



Profession backs aged care funding

PHARMACY organisations are welcoming a Federal Government decision to allocate \$25.5 million, which will increase access to medication management reviews (MMRs), and reduce the use of chemical restraints in aged care facilities.

The funding is part of a \$500 million package announced yesterday in response to the Aged Care Royal Commission.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National President, Dr Chris Freeman, said the fresh funding would enable pharmacists to provide more frequent MMRs.

“The Government’s decision to allow more medication reviews to be delivered to a section of our community in dire need of this critical intervention is to be applauded,” he said

“The PSA has long advocated for a cycle of care that delivers

medication reviews conducted at a frequency and level that is dependent on patient needs, with meaningful follow-up, rather than being arbitrarily capped by funding restrictions.

“The Federal Government’s announcement acknowledges the important role of pharmacists in ensuring the safe and quality use of medicines for elderly Australians.

“It is essential, if we are to address the inappropriate use of medicines for older Australians that pharmacists are able to spend more time on the ground in residential aged care facilities and in patients’ homes delivering this vital service.”

Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, George Tambassis, said the Royal Commission’s interim report demanded a significant response from the Government.

“Community pharmacists stand



ready to play our part in improving the situations faced by too many Australians in aged care,” he said.

“We look forward to working through the details of the announcement to ensure the proposed additional residential medication management reviews are delivered in a way that ensures the best health outcomes for patients and added value for the system.”

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news, our latest **Summer Spotlight** on page 4 plus a full page from **Webstercare**.

Meds cost less

BRANDED and generic versions of 13 commonly prescribed medicines are 25% cheaper in Australia than the median across 50 countries.

The 2019 Medicine Price Index, compiled by Medbelle, found Australians pay 36.5% less than the median price for generic medicines, and 7% below the median for branded medicines.

The UAE reported the highest generic price more than 1000% above the median, while the US had the highest branded drug cost 428% above average.

Topical corticosteroid options for eczema, dermatitis and other steroid responsive skin conditions.

Potent strength topical corticosteroid¹
PRESCRIPTION ONLY

KLOXEMA
clobetasone butyrate 0.05% w/w

Moderate strength topical corticosteroid¹
Therapeutic Guidelines recommend moderate strength topical corticosteroids for first-line use in atopic eczema of the trunk and limbs²
- Chlorocresol free

DermAid
hydrocortisone 1.0% w/w, 0.5% w/w

Mild strength topical corticosteroid¹
Therapeutic Guidelines recommend hydrocortisone for first-line use in:^{2,3}
- Mild atopic eczema on the face, axillae or groin²
- Facial, flexural or scrotal seborrheic eczema, in combination with an antifungal²
- Contact dermatitis on the face²
- Psoriasis of the face in children²

GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH MADE EASY

DermAid: Use for the temporary relief of minor skin irritations, itching and rashes due to eczema, dermatitis, cosmetics, jewellery, itching genital and anal areas and sunburn.

Kloxema: Short term (up to 7 days) treatment of milder forms of eczema, dermatitis and other steroid responsive skin conditions. **Dosage:** For 12 years and over. Apply a thin film and gently rub in, using only enough to cover the affected area twice daily for up to 7 days.

References: 1. Dermatology Expert Group. Therapeutic Guidelines: Dermatology, version 4. Topical corticosteroid preparations (Appendix 4.1). Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd [Internet]. 2019 [cited 2019 June 28]. Available from: https://nlb3000a.tg.com.au/view/topic?topicfile=topical_corticosteroid_preparations; 2. Dermatology Expert Group. Therapeutic Guidelines: Dermatology, version 4. Dermatitis. Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd [Internet]. 2018 [cited 2019 June 27]. Available from: <https://nlb3000a.tg.com.au/view/topic?topicfile=dermatitis>; 3. Dermatology Expert Group. Therapeutic Guidelines: Dermatology, version 4. Psoriasis. Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd [Internet]. 2018 [cited 2019 June 27]. Available from: <https://nlb3000a.tg.com.au/view/topic?topicfile=psoriasis>

Before recommending please refer to the full Product Information. Full Product Information is available on request from Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd.

