

## Transition of care role

IN a presentation at the 2014 American Pharmacists Association annual meeting in Orlando, Stephanie Kleyman, PharmD, spoke about opportunities for pharmacists in transitions of care, highlighting that of the 1.5m medication errors that harm patients each year, approximately 60% occur during transitions of care.

*Drug Topics* reported on the congress saying that the National Transitions of Care Coalition, created in 2006 by a variety of healthcare experts, has focused on identifying challenges of transitions in care and finding possible solutions.

"One of its seven position statements specifically says to 'Expand the role of the pharmacists in respect to medication reconciliation,'" said Kleyman in her presentation.



## PHARMACY PRACTICE INCENTIVES (PPI)

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[5cpa.com.au](http://5cpa.com.au)



Funded by the Australian Department of Health as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

## 'Partner of Choice' vision

**SIGMA** has expanded on its vision for the future of the Australian pharmacy sector, with its 2013-2014 Annual Review released on Friday (PD 28 Mar) presenting its push to be 'Australia's Partner of Choice for health, beauty and wellbeing'.

The report follows the release of Sigma's full year results last week, with md Mark Hooper saying Sigma's strategy has been to invest in improving its core business to assist pharmacy customers "to cope with the ongoing impacts of Federal Government PBS price disclosure reform."

He said this would ultimately place Sigma in a better position to grow the Group's future earnings for shareholders.

Specifically, the company has reinvested in improving operational capabilities in areas such as the retail offer, supply chain and service delivery, with a structured Professional Services model, extended exclusive labelled products offering and introducing a multi-channel platform.

The report also warns of the potential impact of changes to the competitive landscape, with "the possibility of competition for wholesale services, via suppliers choosing to bypass the existing wholesale network."

Sigma said that although no other supplier has chosen to follow the Pfizer Direct model, the group "continues to focus on its supplier relationships and maintains a regular engagement program with all key suppliers."

The report also confirms that the Central Healthcare acquisition (PD 27 Mar) will generate about \$3.5 million in earnings for the company.

However at this stage, Sigma is unable to quantify or disclose the fair value of all the identifiable assets and liabilities of CHS "due to the proximity of the acquisition date to the reporting date."

**MEANWHILE** the Sigma annual report also reveals details of remuneration to senior executives, with Hooper's total package worth \$2.5m in 2013/14 including a \$1.196m base salary, a \$53,000 bonus and share-based payments worth another \$1.2m.

That was down on his prior year package of \$2.79m, which included a \$485,000 bonus.

## Pharmacoeconomics

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is partnering with Novartis to provide a pharmacoeconomics study grant worth \$25,000.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

## Tampon counselling

**CAREFREE** has published information for pharmacists and assistants about tampon education.

The publication follows a survey which found 68% of women believed they couldn't wear a tampon while sleeping and 47% thought they could be worn for up to four hours only.

To access the program **CLICK HERE**.

## back to school

Ensure your customers' kids head back to school feeling happy and healthy this year with the help of **Inner Health for Kids**.

If a child has been taking a course of antibiotics, **Inner Health for Kids** may assist in maintaining the levels of normal healthy flora that may have been disrupted.

[www.innerhealth.com.au](http://www.innerhealth.com.au) Always read the label. Use only as directed.



## Pharmacists compliant

IN the recent National Return and Disposal of Unwanted Medicines (NatRUM) audit (PD 27 Mar), 98% of bins contained only medicines and all bins were free of intravenous cytotoxic medicines.

Of the 'inappropriate' items found in 2% of bins, these included stacks of Medicare information leaflets, an old version of sphygmomanometer and even packets of rice, Monash University Centre for Medicine Use and Safety lecturer Dr Phillip Bergen said.

Other items included invoices, men's razors and AA batteries, as well as a large number of plastic cups, which could have been from pharmacies supplying the methadone program, Bergen said.

"All in all we were pleasantly surprised with just how compliant pharmacists were.

"There was nothing in any of the bins that caused us any real concern."

Most bins that were excluded were due to containing too many loose tablets/caps, rather than any inappropriate items, he said, which meant it was not possible for the group to audit it in any meaningful way.

## Hydroxyethyl starch

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has published a safety advisory about hydroxyethyl starch, used in clinical situations and contained in two Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods listed products, Voluven and Volulyte.

The TGA said a safety review found an increased risk of mortality and need for dialysis when the medicine was used to treat patients with sepsis.

The TGA said it had worked with sponsor Fresenius Kabi to update the product information for the medicines, including new contraindications for patients with sepsis and severe liver disease, as well as updated information in the precautions, dosage and administration sections.

These updates were sufficient to mitigate identified risks, the TGA said - to read more, **CLICK HERE**.

