

Yervoy onto PBS

BRISTOL-MYERS Squibb yesterday confirmed that its Yervoy (ipilimumab) will be listed on the PBS from 01 Aug for the treatment of patients with advanced melanoma, with the company saying the medication is "one of the most significant treatment advances for advanced melanoma in many years".

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Another GSK dosing denial

GLAXOSMITHKLINE'S Children's Panadol 1-5 years suspension remains in limbo, after the Federal Court this week granted another temporary injunction against an alternative dosing system.

GSK was forced to remove the product from pharmacy shelves some weeks ago, after rival Reckitt Benckiser brought a case against the company alleging that the syringe-based dispenser used on

the Panadol product infringed a patent on RB's dosing system for Nurofen for Children (**PD** 07 Jun).

In this latest development, a decision rendered on Wednesday granted the injunction against an alternative syringe-based dosing device for use with the new Children's Panadol 1-5 years.

GSK said it's now "considering its options" pending final court hearings over the matters.

The company noted that the legal proceedings relate only to the new Children's Panadol 1-5 years suspension, with Children's Panadol Baby Drops, Children's Panadol 5-12 years Elixir and the new Children's Panadol 5-12 years suspensions not impacted.

GSK reassured customers that there is no safety risk associated with the new Children's Panadol range, adding that it's "using its best endeavours to ensure Children's Panadol 1-5 years suspension product will be available to customers as soon as possible".

Pharmacy graduates

ALMOST 98% of bachelor graduates in pharmacy who are available for full-time work have jobs, according to the latest report from Graduate Careers Australia.

The survey of recent graduates also revealed that the median salary for bachelor pharmacists was \$36,000, and that almost two thirds of pharmacy graduates are female.

Interestingly, the median starting salary for pharmacists was significantly lower than the \$50,000 reported by graduates across all fields of education.

Graduate Careers Australia's annual Graduate Survey is a national census of newly qualified higher education graduates and is conducted about four months after graduation.

Overall 86% of bachelor graduates in the field of pharmacy were available for full-time work after graduation, with another 8% in full-time study, 3.7% working part time or casually, and 2% unavailable for full-time study or work.

The median age for Pharmacy graduates was 22 years.

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AMA continues authority script push

THE Australian Medical Association is continuing its long-running campaign against the PBS Authority system, with president Steve Hambleton saying yesterday that government red tape is a "huge burden on family doctors and medical practices".

In a statement issued as part of the AMA's 'Family Doctor Week', Hambleton cited a recent survey which found that 17% of doctors seeking permission for scripts reported spending ten minutes or more per day waiting for calls to be answered by "Human Services Department bureaucrats".

"There is no justification, on clinical or economic grounds, for this red tape...the Productivity Commission has identified the PBS authority system as an unnecessary burden for GPs and has recommended it be removed".

Hambleton said that the time doctors waste getting authority to prescribe medications equates to over 25,000 consultations monthly.

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Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

24th July: eHealth for Pharmacists, Sydney North Shore and Beaches Medicare Local, St Leonards; contact Lydia Shum on (02) 9432 8215

2 Aug: Jeans for Genes day; more info at: jeansforgenes.org.au

10-14 Aug: Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business 2013, Mt Buller Vic - more info at www.medici.com.au.

04-07 Sep: Navigating the Future - Pharmacy 2013: The Pharmacy Management Conference; Sheraton Mirage, Port Douglas; More details at: pharmacyconference.com.au.

14-15 Sep: PharmacyLIVE 2013; Novotel, Sydney Olympic Park - see www.psa.org.au

17 Sep, 19 Sep: Pharmaceutical Law Summit, Melbourne (17 Sep), Sydney (19 Sep), for info see www.avededge.com.

19-22 Sep: Medicines Management 2013, the 39th SHPA National Conference, Cairns Convention Centre - www.mm2013shpa.com.

20-22 Sep: Pharmacy Business Network, Canberra; see pharmacybusinessnetwork.com

Diabetes costs \$1.5 billion

SPENDING on diabetes in Australia soared 86% between 2000/01 and 2008/09, according to a report released this week by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

After adjusting for inflation this figure compared with a rise of 60% for all diseases combined.

Diabetes Expenditure in Australia 2008-09 says that total allocated health-care spending on diabetes was about \$1.5 billion, or 2.3% of the national health-care costs.

For hospital admitted patient services the spending was "conservatively estimated" to be about \$647 million, while spending on out-of-hospital medical expenses amounted to \$362 million and for blood-glucose-lowering medications the figure was \$498m.

Spending growth was fastest for patients admitted to hospital, with this figure more than doubling over the eight year period.

\$8m PCEHR funding

HEALTH minister Tanya Plibersek has announced \$8 million in government funding for the upgrade of medical software to enable the addition of diagnostic imaging reports and pathology results to the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record system.

Describing the move as a "landmark next step" in the eHealth system, Plibersek said both doctors and patients will find the new functionality useful, reducing the need to chase down results or order duplicate tests.

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A BRITISH woman who returned from holiday in Peru with "scratching noises" inside her head was eventually diagnosed with having flesh-eating maggots living in her ear.

27 year-old Rochelle Harris said she recalled removing a fly from her ear while in South America, but thought nothing of it until she began hearing the funny noises on her return.

According to *Reuters* other symptoms included headaches and pains down one side of her face, and one morning she woke up with liquid on her pillow.

She visited the doctor, who examined her ear and noticed the insect larvae "writhing" in a small hole in her ear canal.

An attempt to flush the beasties out using olive oil failed, but after surgery eight maggots were successfully removed, with subsequent analysis revealing that a New World Army Screw Worm fly had laid eggs in her ear.

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Nature's Own Bears it all

LAUNCH events for the new look Nature's Own have seen more than 700 pharmacists, pharmacy assistants and industry stakeholders celebrate in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne this month.

Attendees learned about the new product packaging, the popular shopper units and were introduced to the new Bear Grylls promotional campaign (**PD 28 Jun**), which "brings to life what the brand stands for - experts in science and nature".

Sanofi Consumer Healthcare head of sales, Simon Morriss, thanked the pharmacy industry for its ongoing support, saying that customer response to the Nature's Own transformation had been "phenomenal".

These pictures were taken at the Nature's Own launch events.

RIGHT: Simon Martin and Simon Morriss, Nature's Own with Travis Hughes from My Chemist, with Bear in the background.

BELOW: Tim Swan, National Sales manager with Paul Shauman, Blooms.



LEFT: Alyce Heffernan, Paul Shauman, Emma Begley and Sara Hart from Blooms.

BELOW: Really putting the boot in are Emma Jacklin, Brodie Elliot, Brianna Falchi, Chantal Fuller, Lara Keany and Cassie Elvy.



RIGHT:
Vince
Cataldo,
Ralph
Marase
and Kelly
Cooper.



LEFT:
Simon
Morriss,
Head of
Sales; Helen
Sandercock;
Slagana
Zugic,
and Jane
Berkery,
National
Business
Manager.



RIGHT: Simon Morriss, Sanofi with Dr Deon Schoombie from ASMI and Mike Abbott.