NEHTA future focus

THE National E-Health Transition Authority plans to focus during 2013-2014 on increasing hospital uploads of discharge summaries, outpatient medication records and preparing for the implementation of medication terminology products within public hospitals.

The NEHTA has released its 2012-2013 annual report claiming over 908,000 people have now registered for an eHealth record. There are also 5,360 healthcare organisations and 7,766 individual providers (HPI-Is).

The system allows HCP’s to access key information such as clinically important, time-saving information such as current medications, details of allergies and previous adverse reactions to treatment. Additionally, thirty software vendors have been authorised to access the data from the system.

14 of these represent clinical information systems used by GPs, eight are systems used in hospitals, five in aged care, two are systems used in information systems used by GPs, and one is a Shared Health Product across a number of settings.

Federal health minister Peter Dutton has just announced a review is a Shared Health Product across a number of settings. The NEHTA has released its PD-400 PassPort Photo solution.

Recent Figures

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Board lays out ’13/14 plans

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia will offer policies and guidelines relating to “pharmacist prescribing,” “vaccination by pharmacists” and “advanced practice by pharmacists” in the next 12 months, according to details revealed in its Health Profession Agreement with the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Authority.

Released yesterday, the agreement lays out how the Board and AHPRA work in partnership to implement the national registration scheme for pharmacists.

“Publishing the agreement demonstrates our commitment to transparency and accountability,” said Pharmacy Board Chair, Associate Prof Stephen Marty.

“We are responsible for using practitioners’ registration fees wisely...the Board is pleased to provide more detailed information about how registration fees are allocated to regulate the profession in Australia,” he said.

Figures in the agreement show the Pharmacy Board will have a total income of $8.67 million - $7m from registration fees plus income from application charges & interest. Expenses are budgeted at $9.45 million including $933,000 for board and committee expenses, $1m for legal costs and expert advice, and $6.59m allocated to indirect costs shared by the various National Boards such as staff, systems and infrastructure, with no cross-subsidisation between the various regulated professions.

One of the Board’s key strategic priorities is to “work toward nationally consistent practice by pharmacists,” and as well as the prescribing, vaccination and advanced practice guideline development there’s also a planned paper on the “possible regulation of pharmacy assistants/technicians”.

The Board also plans to contribute to harmonisation of state and territory drugs and poisons legislation, while the agreement also reveals that AHPRA is considering a proposal for a centralised CPD recording platform.

Coralan on PBS 01 Dec

CORALAN (ivabradine), a medication from a novel class of therapy for heart failure (selective sinus node inhibitors) shown to significantly reduce the risk of cardiovascular death and hospitalisation due to worsening heart failure, will become available on the PBS 01 Dec.

Coralan will be reimbursed for the treatment of symptomatic moderate to severe chronic heart failure in patients with a resting heart rate of 77 beats per minute (bpm) or more.

“Coralan is one of the very few therapies shown to significantly improve both survival and quality of life in this patient group,” said Professor Henry Krum, Director of Monash University’s Centre for Cardiovascular Research and Education in Therapeutics.
Govt scraps CPD tax cap

PHARMACY organisations are hailing yesterday’s decision by federal treasurer Joe Hockey to scrap the proposed cap on tax deductibility for self-education expenses (PD breaking news).

Macutec ruling

THE TGA has published the outcome of a decision relating to the promotion of a product called Macutec by Stiltec Pty Ltd. In Aug the TGA delegate of the Secretary made an order about ads on the macutec.com.au website which found that it breached the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code, carrying incorrect and unbalanced claims and inappropriately referred to serious medical conditions.

Stiltec was ordered to withdraw representations that Macutec protects against macular damage as well as publish a retraction.

The company has worked closely with the TGA to ensure full compliance with the orders, with the website “considered to be compliant with the order including the publication of the retraction” as at 26 Sep 2013.

Smoking conference

THE University of Sydney is today hosting the inaugural Australian Smoking Cessation Conference.

The 06-08 Nov event will cover a range of topics relating to smoking including myths and barriers with mental illness, pregnancy, adolescent cessation programs, Indigenous communities, genetics and pharmacogenetics, and nicotine replacement therapy.

Dispensary Corner

THIS is a great way to destresssss. A spa in Bali is offering special massage techniques utilising live snakes.

The Bali Heritage Reflexology and Spa centre has five 1.8m long pythons, which slither over the skin of visitors instead of the hands of masseurs.

The snake massage is done under close supervision, with two attendants in place to ensure safety and encourage the reptiles to move around rather than just coil up and stay in one spot.

The spa insists that the snakes also have their mouths taped shut just in case, and says that the creatures are very well treated, being fed a diet of live rabbits.

“We don’t treat them like workers, we treat them like our friends or family,” said spa general manager Paulus Abraham.

“We kiss them, we hug them, we take good care of them”.

A THIEF in the US has left a fairly big clue to his identity after allegedly stealing some copper wire from a truck in Arizona.

Investigating officers found that the spool of wire had been pulled out from the truck, with what appeared to be a human finger entangled in the remains.

Forensic technicians were able to extract the fingerprint and match it to a 29-year-old man whose details were in the system.

The miscreant claimed he lost the finger while working on a car but police are fairly certain of a conviction given that he only has nine digits left.

Pharmacy Daily is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a copy of 'Australian Law and Practice 2nd Edition' valued at $89.95.

'Australian Pharmacy Law and Practice 2E' by Laetitia Hattingh, John Low and Kim Forrester is the key law and ethics resource. Including a wealth of new content, all chapters are mapped to the National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists 2010. A must-have resource for every Australian pharmacist.

To win, be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What are the Titles of Chapter 3 and Chapter 4?

Hint! Visit www.elsevierhealth.com

Congratulations to yesterday’s lucky winner, Susan Cheng from MIMS.

The correct answer was Pharmacy Practice Development.