Pharmacy Daily

Wed 21st April 2021

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus the **MIMS April Update**.

Pre-APP events selling out fast

LIMITED spaces remain available for pre-Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP) workshops on the Gold Coast next month.

Australasian College of Pharmacy CEO, Dr Dimitri Kopanakis, said the sessions will provide updates on key topics including treating patients with chronic conditions, COVID-19 vaccinations and cannabidiol.

Delegates can book their seat at the pre-conference workshops **HERE**.

APP will run from 20 to 23 May, at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre.

TGA issues performance snapshot

PHARMACISTS continue to make the highest number of medicine and vaccine adverse event reports to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of any health profession.

The TGA's Jul to Dec 2020 Half Yearly Performance Snapshot revealed 12,815 adverse events were reported between 01 Jul and 31 Dec 2020, up from 12,295 in the same period in 2019.

Of the total number of cases reported in the second half of 2020, 4% (475) were withdrawn.

The 1,329 cases reported by pharmacists accounted for 54% of events the TGA was notified about by health practitioners, while doctors reported 569 cases, and nurses a further 363, with pharmaceutical companies reporting 7,978 incidents.

The average number of reports received by the TGA each week increased by 20 cases across the six months to 31 Dec 2020, to 493, compared with 473 in the prior corresponding period.

While the number of adverse events reported to the TGA increased in the second half of the year, the number of recalls issued by the regulator fell by 8% from 426 in the same timeframe in 2019, to 394 in 2020.

However medicine recall actions increased from 32 to 47, which the TGA said was "in part due to class wide recall actions for products containing the herbal ingredient, *Fallopia multiflora*, and non-prescription medicine, bufexamac".

Medical devices including in vitro diagnostic devices (IVDs) accounted for the largest number of recalls, 286, down from 326 in 2019.

The snapshot also noted that there were 658 new reports of medicines shortage in the six months to 31 Dec 2020, compared with 765 in the prior corresponding period in 2019.

Nov 2020 was the biggest month for new medicines shortage reports, with 123 notifications,

while Oct 2020 saw the lowest number (82).

The TGA said the numbers only counted new reports, and did not include updates of previously reported shortages.

Manufacturer-related issues accounted for 38% of the new shortage notifications, while an unexpected increase in demand was behind 18% of cases, with commercial changes cited as the reason for 7.5% of incidents.

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COVID prompts e-commerce alliance

LESSONS learnt during COVID-19-induced lockdowns are behind a new partnership between independent pharmacy group, Pharmacy Alliance, and e-commerce platform, Storbie.

Storbie CEO, Shane Bartie, said the deal would empower Pharmacy Alliance members to "achieve great things with the help of digital channels".

He added that the rolling lockdowns seen throughout the COVID crisis had highlighted the need for pharmacies to be able to keep running even when the majority of the retail sector ground to a halt.

Pharmacy Alliance Managing Director, Simon Reynolds, said Storbie's solution, which works alongside the four major pharmacy point-of-sale systems from Corum Health, Fred IT, RxOne and Z Software, would bring members into line with modern digital experiences.

"Part of our plan this year is for Storbie to centralise administration support for our Alliance Pharmacy members, but still providing members autonomy over how they engage with their patients online," he said.

Pharmacy Alliance Marketing and Member Services General Manager, Nimfa Martinez, said Storbie was working to provide features to include service bookings and support for electronic prescriptions.

"We're excited to be working with them and supporting our members into the future," she said.

Canadian AZ vax demand surge

VACCINE hesitancy appears to be limited in Canada, with Morelli's Pharmacy in Toronto reporting its booking system crashed after a surge in demand for the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

The rush for the shot came after regulators lowered the minimum age for the vaccine from 55 to 40 earlier this week.

Dispensary Corner

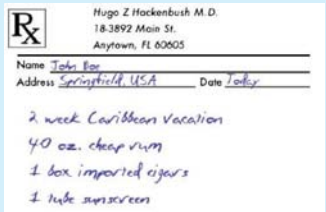
"PHARMACISTS are smart and will laugh long and hard at you if you try to give them one of these", PrescriptionMaker.com warns of its fake scripts, which can be downloaded online for "entertainment purposes".

