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## Eculizumab orphan

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has designated eculizumab (rnc) (SOLIRIS) as an orphan drug.

Eculizumab is sponsored by Alexion Pharmaceuticals and is indicated for the treatment of atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome (aHUS).

## National Board consultation

A **CONSULTATION** paper on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme is calling for feedback on the accreditation arrangements of the National Boards for the chiropractic, medical, optometry, psychology, physiotherapy, osteopathy, podiatry and pharmacy professions.

The consultation, which commenced yesterday, is part of a process under the National Law which requires National Boards to view the arrangements for accreditation by 30 Jun 2013.

Since the National Scheme commenced accreditation for pharmacists has been assigned to the Australian Pharmacy Council, which has developed standards for programs of study leading to a qualification required for registration as a pharmacist for approval by the Board.

APC also accredits intern training programs and assesses overseas authorities and pharmacists who have qualified abroad.

The consultation paper says the Board is able to continue the existing arrangements, appoint an alternative external accreditation entity, or establish an accreditation committee of the National Board.

The paper is available online at [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au), with feedback accepted via email to [accreditationreview@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:accreditationreview@ahpra.gov.au) by close of business on Fri 02 Nov.

The Australian Pharmacy Council has already made a submission, outlining its governance, finances, independence, transparency and

operational management.

The consultation paper includes a preliminary conclusion by the National Board "to continue the current arrangements of exercising accreditation functions through the Australian Pharmacy Council".

## ASMI welcomes reform

**THE** Australian Self Medication Industry has welcomed the latest initiatives outlined by the TGA's relating to the Business Process Reform for OTC medicines, saying they should provide greater certainty and predictability for those dealing with the TGA in relation to OTC medicines.

"The non-prescription products industry welcomes these measures which aim to increase the flow of information, improve certainty and clarity, and produce more timely TGA decisions," said Executive Director of ASMI, Dr Deon Schoombie.

The consultation paper issued by the TGA proposes a series of risk-related categories for OTC medicines, which would be used to guide drug applications and evaluation.

"We think that the move to a more appropriate risk/benefit model for OTC medicines makes good sense, and look forward to working with the TGA to help bring about a more efficient process, and more timely consumer access to medicines," Schoombie said.

**MEANWHILE** the TGA is now seeking comments on proposed reforms, with the consultation period set to cut off on 07 Nov, see [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* Continuing Professional Development Calendar, featuring upcoming events and opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**02-06 Oct:** Pharmacy Guild of Australia Offshore Conference 2012, Waikiki, Hawaii - [pgahawaii2012@arinex.com.au](mailto:pgahawaii2012@arinex.com.au).

**19-21 Oct:** PSA Pharmacy Australia Congress, Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre - [www.psa.org.au/pac](http://www.psa.org.au/pac).

**01-04 Nov:** SHPA 38th annual conference - Medicines Management 2012, Canberra - [mm2012shpa.com](http://mm2012shpa.com).

**13 Nov:** Australian Self-Medication Industry conference and awards, Homebush NSW - [www.asmi.com.au](http://www.asmi.com.au).

**19-26 Jan 2013:** Medici Capital Pharmacy Study Tour 2013, Val d'Isere France - see [www.medici.com.au/events](http://www.medici.com.au/events).

**22-24 Feb 2013:** NSW Guild Convention 'CPD by the Sea' at Novotel Manly Pacific.

**21-24 Mar 2013:** Pharmacy Guild APP 2013, Gold Coast.

**31 May-02 Jun 2013:** PSA NSW CPEXpo, Hordern Pavilion.

**21-23 Jun 2013:** NSW Pharmacy National Convention & Exhibition, Darling Harbour.



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The Electronic Transfer of Prescription Education Program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement between the Commonwealth and The Pharmacy Guild of Australia.



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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist F/time and P/time** - North Brisbane, QLD (Job #2009200)  
Diverse role - opportunity to work within this group's 5 different stores.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Clarence Valley, NSW (Job # 2009275)  
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- **Pharmacist Manager** - Melbourne East, VIC (Job# 2009319)  
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## “Imported pharmacist” for WA

A RURAL pharmacy in Western Australia has sponsored an overseas pharmacist to fill a vacant position, after being unable to successfully fill the role despite extensive advertising.

