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Med Info NPS role

NPS Medicinewise is recruiting for a Medicines Information Pharmacist for a 6 month contract.

You need to be registered with AHPRA & have a degree in Pharmacy or equivalent.

The role is 15 hours per week on the Phone Line Service.

WIN HYDRALYTE FOR CHRISTMAS

Every day this week **PD** is giving ten lucky readers the chance to win a



Hydralyte prize pack.

Planning a Christmas Party? Drinking Alcohol?

Fact 1: Alcohol acts as a diuretic.

Fact 2: For every standard drink you consume, you are likely to urinate about 100 mL more than you drink – leading to dehydration.

Fact 3: Symptoms of dehydration include, fatigue, headache & dizziness.

TIP: A glass or two of Hydralyte before you go to bed will help you retain fluid & rehydrate effectively.

To win, simply be the first person to email the correct answer to the question below to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Name one cause of fluid and electrolytes loss

\$82 million chemo funds

PRIME Minister Tony Abbott and Health Minister Peter Dutton have confirmed more than \$82 million in additional funding to support the delivery of chemotherapy medicines in Australia's public and private hospitals.

In an announcement on Sat, they said the funding would be delivered under the PBS, while the government "will also improve patient safety and care by removing unnecessary red tape for clinicians prescribing, processing and claiming for PBS medicines".

The changes will also see clinicians in hospitals able to use a patient's medication chart to dispense and claim PBS medicines, giving them "more time with their patients and less time completing duplicate paperwork".

According to the PM the new funding will be delivered from 01 Jan 2014 and will provide \$152.66 per infusion to meet the higher costs of providing chemotherapy.

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia welcomed the announcement saying "this decision will provide patients with immediate assurances that they will continue to receive safe and effective delivery of chemotherapy

Tafinlar listing

TAFINLAR (dabrafenib mesilate) has been listed on the PBS for the treatment of unresectable stage III melanoma or stage IV metastatic melanoma in patients with BRAF V600 mutation, which is a genetic change enabling tumour growth.

treatment.

"SHPA looks forward to further advice regarding the details around this funding announcement and whether this ensures the ongoing sustainability of a service delivery model which includes the required clinical pharmacy services," said SHPA President Michael Dooley.

Guild Executive Director, David Quilty, said the Guild was "especially pleased that after more than 12 months of advocacy and negotiation, a sensible solution has finally been found that is in the interests of cancer patients, chemotherapy pharmacists and the wider pharmacy sector".

He said the chemotherapy shortfall was always separate from the current Community Pharmacy Agreement, "a fact recognised in the previous government's interim funding earlier this year and the Coalition government's announcement today" - despite claims to the contrary by the Consumers Health Forum.

Webstercare honour

WEBSTERCARE has been named as Australia's sixth most innovative company for 2013, in the annual BRW 50 Most Innovative Companies survey.

BRW cited Webstercare's MedsPro System which utilises the Virtual Pill Count, software which uses barcode scanning to identify patients, check the picking and packing of medications and automate ordering and restocking.

Webstercare founder and md, Gerard Stevens, said he was delighted at the recognition.

"Innovation is at the heart of everything we do at Webstercare.

"From the initial development of the Webster-pak systems through to more recent software innovations...Webstercare is driven by a culture of solving problems that people have when managing their medication," he said.

Stevens added that pharmacists are also a crucial part of the process, playing a strong role in providing feedback which in turn is used in the innovation process.



Coral Coast Pharmacies

Pharmacist Vacancy

Coral Coast Pharmacies are currently seeking a motivated Pharmacist, either recently registered or experienced to join our team. Coral Coast Pharmacies operate five retail pharmacies servicing the community and patients from local medical centres and aged care facilities, in Bundaberg and the surrounding districts.

The successful applicant will have a firm background in retail and/or clinical pharmacy and be professional, highly organised, possess excellent communication skills and be goal driven. Coral Coast Pharmacies focus on delivering the highest level of care and customer service.

You would be working with established teams, Pharmacists and Dispensary Technicians, with great support systems.

To be successful in this application you will need to be registered with the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

To apply for this position, send application letter and resume to:

Group Operations Manager, Coral Coast Pharmacies

PO Box 532, Bundaberg, QLD 4670

or email: hr@ccpharm.net.au

Applications close: 14th January 2014

www.coralcoastpharmacies.com.au

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD*'s weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is

Sue Raven,
Managing Director of Raven's Pharmacy Sales.