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Pharmacy techs deserve more: PPA

PHARMACY technicians at HPS Pharmacies are seeking a new enterprise bargaining agreement that closely mirrors the deal secured by pharmacists working for the group.

Union group, Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA), is seeking pay increases for technicians, more manageable workloads, improved training and development opportunities, and better recognition of the work that technicians do.

The PPA has called for a 3.5% annual wage increase, a new grading system that recognises technicians’ qualifications, competencies and experience, 12 weeks paid-parental leave, and financial assistance for study.

“Technicians play a vital role in supporting pharmacists deliver high quality health outcomes, and that’s why it is so important they are appropriately paid, trained and supported,” a spokesperson said.

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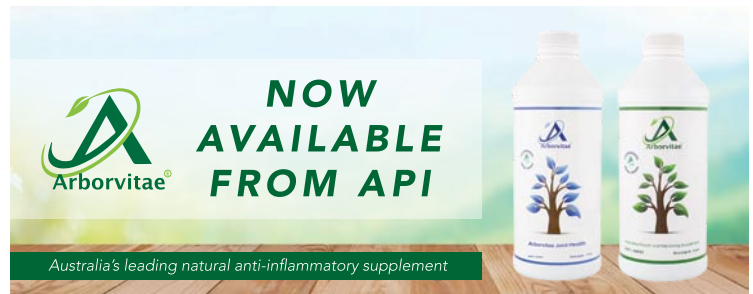
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Sigma signs CWH FMCG business

PHARMACEUTICAL wholesaler Sigma Healthcare has inked a deal with the My Chemist/Chemist Warehouse Group (CWH) to supply fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) from 01 Dec (**PD** breaking news yesterday).

The four and a half-year contract, which will ramp up to full capacity by July 2020, is expected to generate sales of \$700-800 million in the first full year of operations.

Sigma MD and CEO, Mark Hooper, said, "Sigma understands what is required to provide effective support on these product ranges, and the financial terms of the new agreement provide an acceptable return on capital employed for Sigma shareholders.

"The investment we have already made in our distribution centres provides the efficient platform to absorb this volume, maintain our growth ambitions, and enhance our ability to better service our existing customer base which has achieved



above market growth over the course of the year," he said.

The announcement comes less than five months after rival wholesaler, EBOS Group offshoot Symbion, replaced Sigma as CWH's first-line supplier for ethical products (**PD** 17 Oct 2018).

Restructuring costs associated with the end of Sigma's previous deal with the group saw its profit slump by 80% (**PD** 06 Sep).

Hooper said the new FMCG deal followed an approach by CWH for Sigma to resume the supply of the products "which had previously transitioned to another provider".

With the initial work and costs associated with the transition and

the volume of stock movements, some of the company's promised Project Pivot transformation will be delayed, impacting the company's earnings guidance for FY20, Hooper warned investors.

"More importantly, we expect our growth to accelerate in FY21 and beyond as we benefit from contributions from Project Pivot, efficiencies from our distribution centre investments, and the progressive ramp up of the CWH contract," he said.

Full year 2021 guidance will be provided at the company's FY20 results announcement which is scheduled for 26 Mar next year, Hooper added.

BP therapies best taken nocte

ANTIHYPERTENSIVE medication is best taken at bedtime, according to new research out of Spain and published in the *European Heart Journal*.

In the multi-centre, controlled, prospective endpoint trial, 19,084 patients with high blood pressure (BP) were assigned to ingest the entire daily dose of their antihypertensive medications either at bedtime or upon waking.

Over a median follow-up of 6.3 years, the risk of a major CVD event, adjusted for confounding factors (such as age, sex, presence of type 2 diabetes mellitus, presence of kidney disease, smoking status and cholesterol levels), demonstrated a 45% lower risk in the bedtime group.