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**GOOD PRICE PHARMACY WAREHOUSE**

## Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Dr Joseph A. Nicolazzo**,

**PhD - Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Monash University.**

### World's Top Pharmaceutical Scientists to Melbourne

**OVER** 900 of the world's top Pharmaceutical Scientists will converge in Melbourne this month to attend the 5th annual Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress, the largest Pharmaceutical Science congress in the Southern Hemisphere.

Focusing on the theme of 'The rise of a new era in healthcare', the session topics will feature breakthrough technologies and treatments, emerging markets, the power of the information age and societal needs and demands.

These sessions will be complemented by debates, posters and many opportunities to network with fellow scientists, researchers, industry representatives & students.

The congress will also help develop a new generation of pharmaceutical scientists with a student focussed symposium hosted by Monash University's Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences the weekend before the conference.

This free symposium is centred on the theme 'a vision for young pharmaceutical scientists'. Speakers include leading pharmaceutical scientists, as well as leaders of professional bodies such as the International Pharmacy Federation, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists and the European Federation for Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Simultaneously, up to 30 Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science luminaries will also gather at the Parkville campus for a symposium aimed at shaping the future of pharmacy education, before a social cocktail event will be held at the campus providing students with an opportunity to network with the world's best in pharmaceutical science education and research.



## Comp med compliance

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) sent 62 proposals to cancel a complementary medicine product in 2013.

The organisation performed 249 random and targeted reviews from September 2012 to December 2013, with 145 completed last year.

Issues found in 2013 included 21 cases where there was inadequate evidence to substantiate claims, 71 where there were issues with labelling or advertising, and eight where there were issues with formulation, manufacturing or quality.

In total, 31% of reviews showed no breaches of regulatory requirements.

The TGA cancelled 17 products and sponsors cancelled 16 in response to a notice in 2013.

The TGA received 129 recommendations from the Complaints Resolution Panel about advertising from 01 Nov 2010 to 31 Mar 2014, with 78 cases showing compliance without any order being made and 30 prompting orders to address breaches in advertising legislation.

To read more, **CLICK HERE**.

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## Letter to the editor

**THE** article about Guild research into the employment intentions of 944 pharmacies (**PD** 03 Apr) has prompted Joe Lamhut, managing director of Walker Wayland Health, to write the following:

*The article is disturbing for a number of reasons:*

*Does it mean that the positivity displayed by many at the recent APP conference is not so?*

*Does it mean that most Pharmacy owners' strategy for combatting the financial affects of Price Disclosure is to reduce staff numbers?*

*Does it mean that most Pharmacy owners are not planning to increase turnover and margins in non-PBS areas?*

*Does it mean that most Pharmacy owners are not planning to improve their service offering by allowing the pharmacist to move away from the dispensary and consult with their customers?*

*Does it mean that most Pharmacy owners do not plan to introduce new income streams and charge for services (just like every other professional)?*

*Does it mean that most Pharmacy owners are not going to use*

*technology to make their business more efficient, and to be able to connect with customers more readily?*

*Does it mean that most Pharmacy owners are not using Pharmacy specialists for advice?*

*Does it mean that the 944 pharmacies surveyed are a true reflection of what is going to happen?*

*To all of the above; I hope not!*

We welcome any comments - if you would like to weigh in on this or other subjects, email us at [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**WHY** don't pharmacies sell this?

Almost the opposite of a pharmacy, Hoxton Monster Supplies ([www.monstersupplies.org](http://www.monstersupplies.org)) sells items which could inspire ill health, such as cans of 'A Vague Sense of Unease', tins of 'The Collywobbles' and a dollop of 'Escalating Panic' for £8 each.

The shop is an outpost of the Ministry of Stories, a creative writing and mentoring

centre for young people in East London, and never fear - opening the cans won't actually see you overcome with Mortal Terror (also on sale) but will actually reveal a story written by various authors, including Ministry founder and 'About a Boy' writer, Nick Hornby (apothecary of The Collywobbles tin) and some lollies for good measure.

The Ministry runs creative writing workshops for those aged 8 to 18 years old to build self respect and communication.

To find it, you have to go through the shop, which also sells Impacted Earwax bars, Bah! Humbugs and Salt (made from tears of sorrow).



## WIN JOHN PLUNKETTS ECZEMA CREAM



This week **Pharmacy Daily** has teamed up with **Plunketts** and every day is giving one lucky reader the chance to win John Plunkett's Eczema Cream, valued at \$29.95.

John Plunkett's Eczema Cream is specially formulated for flare-ups. It is more than just a moisturiser as it contains up to 10 times more active ingredients mg/gram than most other Eczema Creams. The Natural Actives include

Chamomile, Aloe Vera, Omega 3 & 6, Urea & Allantoin, Colloidal Oatmeal, Avocado and Rosehip Oil. The cream absorbs easily and is pleasant to use. It quickly heals broken skin without stinging and is suitable for wet and dry eczema and for both children and adults.

To win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

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

**What is the benefit of Matricaria Chamomilla (Chamomile) in John Plunkett Eczema Cream?**