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Fiona Mann, Mannum Chemplux



Pharmacy Accredited A103FMRC1 This course has been accredited for 28 group 2 CPD credits and 10 group 1 CPD credits for inclusion on a pharmacist's CPD Record. Participants can convert the 10 group 1 CPD credits into 20 group 2 CPD credits by completing an optional assessment within 3 months.

## Indicative pricing

**INDICATIVE** 01 Oct 2014 prices resulting from the 2014 October Cycle of Price Disclosure have now been published on the Price Disclosure (SPD) page - [CLICK HERE](#).

The Department of Health has posted links to spreadsheets and PDFs of the spreadsheets setting out indicative price disclosure related price changes effective on the specified reduction day.

Medicines in the cycle that are not taking a reduction are not included in the spreadsheet.

The data summarises the legal brand name of the product taking a reduction, ex-manufacturer pricing, dispensed price for maximum quantities (DPMQ), manufacturer's claimed prices and resulting premium and the trade product pack.

Additional reference documents are also found on the website.

## HIV end by 2020

**AUSTRALIAN** Health Ministers have vowed to work together to eliminate new Australian HIV transmissions by the end of 2020.

This follows the United Nations AIDS Program Coordinating Board's call for an end to the AIDS epidemic by 2030 (**PD** 18 Jul).

The AIDS 2014 Legacy Statement was agreed in June by all Health Ministers and published on the first day of the 20th International AIDS Conference in Melbourne.

The opening ceremony honoured those delegates who were on Malaysian Airlines flight MH17, including former president of the International AIDS Society Professor Joep Lange.

The Statement said Health Ministers from the Federal and eight state and territory governments would take "all necessary action, in partnerships with key affected communities and sector partners, to remove barriers to testing, treatment, prevention, care and support, across legal, regulatory, policy, social, political and economic domains."

A spokeswoman for the Federal

Department of Health said pharmacists were an important stakeholder in driving community education relating to the prevention and management of blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections.

"With the recent announcement to increase access to community based prescribing for HIV, it is anticipated that pharmacists will continue to be key avenue to helping Australia meet the challenges of HIV.

"The role of community dispensing will make a difference in improving access to the vital drugs and this is a key action as we step up the pace in our bid to eliminate transmission of HIV.

"From 1 July 2015, pharmacists can dispense HIV ART."

For the Statement, [CLICK HERE](#).

## HIV free generation

An editorial in the *MJA* said lowering the barriers to HIV testing and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee's removal of the need for a CD4 criterion to prescribe subsidised antiretroviral treatment were key steps towards a "test and treat" approach.

"An HIV-free generation is closer than ever before, and can be achieved through targeted campaigns, enhanced testing and treatment rollout.

"Simultaneously, ongoing research into vaccines and potential cures must continue, as chronic disease management is not the end goal."

## Guild pain materials

**ABOUT** 1.7m repeat script folders are due to be distributed to 1,700 NSW pharmacies, following the Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW branch's partnering with the state Ministry of Health and the Agency for Clinical Innovation Pain Management Network to advocate better pain management (**PD** 02 Apr) through the Pain Management Network website.

The site had practical advice and resources to manage pain and prevent escalation, and the folders provided a "unique opportunity" to send the pain management message into NSW homes, branch president Paul Sinclair said.

"Pharmacists can also use the website to access a toolkit including assessment and management tools, factsheets for patients and information of NSW Pain Clinics."

[CLICK HERE](#) for the site.

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## Iloprost for Raynaud's

**RGH** Pharmacy E-Bulletin this week discusses the use of iloprost (Bayer's Ventavis) in the treatment of Raynaud's phenomenon.

Iloprost is not currently registered with the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration and can only be accessed via category A Special Access Scheme.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the E-Bulletin.

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## World Brain day

**THE** World Federation of Neurology (WFN) has launched the world's first World Brain Day today, dedicated to bringing attention to the importance of brain health and the prevention of brain diseases.

WFN said brain disorders, made up of mental, neurological and substance-use conditions, comprised 13% of the global burden of disease.

World Brain Day was intended to be a wake-up call to decision makers to put neurological conditions on the health agenda, WFN president Dr Raad Shakir said. For more, [CLICK HERE](#).

## 'omics' test principles

**THE** National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has released a new draft framework to guide development and application of 'omics'-based tests, including transcriptomics, metabolomics, epigenomics and proteomics, with a focus on genomic testing, open for public consultation.

