

Guild Update

This week's update from the Guild

Home Medicines Review Consumer Resources

The Home Medicines Review (HMR) Program will continue under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

The Guild has a range of consumer resources available to promote the HMR service.

HMR Consumer Brochures.

HMR Consumer Case Studies

These provide information to assist patients self identify that they may benefit from a HMR.

Case study topics include: Diabetes, Heart Failure, Kidney Problems, Youth Depression, Palliative Care and Fall Prevention.

Other Resources

The 'Would you like help with your medicines' booklet explains some of the pharmacy services offered that may assist patients to better manage and understand their medicines, including *Dose Administration Aids*, *Patient Medication Profiles*, *Consumer Medicines Information Sheets* and *HMRs*.

The *HMR Consumer Brochures*, *HMR Consumer Case Studies* and the *Would you like help with your medicines booklets* are available in hard copy.

To obtain copies, please contact Natalie Nikro by emailing mmr.program@guild.org.au or phone 02 6270 1888.

The *HMR Consumer Brochures* and *HMR Consumer Case Studies* are also available electronically on the Pharmacy Guild of Australia website – www.guild.org.au/mmr/content.asp?id=1831.

While there may be some changes to the current HMR model during the Fifth Agreement, pharmacists are advised to continue providing the HMR service to their patients in the usual way.

For more information, see the media release from 13 July 2010 – www.guild.org.au/content.asp?ID=2830.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

New HMR, RMMR, QUM

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has today announced the release of updated guidelines for pharmacists providing Home Medicines Review (HMR) services.

There are also new guidelines for Residential Medication Management Review (RMMR) and Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) services being provided to aged care homes.

PSA was contracted under the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement to review and update the Professional Practice Standards, as well as "any practice guidelines identified as in need of development or review".

PSA National President, Warwick Plunkett, said that during the review it was identified that the PSA's HMR guidelines needed to be looked at, having been previously reviewed in 2000.

"It was also identified that given the broadened scope of the new Medication Review standard (to cover all forms of medication review from HMR/RMMR to PMP and MUR, some of the specific details around HMR and RMMR had been lost, and guidelines were needed to underpin the new standard," Plunkett said.

The review was conducted with the assistance of PharmConsult, and an Expert Review Group was

assembled to review the revisions, comprising accredited pharmacists from each state and two representatives from the Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy.

"The result is that the reviewed guidelines are robust and comprehensive, and an essential tool for all pharmacists undertaking these services," Plunkett said.

The revised HMR guidelines contain more information on how to implement HMR services, as well as information on communication and collaboration with other health care providers, while the updated RMMR guidelines include recent changes in processes.

"They are aimed at assisting pharmacists to exercise their professional judgement in individual circumstances and to promote consistently high quality services," the PSA said.

The revised guidelines are now available for all pharmacists on the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia website psa.org.au/guidelines.

Aspirin exemption

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued an advertising exemption notice to Medi Choice and Trust Thrombix, regarding their respective Aspirin 100mg enteric coated tablet products, stating that they may include the following paragraph on their product label: *For the treatment of patients with known cardiovascular or cerebrovascular disease, as an antiplatelet agent for prophylaxis against acute myocardial infarction, unstable angina, transient ischaemic attack and cerebrovascular accident (stroke).*

Single MS injection

MERCK Serono has released the results of its RebiDose User Trial, which trialled the new single use pre-filled pen device on MS patients.

Filled with (interferon beta-1a), a disease modifying drug for the treatment of relapsing MS, the pen was designed to simplify the self-injection process.

72% of the 109 trial participants reported that they would continue to use RebiDose if it became available.

Trial participants also reported that, over the 12-week testing period, the pen had an error rate of 0.4%, and that overall it was "easy" or "very easy to use".

Currently approved for use in the EU and Australia, Merck now plans to roll out RebiDose in the US by the end of the year, followed by launches on a "country-by-country" basis.

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Reboxetine vs placebo

RECENT research which looked at 13 acute treatment trials involving 4098 patients has concluded that reboxetine is, overall, an ineffective and potentially harmful antidepressant.

Published in the BMJ the review also said the study underlined the "the urgent need for mandatory publication of trial data".

US whooping outbreak

THE US state of California has clocked its highest rate of whooping cough infections since 1955, with studies linking drops in vaccine uptake an increases in infection.

According to the Centres for Disease Control and Outbreak's figures, in 2008 only 5.9% of American adults reported that they had the advised whooping cough booster shot (although it is estimated that this figure could be higher at 14.6% taking into account its self-reporting status).

Last year in the US around 17,000 people presented to their doctor with whooping cough, and this year California's massive outbreak has seen 5,270 infants fall sick with whooping cough, and nine infants die from the infection.

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Botox for migraine

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Botox injection (onabotulinumtoxinA) therapy for the prevention of headaches in adults suffering chronic migraines (defined as having a headache on most days of the month).

