstat BVgel is the first OTC treatment in Australia specifically indicated for BV, helping to normalise and restore vaginal pH and flora balance, and relieve symptoms such as an abnormal whitish-grey, thin discharge and the distinctive strong "fishy" odour.

A non-antibiotic, water-based gel, Fleurstat BVgel is applied internally once daily for seven days and may resolve abnormal vaginal odour within 24 hours.

Visit fleurstat.com.au for more.

Biosimilar savings for British Columbia

UP TO 20,400 patients receiving branded biologic drugs in the Canadian province of British Columbia will be switched to biosimilars under a new policy announced on Mon 27 May.

The move is expected to deliver savings of close to CAD\$96 million dollars to the province's medication subsidy scheme, PharmCare, over the first three years.

Announcing the decision, British Columbia Minister of Health, Adrian Dix, said international evidence had proven biosimilars "work just as safely and effectively as higher priced biologics".

Dix noted that Canada had relatively low use of biosimilars with about 8% of patients using biologics being prescribed a biosimilar over a branded biologic, compared to other jurisdictions,

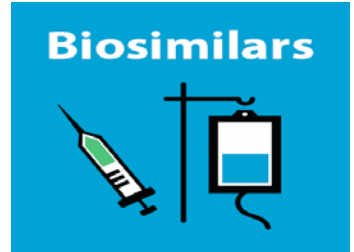
where substitution is at 95%.

In Australia, the 2018 University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Pharmacy Barometer found just one-in-three pharmacists were confident about their ability to provide information about biosimilars to patients, down from 37%, while just 16% of pharmacists reported being aware of the Department of Health's Biosimilar Awareness Initiative.

The Barometer also found Australian pharmacists' confidence levels around biosimilar substitution had fallen from 29% in 2017 to 26% a year later.

Barometer expert panel member and CEO of Montrose Pharma, Adjunct Professor John Montgomery, noted the Federal Government has earmarked \$330.8 million in savings through biosimilar substitution.

However, he warned the Government was unlikely to see



those savings in the short-term based on pharmacists' lack of confidence around biosimilars.

"At the end of the day you cannot rely on Government to carry the message," he said.

"The ultimate people who are responsible - and if you look back to the early days of generics, who did the heavy lifting? It wasn't the Government, it was the manufacturers... and in order to really ramp it up that needs to be done [with biosimilars]."

Medlab inks distribution deal

LISTED Australian life sciences and medicinal cannabis company, Medlab Clinical is expanding its international distribution opportunities by executing a Heads of Agreement with Thai-listed pharmaceutical company, Mega Lifesciences Public Company Limited.

Mega Lifesciences has a presence in 33 countries around the world.

Medlab signed a similar agreement with Canadian generic pharmaceutical company, Pharmascience in Mar this year.

Both deals focus initially on Medlab's NanaBis, a nano-delivered form of cannabis, which is at the second stage of a clinical trial at Royal North Shore Hospital, where it is being used for pain management with seriously ill

cancer patients.

NanaBis is delivered by a back of the cheek spray by Nanocelle, which facilitates buccal absorption.

The product is already available via the Australian Government's Special Access Scheme and is currently before several regulatory agencies for potential fast track drug approval pathways, the company says.

Medlab CEO, Dr Sean Hall, said, "NanaBis is in an exciting stage of its development as the Company looks to fast track global drug approval pathways.

"This Heads of Agreement signifies real intent and interest for a true global pharmaceutical company to enter legitimate science as it relates to cannabis that has been research focused into a serious condition: cancer pain."



AMA backs MMRs

THE Australian Medical Association (AMA) has urged the lifting of current restrictions limiting accredited pharmacists to a maximum of 20 Medication Management Reviews (MMRs) per month.

The decision to back the expansion of MMRs was made at the AMA's National Conference in Brisbane over the weekend.

Consultant clinical pharmacist, Debbie Rigby, welcomed the AMA's support for greater use of accredited pharmacists' medication management skills saying the "Access to services in rural areas should not have barriers," she said on Twitter.