NHMRC ceo Professor Warwick Anderson said 'omics'-based technology could deliver more effective and better targeted treatments and improve screening for genetic disorder.

"It is timely for Australia to agree to adopt principles to protect interests of consumers and to ensure research integrity."

To submit, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Inhalers stunt growth

**ASTHMA** inhalers can stunt the growth of children, new research has indicated.

While the study revealed that up to half a centimetre of growth could be lost by children who regularly used corticosteroid inhalers, respiratory experts have said that on balance, the loss is a small price to pay for protection against potentially lethal asthma attacks.

Published in the Cochrane Library, the paper looked at the annual average growth rate in 25 trials involving 8,741 children and teenagers to 18 years of age and a second group of 22 trials where lower dose corticosteroids were used - [CLICK HERE](#) to access.

## Sigma backs local pharmacy

**COMMUNITY** pharmacy is a critical third pillar of primary healthcare for all Australians alongside GPs and hospitals, Sigma Pharmaceuticals has said in its submission to the Competition Policy Review.

Other key points of the Sigma submission were to emphasise that the existing structure had "delivered a world class leading healthcare system" worth preserving and that the current community pharmacy model met the Government objectives in the National Medicines Policy whilst continuing to meet the increasing healthcare needs of the community.

The submission also argued that there was already significant competition at play in the sector and across other sectors of retail and in the case of pharmacy there existed a "healthy balance between competition, service and advice within a professional, accessible and trusted healthcare setting,"

## Nasonex now as an S2

**MSD** in Australia has announced that the new Nasonex Allergy Nasal Spray (mometasone furoate) for limited Allergic Rhinitis (AR), is available over the counter as a Schedule 2 (S2) medicine from mid-July.

The product has an identical formulation to the prescription Nasonex, with 50 µg per actuation.

Dosage instructions are also identical for the same AR patients for whom they are indicated.

similar to Symbion's submission (PD 15 Jul).

The existing model ensured that the quality of medicines in Australia were provided under regulated guidelines, Sigma said.

Wholesalers continued to invest heavily to provide quality, safe and secure access to medicines throughout Australia, it said.

## Drawbridge patents

**DRAWBRIDGE** Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd said divisional patents have been granted in Australia and UK in relation to a variety of neuroactive steroid anaesthetic/sedative compounds.

These patents extended the coverage to the use of a larger group of neuroactive steroids and preparations for sedation and anaesthesia in critical care situations, Drawbridge said.

## Progen patent

**THE** European Patent Office has issued an Intention to Grant for Progen Pharmaceuticals Ltd's patent application for 'Sulfated Oligosaccharide Derivatives' No. 05706346.3, which protects the company's PG500 series of heparan sulfate mimetic molecules and their use in therapeutic areas largely related to oncology, Progen said.

The lead compound in the series was being tested in an open-label, multi-centre Phase I study to test the safety and tolerability by intravenous infusion in patients with advanced solid tumours.

## NAPSA charity record



**THE** National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) is looking to maintain its success during the Charity Cup by raising more than \$30,000 next year.

This follows the Associations' exceeding the fundraising record for the annual campaign by almost 50% this year.

Outgoing Pharmacy Awareness Committee chair Lauren Haworth said the Cup events had raised \$30,738 over a six week period in April and May this year, compared with \$21,598 the previous year.

Since the Cup's beginning, the amount raised had increased every year with the goal for next year being to maintain the over \$30,000 mark as well as get both new branches from University of Newcastle and the University of Technology Sydney involved, she said.

Funds raised go to the James Macready-Bryan (JMB) Foundation which supports the rehabilitation and care of young Australians suffering from acquired brain injuries.

Fundraising efforts included a Zombie Walk, BBQ battle nights and paintball excursions.

Griffith University students received an Innovation Award for their fundraising efforts, which included a onesie movie night, a sponsored social media ban and a 'Top 100 Drugs' Lotto, Haworth said.

Students were encouraged to use social media to spread awareness throughout the campaign, reaching more than 30,000 people, NAPSA said.

**Pictured** from left are Benjamin Johns (NAPSA Pharmacy Awareness Chair), Helen Sykes (JMB Representative) and Lauren Haworth.

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## Pop-up clinic-in-a-box

**IMPERIAL** Health Sciences revealed what it is calling the world's first 'pop-up' clinic for treating AIDS and HIV patients to mark the start of the AIDS 2014 conference in Melbourne.