To treat chronic migraines, Botox is given approximately every 12 weeks as multiple injections around the head and neck, to try to dull future symptoms.

The FDA said Botox had not been shown to work for the treatment of migraine headaches that occur 14 days or less per month, or for other forms of headache.

Pfizer to sell insulin

PFIZER has struck a deal with Indian pharmaceutical manufacturer, Biocon Ltd, under which Pfizer will pay US\$200m for exclusive rights to market Biocon's biosimilar insulin products (except in India, Malaysia and Germany) which are expected to be approved in 2012 (Europe) and 2015 (US).

WA flu vaccination report

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a formal response to a damning report commissioned by the Western Australian Health Department into the handling of the adverse events investigation during the 2010 WA free seasonal flu vaccine program.

The report by Professor Bryant Stokes followed the suspension of the free flu vaccine for under-fives program on 22 Apr - four weeks after it was launched - when it was discovered that the rate of febrile convulsions caused by CSL's Fluvax vaccine was nine times higher than usual.

Stokes found the decision to suspend the program as soon as additional side effects were known was correct, but has highlighted what he describes as "serious deficiencies in the current reporting mechanisms for these events".

He raised several areas of concern, including a lack of monitoring of vaccine safety, deficiencies in current reporting mechanisms, a slow response to

the issue and "perceived conflicts of interest in the TGA's role and its funding".

The TGA says that the Stokes Review "contains a number of fundamental misunderstandings that have led to erroneous conclusions," and says that none of the staff involved in the TGA response were invited to provide details of the TGA's investigation.

"As a result, the Stokes Review draws a number of inferences about the Commonwealth's handling of this issue that are not supported by the facts".

Stokes claimed that surveillance arrangements already in place for the H1N1 vaccination program should have been maintained.

Responding to what it calls "a perceived lack of monitoring vaccine safety the TGA said that in addition to its system of spontaneous reporting, vaccine manufacturers are inspected for quality and that the vaccines themselves go-through rigorous pre-market evaluation process.

"The Stokes Review claims that although the World Health Organization (WHO) had advised all countries administering pandemic vaccines to conduct intensive monitoring for safety and efficacy, this was not done in Australia. This is incorrect," the TGA said.

Stokes also addressed what he said was a "confusing" system of dual reportage where adverse responses can be reported to either the national Dept of Health, State Dept of Health or the TGA.

"Australia has one of the highest per capita rates of reporting of medicines adverse events in the world, not because we are more prone to side effects, but rather because we have one of the most effective adverse event reporting frameworks in the world," the TGA responded.

The TGA also downplayed suggestions by Stokes that vaccine approval and monitoring functions should be separated.

Stokes cited the US situation where the FDA and CDC have roles in monitoring safety, but the TGA said this was an "inaccurate characterisation" of the role of the US organisations.



DISPENSARY CORNER

DISAPPEARING mice.

It seems a horde of clever mice have decimated local farms on the South Australian west coast, and then done a bunk before they could be held accountable for their dastardly ways.

According to reports, a team of documentary film makers from the pay TV station Animal Planet, were sent on a wild mouse chase, to capture the swarming critters in action as part of their 'pests of the world' series.

Initial reports and recordings sent to the team before their arrival showed millions of mice munching their way through the SA Streaky Bay farms, however when they rocked up with cameras in tow, it appeared the crafty critters had simply disappeared.

"Every farmer you speak to tells you they had like a million mice on their farm and now they haven't got any," said Animal Planet producer, Helen Lambourne.

"It is quite an amusing thing at the moment because we're actually asking farmers all around Streaky [Bay] to try and actually find mice for us ... and no-one can find any," she added.

ALCOHOLIC amnesia.

A 46-year old Australian man hailing from the Northern Territory has been left rather red faced after having stumbled into the wrong house to take a shower and sober off.

According to the local papers, the man was so drunk that he entered his neighbours house, and still thinking it was his own stripped off, entered the shower, had a sobering soak, before realising his mistake and hot-footing it to the veranda.

Meanwhile his neighbour, still in bed in the early morning hours, thought she was being burgled, and although perplexed as to why a thief would stop for a quick shower and spruce mid crime spree, called the police.

Whilst recovering from his shame on the veranda, the man was arrested and taken to the station to sleep it off.

WIN AN AROMABABY PACK



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with **Aromababy** again and is giving readers the chance to win 3 products every day this week.

From category

leaders in natural baby care, comes the nappy care trio. Aromawipes, Barrier Balm and Nappy Cream are on offer in this edition. As used in select hospitals for fifteen years, this professional, world-leading brand is not sold to supermarkets assuring you of a pharmacy-focused approach to expanding your baby care category. Totally safe for mother to be/new mother and sensitive skin, Aromababy is a long time supporter of the Eczema Association.

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Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: **Sally Pruden** from **Symbion Pharmacy Services**.