"Quotas for Home Medication Reviews deny access in a timely manner."

She added that MMRs could reduce the number of medication-related hospitalisations.

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Pharmacy Daily



Dispensary Corner

TECHNOLOGY can be a challenge as we age - just ask an adventurous octogenarian in Europe, who ended up in Germany this week, rather than Italy, after typing the incorrect city into his vehicle's satellite navigation system.

The devout 81-year-old living in the UK was hoping to visit the Pope before he died, and decided to drive himself.

However when the GPS in his Jaguar told him he had arrived in at his destination he was somewhat surprised not to see any of Rome's famous landmarks.

It turns out he had omitted the "e", and instead ended up in the small German village of Rom in the northern Rhine Westphalia region of the country.

AND then there were six...

Doctors in Krakow, Poland are still recovering from their shock this week after delivering the country's first ever sextuplets.

The instant family was a special surprise for the parents, who had been told to expect five babies.

Dr Ryszard Lauterbach from the University Hospital Krakow described the scene, saying "we were prepared from early in the morning to help deliver five tiny citizens. So we are in the operating room, there are five teams of doctors ready to take care of five children.

"They are being delivered one after another until all five places were occupied. Then all of a sudden it turns out there's another one waiting in there".

The infants, born at 29 weeks, were in "surprisingly good condition," Lauterbach added.

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

PURE Papaya Glow Face Oil

Pure Papaya **Glow Face Oil** is formulated for overnight skin renewal. Revitalise and nourish your skin while you sleep with Papaya Glow. This light oil is made with papaya oil and jojoba oil. Papaya oil is derived from the seeds of the papaya fruit. The seedsws are rich in enzymes, omega fatty acids and vitamins to help nourish and gently renew your skin. Pure Papaya Glow Face Oil contains no petroleum, preservatives, castor oil or palm oil. It has a certified vegan-friendly Australian organic formula and is not tested on animals.



Stockist: 03 8773 3518

RRP: \$24.99

Website: www.purepapayacare.com

New SensiScrub 3-in-1 Wet Body Brush

Manicare **SensiScrub 3-in-1 Wet Body Brush** is a palm-sized silicone body brush that has two functional sides - one with finely tapered bristles to gently cleanse and exfoliate, and the reverse side with thick nodules to massage the body and bring to life soft, glowing skin. Look and feel in control. The delicate and soft bristles are suitable for all skin types, even sensitive skin.



Stockist: 1800 651 146

RRP: \$14.00

Website: www.manicare.com.au

Bubble Gum Burst - Watermelon Lemonade Triple Scented Candle



Glasshouse Fragrances' new on counter this month **Bubble Gum Burst - Watermelon Lemonade Triple Scented Candle** is a limited-edition candle. Bright, juicy and bursting

with fragrance, this mouth-watering, gum-inspired Watermelon scent is teeming with sweet raspberry and zingy grapefruit. It has top notes of lemon, pear, grapefruit; middle notes of watermelon, violet, cassis buds; and base notes of raspberry. Fragrance family: gourmand with a fragrance strength of four.

Stockist: 02 9757 3080

RRP: \$46.95 350g

Website: www.glasshousefragrances.com

Rouge Signature Liquid Lip Ink



L'Oréal Paris **Rouge Signature Liquid Lip Ink** is a liquid lipstick that doesn't flake, smudge or dry-out the lips.

Available in 12 ultra-matte shades, the collection combines bold colour with a super-lightweight finish, for the ultimate bare-lip sensation. The oil-in-water formula lets lips breathe, leaving a memorable mark but a forgettable feel for the ultimate all-day comfort. Every swipe will provide an instant pure colour statement that lasts with a soft-matte finish. L'Oréal Paris Rouge Signature Liquid Lip Ink is new on counters this month.

Stockist: 1300 659 359

RRP: \$24.95

Website: www.lorealparis.com.au

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