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eRx script exchange

Friday's Comp winner

FRIDAY'S lucky winner of the iWhite pack was **Michael Byrne** from Corum Health Services.

This week five readers will have the chance to win an Innoxia pack.

Liver injury from CMs

NEW research from a number of centres in the US and published in *Hepatology* has investigated the topic 'Liver injury from herbals and dietary supplements in the US Drug-Induced Liver Injury Network'.

According to the study, 20% of patients enrolled in the study between 2004 and 2013 developed hepatotoxicity from herbals and dietary supplements (HDS), up 7%.

Approximately a third (45) of instances were caused by body building HDS while 85 resulted from non body building HDS - [CLICK HERE](#).

WIN AN INNOXA PACK

This week **PD & Innoxia** are giving five readers the chance to win an Innoxia prize pack.



Innoxia has been caring for skin with dermatologically tested, cruelty free skincare ranges. The Restore Lift & Firm Primer provides hydration. The Pore Vanishing Crème is the perfect pick-me-up that minimises pores. For a mascara that lengthens and curls whilst conditioning, Lush Lashes Mascara is one to try. For those multi taskers, the 2 in 1 Liner and Eyeshadows are great for touch ups on the go.

Visit: www.innoxia.com.au

To win, be first to send the correct answer to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Where did Innoxia originate?

Still closing the gap

WHILE improvements in Indigenous life expectancy have been made, there is still a 10 year gap, a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) said.

The latest estimated life expectancy at birth for Indigenous males was 69.1 years and 73.7 years for females, 10.6 and 9.5 years lower than non-Indigenous males and females respectively.

The most significant contributing factor was chronic disease, with four groups of conditions accounting for more than two thirds of the gap, the report found.

Mortality rates dropped by 9%

Asthma: Take Control

CELEBRATING Asthma Awareness Week, Asthma Australia, the National Asthma Council of Australia and GSK have worked together to launch the 'Asthma: Take Control' campaign.

The educational campaign is urging people affected by asthma to commit to following the advice given by their healthcare professional to optimise outcomes.

NPS MedicineWise has provided updates online - [CLICK HERE](#).

between 2001 and 2012.

Assistant Minister for Health Fiona Nash said a significant journey remained to close the gap.

Indigenous Allied Health Australia chair and pharmacist Faye McMillan said pharmacists could do a number of things to help 'close the gap', including being aware of the way they asked questions of people who had 'CTG' on their script; a 'CTG' number was an internal pharmacy process which a client would not be aware of, so pharmacists needed to work with GPs and other healthcare disciplines to ensure the client did not feel like they had done something wrong for not knowing the number and did not feel their privacy was breached by bystanders knowing their situation.

Pharmacists could make a real difference by maintaining contact with the health system, providing positive health messages and helping a client be more informed about health, to aid adherence.

It was important to have culturally responsive pharmacies where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture was acknowledged as part of the community, she said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the report.



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Guild finance guides

THE Pharmacy Guild has released a Pharmacy Financial Health tool to help pharmacists calculate key values for pharmacy and benchmark them against the rest of the industry to see if results are above or below average.

The tool includes benchmarks above 85% for generic substitution rates ('Excellent'), below 28% for wages as a percentage of gross profit and above \$6.50 for net income per prescription.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Paul Rowe, Managing Director - The Business Squad**



The future of primary healthcare in Australia

YOU can't pick up a newspaper, turn on a radio or watch the TV without some level of discussion on primary healthcare in Australia. GP shortages, rising costs, PBS reforms and Medicare overhauls are all part of today's landscape.

So where does that leave Australia?

I believe there are two key areas that need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Pharmacists are highly trained and experienced primary healthcare providers located conveniently throughout regional and metro Australia and have a massive capacity to provide additional health services.

By encouraging expansion of the services offered by pharmacy, it will free up the time of the over-stretched GPs and allow them to complete higher level consultations.

We also need to continue to drive innovation whilst fine tuning the quality and availability of all healthcare solutions. The current tax incentives may not go far enough and the lines of communication between organisations such as Medicare, private health insurers, pharmacists, GPs and the like are blurred.

We must adopt a more divergent approach to the cost and provision of this essential health resource and start to think further outside the box.

Med stockpile tender

THE Department of Health has released requests for information regarding the capacity of industry to provide specialist influenza antiviral supply solutions for the National Medical Stockpile.

The tender, which comes following Budget reforms to the stockpile, also looks to find out a cost effective and risk appropriate means of securing these.

The Department said responses would be used to "shape and

influence influenza antivirals policy and stockpiling arrangements, including future procurement activities and priorities" and that it might conduct a request for tender for supply of influenza antivirals.

An RFI regarding mask supply has also been released.

CLICK HERE for more.

On patenting genetics

MEDICINES Australia (MA) has said the move by the Federal Court allowing for genetic material to be patented highlighted the importance of maintaining strong intellectual property laws.

MA ceo Dr Brendan Shaw said patents on biological agents such as isolated genetic materials were important because they ensured ongoing investment in developing "cutting-edge" medicines and diagnostic tests.

"More importantly, a strong patent system helps ensure Australians have access to the latest and most effective treatments as soon as they become available."

Robust intellectual property laws were critical to developing new medicines and vaccines in Australia, he said.

PBS lists Cimzia for AS

CIMZIA (certolizumab pegol) is available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for ankylosing spondylitis (AS) under specific conditions, effective from 01 Sep.

It is marketed by UCB Pharma in Australia.

PSA backs conference

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has said it welcomed the opportunity to discuss proposals exploring the consolidation of pharmacy conferences.

This follows ceo Dr Lance Emerson saying he was "up for a discussion" about the idea, floated by Patrick Reid in an open letter (**PD** 05 Sep).

Emerson said the PSA's concern focused more on providing the best quality education for pharmacists and ensuring educational needs were met.

Emerson said he had contacted Reid and other organisations seeking a meeting to discuss the issue.

To read the letter, **CLICK HERE**.

Veterans' Mates

THE Department of Veterans' Affairs have updated their Veterans' Mates site with Topic 39, 'The Anticholinergic Burden'.

CLICK HERE to access the update.

LASTING, NON-DROWSY ALLERGY CONTROL



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DISPENSARY CORNER

THERE goes that idea.

If you were contemplating delivery of meds to customers' homes via drone quadcopters (as so many pharmacists are!) it may require a rethink.

A drone pilot remotely observing a large woolly ram in a New Zealand paddock got so close that the disturbed animal head butted the drone to its demise in a nearby bush.

The video showed that the pilot, upon retrieving his drone, found he was also subject to the woolly monster's approbation.

The video has of course gone viral with more than 340,000 viewers, according to *Orange News* - **CLICK HERE** to watch.

FACE what?

Did you notice a sudden upswing in productivity at the pharmacy last Wednesday?

It may have been due to a Facebook blackout.

The social networking site only went down for 15 minutes, but users took to Twitter, using the hashtag #facebookdown.

The best have been collected by the *Telegraph* but **PD** found a few gems, including this one by @ejc:

"During the Facebook outage some people resorted to 'performing duties outlined in their job description'. Pray for them."

Then there's @elconndorpasa's "This is your moment, Google+."

Burnnnnn. (P.S. You can check out **PD's** G+ page **HERE**.)

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