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Pharmacy Daily



Dispensary Corner

WE ALL know you're not yourself when you're unwell. However, researchers from the University of Birmingham in the UK have confirmed illness actually impacts your IQ. The team found that not only are your senses dulled by illness, you become (how do we put this politely) somewhat duller academically. While a bout with the common cold can make you slightly sluggish, they discovered patients with chronic conditions including cancer and obesity also displayed reduced cognitive function, which increased with age. **AN ALASKAN** man came up with a novel drug delivery system last week, after he attempted to smuggle about US\$400,000 worth of narcotics inside "spoiled goat intestines". The 71-year-old was arrested by Alaska State Troopers at Anchorage International Airport, after he allowed security staff to search a 25kg fish box he was checking in for a morning flight to Kodiak. The contents turned out to be rotten goat innards, and as they thawed, investigators described the smell as somewhat rancid, reports *USA Today*. They then extracted plastic bags containing heroin and methamphetamine. The alleged offender told officers he had planned to eat the disgusting caprine offal, claiming he was unaware the dead creature's digestive system contained the drugs.

Take home naloxone pilot

THE Federal Government has announced an investment of \$10 million to undertake a take home naloxone (THN) pilot in New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.

Launching on 01 Dec, the THN pilot aims to provide people who may be at risk of an opioid overdose, or are likely to witness an overdose, with free and easy access to naloxone, the Health Department has said.

Each participating state will identify where naloxone will be available.

Sites could include community and hospital-based pharmacies, alcohol and drug treatment centres, needle and syringe programs or other agreed non-pharmacy settings.

Naloxone can be injected or delivered through a nasal spray and is currently available in all states and territories with a prescription, or over-the-counter from a pharmacy for a fee.

The THN pilot will be delivered in conjunction with the various THN programs currently operating in the

participating states and provides a great opportunity to increase access to naloxone for people at risk, authorities said.

Dispensing doctors and hospital pharmacists in NSW, SA and WA can take part in the pilot from mid-January 2020.

Visit health.gov.au for more.

Pregnancy meds update posted



THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has posted an update of its 'Prescribing Medicines in Pregnancy' database, inserting 10 new entries with their category classification and amending the categories of two existing medications.

Go to tga.gov.au for details.

Win with freezeframe

This week Pharmacy Daily and freezeframe are giving readers the chance to win NEW WRINKLE BLOCK valued at \$69.

WRINKLE BLOCK blocks visible expression wrinkles up to 78% in 30 minutes without paralysing muscles. This fast-acting anti-ager delivers a near 40% wrinkle and 76% eye bag reduction in just 7 days. 2 powerful peptides simultaneously slow down expressions whilst charging skin with the energy to bounce back. Visit freeze-frame.com.au for more.

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

TRUE or FALSE: WRINKLE BLOCK is an anti-aging stick.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Elizabeth Kim.



Pharmacy Daily Guild Update

Chronic Pain MedsCheck trial

THERE are only a few days left until the end of the Chronic Pain MedsCheck Trial patient recruitment period.

Patient Recruitment must end at midnight on 30 November 2019.

The Guild is urging participating pharmacies to make a push over these last few days to increase patient recruitment numbers and maximise the number of patients that we assist with chronic pain.

This trial is strategically important for community pharmacy because it provides an opportunity to cement the role of community pharmacy in primary health care. The outcomes of this trial may inform the viability of implementing a national chronic pain program in community pharmacy.

With our combined efforts on trials like this we make community pharmacy stronger together to the benefit of our patients.

If pharmacies need any assistance please visit 6cpa.com.au, call the Chronic Pain MedsCheck Trial Project Team at the National Office on 1300 555 262 or email chronicpain.ptp@6cpa.com.au.

SUMMER SPOTLIGHT

Pharmacy
Daily presents

Pharmacy Daily's Summer Spotlight is your guide to all the essential products for summer 2019/20. To feature here email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

FLO SINUS CARE from \$9.95 RRP

Summer in Australia often bring higher temps, erratic weather conditions and bushfires. The result? More people suffering from nasal and sinus problems due to inhaling smoke, dust and pollutant particles in the air.

Breathing in any kind of smoke is unpleasant and even the healthiest people may be affected. By washing the nose with a **large volume isotonic** sinus wash twice daily, you can help clear inhaled irritants and allergens from the front and back of the nose and the sinuses. Try Flo Sinus Care, Australia's No. 1 Sinus Wash and help your customers breathe easier this Summer!

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