Georgia Bolden-Strestik from Pharmacy Links, which provides pharmacy staff and locum services, says the pharmacy in question was about two hours drive from Perth and despite falling remuneration for community pharmacists in metropolitan areas and widespread perceptions of an oversupply, she was unable to find a suitable local candidate.

Instead the pharmacy brought in a pharmacist from overseas, who is so thrilled to be working in Australia that he has committed to a full two years at the pharmacy.

For this particular pharmacist the

supervised registration period is minimal, so he will be qualified to practice unsupervised by Nov.

Bolden-Strestik said that this is a “good outcome for the pharmacy owner who is no longer in crisis - but a terrible outcome for WA pharmacists”.

She said the situation is very frustrating, with the metro pharmacy workforce “saturated” and many pharmacists unhappy with the limited amount of work available for them.

*Pharmacy Daily* would welcome reader feedback on the situation to [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

## Lyme Disease protest gathers momentum

THE fight to have Lyme Disease recognised as an Australian problem is gathering momentum, with a recent protest by the Australian Lyme Disease Advocacy Group held this month outside NSW Health offices in North Sydney putting the issue into the public forum.

Protesters included sufferers and their families, as well as medical experts and consumer advocates.

Lyme Disease is a bacterial infection transmitted to humans by ticks and potentially other insects, and if left untreated, can cause numerous health symptoms including severe neurological damage and pain, and can be fatal.

Lyme Disease often mimics other illnesses such as MS, motor neurons disease, anxiety, autism, and fibromyalgia to name a few.

At present Australian governments, both State and Federal, deny that Australian ticks carry lyme disease, however according to protest organisers thousands of Australians have been bitten by a tick and then tested positive for the illness.

“There have been various previous Australian research studies conducted by qualified medical professionals and animal zoological experts proving Lyme Disease exists in Australia,” a



## PBS cost recovery revenue “significantly lower”

AN independent review of the cost recovery arrangements for Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme submissions has found that the revenue from the program is “significantly lower than anticipated when the measure was introduced”.

A committee was established in Jul last year to look at the impact cost recovery has had on the PBS, and while concluding that overall there is insufficient data available to ascertain the impact, also recommended that the costing model be reevaluated “to ensure that all costs associated with the

evaluation and listing processes are included”.

The report, now available online at [www.pbs.gov.au](http://www.pbs.gov.au), also noted a number of fee exemptions and waivers, and that about a third of sponsors predicted an estimated annual use of less than 2000 scripts in the first 12 months of listing.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

A US man has won a \$7.2 million compensation payout after being diagnosed with an ailment called “popcorn lung” - developed from inhaling too much of the artificial butter in microwave popcorn.

Wayne Watson developed respiratory problems in 2007 after regularly eating the tasty snack, with a jury in Colorado ruling that the popcorn manufacturer should have included a warning label that the fumes were dangerous.

“Popcorn lung” is a form of irreversible obstructive lung disease which scars the lungs, with the payout the latest development in an ongoing saga which has also seen popcorn plant workers successfully claim compensation.

The offending ingredient is diacetyl which is apparently included in the flavouring.

A FEMALE British soldier has caused a sensation while on assignment in Afghanistan by giving birth to a baby boy.

The UK Ministry of Defence confirmed the woman was based at Camp Bastion, and apparently was unaware of her condition.

“It is not military policy to allow servicewomen to deploy on operations if they are pregnant,” the MoD said in a statement.

The Royal Artillery gunner was taken to a field hospital after complaining of stomach pains.

Mother and baby are doing well, with a specialist “Paediatric Retrieval Team” to fly out from the UK to care for them during the flight back home.

## WIN A SKINCARE PACK!



Every day this week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving two lucky readers the chance to win a skincare pack, courtesy of Sukin.

Faunt your sensitive side with the introduction of Sukin's mini-range pack valued at RRP \$30. Including two soap-free cleansers and a non-greasy facial moisturiser, offering long-lasting hydration and a soft, nurtured and smooth complexion. For your chance to win, be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### What are the four main actives in the Sukin Cleansing Gel?

Congratulations to yesterday's winners **Adrian Sung**, from Pharmacy Online Discount Outlet, and **Anne van Heel** from Glenhaven MediAdvice Pharmacy!

Hint! Visit [www.sukinorganics.com](http://www.sukinorganics.com)