Industry responds to Board

THE new national Pharmacy Board of Australia has published details of the submissions received to its consultation paper (PD 27 Oct) with all sections of the industry providing feedback.

28 submissions were received, including from the existing state-based Pharmacy Boards, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild, as well as a number of other organisations and individuals.

The Board has a wide range of issues to consider as a result, with matters raised including criminal history checks, language skills, CPD activities, notifiable conduct, student registration, recency of practice and professional indemnity insurance requirements.

One submission urges that the Board should establish a set of core competencies for community pharmacy, with OTC counselling one of the key areas of expertise.

Another suggests the Board consider how proposed training requirements will be accessed by pharmacists in rural and remote areas of the country.

The National Prescribing Service urged that definition of ‘Practice as a Pharmacist’ be expanded to include areas such as policy development, academia, quality use of medicines activities, clinical teaching or training and work in the pharmaceutical industry.

The Board will now consider the submissions and use them to develop the new national standards, with a draft to be discussed at its next meeting this month and a release of proposed draft codes and guidelines for consultation planned for 05 Mar 2010.

Warfarin alternative

RESEARCH into Boehringer Ingleheim’s new anticoagulant Pradaxa (dabigatran) has found that the medication is as effective as warfarin.

A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine said that unlike warfarin, Pradaxa does not require routine monitoring and has a better safety profile.

“Dabigatran is a far more convenient drug than warfarin because it has no known interactions with foods and minimal interactions with other drugs and therefore does not require routine blood-coagulation testing,” the report said.

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Managing Incontinence

THE National Prescribing Service has developed a new program ‘Managing Urinary Incontinence in Primary Care’ to help health professionals manage patients either with incontinence, or at risk of developing the condition.

“People are often reluctant to talk about incontinence because they may feel embarrassed,” said NPS clinical advisor, Judith Mackson.

“Determining the cause of incontinence is important because treatment options vary depending on the type of incontinence, and some medications can exacerbate the symptoms,” Mackson added.

The program aims to help health professionals to talk to their at risk patients about urinary incontinence, and be able to distinguish the types, assess the causes and also consider non-drug-related treatments where appropriate.

“Physical and behavioral therapies are first line; they promote self-management and have less risk of side effects than medicines.... (and) providing detailed information about all management options, including physiotherapy, may also help those concerned about surgery,” Ms Mackson said.

Another Chemconsult deal

HEALTH Corporation has today announced a new agreement with blood pressure monitoring equipment manufacturer Omron Healthcare which will see it become another partner with the Chemconsult Medication Consulting Program.

Health Corporation, which also operates the Health Information Pharmacy franchise group, has been heavily promoting the Chemconsult system which is claimed to ensure consistency in advice delivery to pharmacy patients through a 10 point medication consulting process.

Under today’s deal, Omron has agreed to pay upfront and ongoing fees sponsoring the Chemconsult program, as well as providing in-store marketing and sales support. Health Corporation ceo Ken Lee said he was pleased that Omron Healthcare had joined the program.

“We hope that through regular monitoring of blood pressure and advice from their pharmacist via the Chemconsult program that more lives will be saved and better health outcomes will eventuate in the community,” Lee said.

Other suppliers participating in the Chemconsult program include Abbott Diabetes Care, sanofi-aventis and Alphapharm.

ASMI date change

THE Australasian Self-Medication Industry has advised that due to unforeseen circumstances the date of its 2010 conference has changed from 04 Nov to the new date of Thu 18 Nov 2010.

ASMI said more details would be provided in the coming months.

Research summit

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia’s annual Pharmacy Research Summit will be held from 02 - 04 March 2010 in Canberra.

Designed to communicate the key findings and achievements of research generated from the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement Research and Development Program, the summit is set to play host to around 173 industry, university, government and community representatives.

“With a view of assisting translation of research findings into policy and practice, attendees will hear about research findings that demonstrate how pharmacy can contribute to health outcomes of Australians,” said national president of the Pharmacy Guild, Kos Sclavos.

Proposed topics for next year’s summit include ‘community of care’, ‘chronic disease management’, ‘primary care services’, ‘workforce development and capacity building’, and ‘research informing policy and practice’.

Visanne approved

BAYER Schering Pharma has received European approval for the market launch of its latest drug, Visanne (dienogest), for the treatment of endometriosis.

Clinical trials conducted prior to its approval showed that he once daily tablet relieved endometriosis pain with high efficacy and also reduced endometriosis lesions.

The European market release of Visanne is now set for the second quarter of 2010.

OnlyPapaya supports your skin

THIS week OnlyPapaya has teamed up with Pharmacy Daily, giving readers the chance to win an Only Papaya Starter Pack.

The foundation of OnlyPapaya’s products is its ‘Optimised Fruit Extract’, obtained by using a patented process that preserved the enzymes and attributes of fresh paw paw fruit. Valued at $32.95, the Only Papaya Starter Kit creates a convenient, all-in-one skin treatment system, featuring a body wash, conditioner, shampoo, facial cleanser, facial exfoliant and body moisturiser.

For your chance to win your own Only Papaya Starter Kit today, simply send through the correct answer to the following question:

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The first correct entry received each day will win!

Congratulations to yesterday’s winner Juliana Kobryn from Blooms the Chemist in Springwood, NSW.

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