Despite the warning, would-be patient, Paul Collins, from Ireland, presented a fake script for antibiotics, sleeping pills and benzodiazepines at a pharmacy in Cork, and it landed him in hot water with the law.

The pharmacist wasn't certain the script was legitimate and declined to dispense the full quantity of the drugs, Cork District Court heard.

Collins' solicitor told the court that he remained on prescription medication, but did not have an addiction to the drugs, *echolive.ie* reported.

Issuing a four-month sentence, which has been suspended for two years, Judge Olann Kelleher, said, "it is a serious matter to forge a prescription".



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MIMS Monthly Update

April 2021

New Products

- **Indacaterol/glycopyrronium/mometasone furoate (Enerzair Breezhaler)** combines indacaterol, a long-acting β_2-adrenergic agonist (LABA), glycopyrronium, a long-acting muscarinic receptor antagonist and mometasone furoate, an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS). Following oral inhalation, indacaterol and glycopyrronium act locally on airways to produce bronchodilation by separate mechanisms and mometasone furoate reduces pulmonary inflammation. Enerzair Breezhaler is indicated for the maintenance treatment of asthma in adults not adequately controlled with a maintenance combination of LABA and ICS who experienced one or more asthma exacerbations in the previous year. Enerzair Breezhaler powder for inhalation is available in 2 strengths: 114/46/68 mcg or 114/46/136 mcg indacaterol/glycopyrronium/mometasone furoate per capsule, in cartons containing 30 hard capsules and 1 Breezhaler inhaler.

- **Romosozumab (Evenity)** is a humanised monoclonal antibody (IgG2) that binds and inhibits sclerostin, a negative regulator of bone formation predominantly secreted by mature osteocytes. It increases bone formation and decreases bone resorption. It also increases trabecular and cortical bone mass and improves bone structure and strength. Evenity is indicated for the treatment of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women at high risk of fracture, and to increase bone mass in men with osteoporosis at high risk of fracture. Evenity is contraindicated with uncorrected hypocalcaemia and with known hypersensitivity to Chinese hamster ovary (CHO)-derived proteins. Evenity solution for injection contains romosozumab 105 mg/1.17 mL and is available in pack size of 2 prefilled syringes.

New Indications

- **Avelumab (rch) (Bavencio)** is now indicated for the first-line maintenance treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma whose disease has not progressed with first-line platinum-based induction chemotherapy.

- **Baricitinib (Olumiant)** is now indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe atopic dermatitis in adults who are candidates for systemic therapy.

- **Brigatinib (Alunbrig)** is now indicated for the treatment of adults with anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK)-positive locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer.

- **Nivolumab (Opdivo)** is now indicated as monotherapy for the treatment of patients with unresectable advanced, recurrent or metastatic oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma after prior fluoropyrimidine and platinum-based chemotherapy.

- **Olaparib (Lynparza Tablets)**, in combination with bevacizumab, is now indicated for the maintenance treatment of adults with advanced epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancer who are in complete or partial response to first-line platinum-based chemotherapy and whose cancer is associated with homologous recombination deficiency (HRD)-positive status defined by either: a deleterious or suspected deleterious BRCA mutation (germline or somatic), and/or genomic instability. It is also now indicated as monotherapy for the maintenance treatment of adults with deleterious or suspected deleterious germline BRCA mutation (*gBRCAm*) metastatic pancreatic adenocarcinoma whose disease has not progressed on at least 16 weeks of a first-line platinum-based chemotherapy regimen. HRD and *gBRCAm* status should be determined by an experienced laboratory using a validated test method.

New Contraindications

- **Mepivacaine HCl (Scandonest 3%)** and **mepivacaine HCl with adrenaline (Scandonest 2% Special)** is now contraindicated in children under 3 years of age.

- **Raltitrexed (Tomudex)** is now contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment (ClCr < 25 mL/min) and with concomitant administration of calcium folinate (folinic acid), folic acid or vitamin preparations containing these agents.

- **Sodium tetradecyl sulfate (Fibrovein)** is now contraindicated in patients with recent deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month.
Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.