'Clinic-in-a-Box' is used in the prevention and treatment of the virus across 35 countries in Africa; the clinics took less than three days to assemble, were staffed by qualified nurses and were equipped with a range of pharmaceuticals for the treatment of AIDS and HIV as well as other over-the-counter medications such as aspirin and cold and flu tablets, the company said.

## Guild Update

A RECENT report on the prevalence of stroke in Australia is a matter of concern to all health professionals, and highlights the important role that can be played by the network of community pharmacies.

The impact of stroke across the Australian landscape, its cities and towns has been mapped by the National Stroke Foundation. The Stroke in Australia: No postcode untouched report and website uses data compiled and analysed by Deloitte Access Economics to reveal just how big the stroke challenge is in each Australian federal electorate. This data includes estimates of the number of strokes, survivors and the death rate.

All patients affected by stroke or at risk of stroke can access a highly trained health professional through community pharmacies - for medication management services to improve adherence, preventive medicines such as cholesterol lowering drugs, as well as medicines to treat stroke once it has occurred. Pharmacy also assists in the areas of education and advice around modifiable risk factors such as obesity, smoking and alcohol intake. We can also assist in raising awareness of early warning signs of stroke, screening and health check services. **CLICK HERE** for the report.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

## Pharmacy in AB resistance

**PHARMACISTS** can play a significant role in helping combat antibiotic resistance through their activity in aged care facilities, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has said.

This follows research published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* which showed residential aged care facilities (RACFs) needed more pharmacy support, with antibiotic prescribing rarely reviewed.

Six out of 12 RACF did not have access to on-site antibiotics for after-hours use, which sometimes hindered timely administration.

Medication review for individual residents was only performed annually by consultant pharmacists through a scheduled residential medication management review.

Pharmacists themselves perceived major challenges in guiding antibiotic use, citing their off-site location, limited communication with GPs and lack of access to clinical notes - **CLICK HERE**.

## Starpharma cert

**STARPHARMA** has received Conformity Assessment Certification for its VivaGel condom from the TGA.

The product was licensed to Ansell, which planned to launch the brand in the coming months, Starpharma said.

## NICE widens statin use

**UPDATING** its 2006 guideline on lipid modification, the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has said that up to 8,000 lives could be saved every three years by offering statins to anyone with a 10% risk of developing cardiovascular disease (CVD) within a decade.

Spokespersons for the organisation have said the weight of evidence shows that statins are safe as well as clinically and cost effective "for use in people with a 10% risk of CVD over 10 years."

Under the lower threshold, up to 4.5m people could be eligible for statins and the policy could help to prevent up to 28,000 heart attacks and 16,000 strokes per year, it said.

PSA national president Grant Kardachi said in addition to Residential Medication Management Reviews, which provided limited opportunity due to the timeframes involved, pharmacists could provide remunerated Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) services which were a valuable support to nursing staff in the battle against antibiotic resistance.

"The QUM service provider must conduct at least one of the QUM services per quarter to be eligible for remuneration and this therefore provides great opportunity to supply ongoing education and other services to patients and staff.

"Nurses are pivotal to the fight against antibiotic resistance for patients in this setting.

"They also have a very important role in underpinning the education provided by pharmacists by reinforcing the messages about the appropriate use of antibiotics."

## Win a bottle of RosehipPLUS Rosehip Oil

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Name 3 uses of Rosehip Oil

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Shashi Roberts** from **APHS**



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**SCRIPT** for Mr Xxxxblorp?

The search for extraterrestrial life has spurred many conversations about possible alien physiology, anatomy and much more, but what about any medications they might need? Or the possibility of new medicines that might be needed should we catch an alien illness?

Such conversations may not seem so out of this world (we're here 'til Thursday, try the veal) given the news that a team of experts from NASA has said that finding out whether we're alone in the universe is within reach.

On its website, NASA talked about its technology roadmap to launch telescopes which can detect planets that orbit other stars and whether they are the right distance away from their sun to have liquid water.

And *Yahoo! News* reported that astronomer Kevin Hand said he believed in the next 20 years, humanity would find out whether alien life existed.

**ARACHNOPHOBIC** fail.

If a spider invades the pharmacy, here's a tip on how not to dispose of it.

A US man who found a hairy eight legged visitor in his laundry creatively used a can of spray paint and a lighter to fashion a blowtorch.

Result? One blackened spider, one significantly burnt house and a bill for over AUD\$70,000 as the arachnophobe blowtorched his prey up the wall and ceiling.

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