Preparing Your Pharmacy for Sale

It is not an easy decision when it comes to selling, so many questions go through your mind, especially if you are selling for the first time. Where to start? What do I need to prepare? Below are some suggestions to help begin the process.

Financial Records: Ensure that you have audited financial statements for the most recent financial year. If available, provide interim Management Accounts if time has end from last financial year and current financial year dispensing Script report.

Staff Records: Provide current staff roster of working week in your business. Consolidate this with wages paid to your staff to provide a snapshot of the expense for a prospective purchaser.

Lease: If you have an existing lease, ensure that you have the lease document readily available. The length of your lease is critical to financiers. If you are left with less than at least 3 years you will have to negotiate a longer lease prior to going to the market. This will add to the saleability of the business. Many lenders may require at least a 7 year lease. If you own the freehold property, consider what lease you would be willing to offer the purchaser. Seek legal advice.

Depreciation Schedule: Fixtures & Fittings are a crucial part of selling a business. A depreciation schedule should be available to confirm the list of items and the written down value of those items.

Price disclosure “failing”

AUSTRALIAN consumers are still paying way too much for PBS medications, despite the latest cuts due to price disclosure which became effective yesterday, according to a report released by research group the Grattan Institute.

The report follows a Grattan study published earlier this year (*PD* 18 Mar) with found that if the govt benchmarked generic drug prices against those in other countries it could save over \$1 billion annually.

“Our prices are high because we buy drugs in the wrong way,” wrote the report’s authors, who said that on average Australian prices remain almost 16 times higher than those in New Zealand and the UK.

The report suggests one-off benchmarking to get fair market prices and then the establishment

of an independent drug pricing body “to make sure prices stay low in the future”.

However the report also warns that “better prices would significantly reduce income for community pharmacies,” due to the “windfall profits” currently being made via generic discounts.

To address this, the report suggests expanding the range of services that pharmacists can provide to give them new income sources, as well as “direct, transparent subsidies to community pharmacies in locations where viability may be an issue, or taking steps to make the sector more competitive and efficient.”

The Pharmacy Guild responded to the report by saying that it has consistently supported cheaper medicines, “as long as it is ensured that Australia’s 5,350 pharmacies are properly remunerated.

“This is clearly not happening under the current regime, with the Guild estimating that up to 40% of pharmacies will be unviable or only marginally viable next financial year.

“While the Guild will continue to support taxpayers getting value for money from off-patent medicines, this cannot be at the expense of local small businesses jobs, and services,” said the Guild.

GSK Panadol recall

GLAXOSMITHKLINE this morning announced the immediate recall of two batches of Children’s Panadol 1-5 years Suspension from pharmacies and hospitals.

The trade-level recall of Strawberry/200mL (batch number JR130869) and Orange/100mL (batch JR130697) is due to routine testing which identified “out of specification results” showing a higher amount of paracetamol than on the label.

The increase doesn’t pose an immediate risk to children when used as directed, and on this basis GSK in consultation with the TGA determined that a consumer level recall of the batches is not needed.

OxyELITE Pro alert

THE TGA has warned that OxyELITE Pro capsules contain the prohibited substance yohimbine (*PD* 12 July), and are also being recalled by the FDA in the USA.

Universal PCEHR - CHF

THE Consumers Health Forum (CHF) is calling upon the federal government to adopt a more proactive stance with relation to the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record, suggesting an ‘opt-out’ model as opposed to the current voluntary sign-up.

Spokesman Mark Metherell said the current voluntary arrangement is failing to gain momentum, with “more proactive measures needed” to ensure the system shares IT benefits “now routine elsewhere”.



DISPENSARY CORNER

SCIENTISTS in the UK have found a great new use for one of the world’s favourite vegetables, just in time for the festive season.

They’ve created the worlds first ever Brussels sprouts-powered battery, and are using the energy created to light up a Christmas tree.

Electrodes made of copper and zinc were placed into each Brussels sprout, with the resulting chemical reaction generating enough current to power 100 high-efficiency LEDs.

The Sprout Battery was created as part of a science fair “to show sprout-haters an alternative way to enjoy the vegetable”.

BODY piercings have been used as a breakthrough for disabled people, with a US team harnessing them to control wheelchairs and computers.

Researchers from the Georgia Institute of Technology have harnessed the “amazing deftness” of the tongue, by using a small magnet in a tongue piercing to activate sensors on the cheeks which in turn relay commands.

In a recent trial several quadriplegic patients were able to control equipment and undertake other tasks about three times as fast as other methods.

The breakthrough was popular with younger users, but several older people did not take part in the trial because they were reticent to have the piercing.

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