

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a full page featuring the latest MIMS monthly update.

Turing retains pricing

TURING Pharmaceuticals, the company that drew widespread condemnation two months ago when it bought the toxoplasmosis drug pyrimethamine (Daraprim) and raised the price by over 5000%, has reneged on its promise to lower the drug's price by Christmas, instead choosing to drop the price charged to hospitals and enhancing support to disadvantaged patients.

New mums support

THIS week sees the roll-out of the 'Pregnancy, Birth and Baby' service, an Australian Government initiative, that offers a comprehensive package of support for parents of children aged 0-5.

The service offers "free, confidential and non-judgmental support from healthcare professionals to expectant parents and parents" who have children now aged up to five years (formerly only 0-12 months).

CLICK HERE to access the site.

National cannabis scheme

MINISTER for Health Sussan Ley has announced the establishment of a nationally-consistent licensing scheme regulating the controlled cultivation of cannabis for medicinal or scientific purposes that will streamline the process across the country.

With all regulatory matters relating to medicinal cannabis managed nationally, this removes the need for states and territories to implement legislation to set up individual cultivation schemes and ensure laws were consistent across the country for growers, Ley said.

"Allowing controlled cultivation locally will provide the critical "missing piece" for a sustainable legal supply of safe medicinal cannabis products for Australian patients in the future," she added.

"The ball is now rolling and we are making sure that happens as quickly and smoothly as possible.

"I am confident creating one single, nationally-consistent cultivation scheme, rather than eight individual arrangements, will not only help speed up the legislative process, but ultimately access to medicinal cannabis products as well."

The national legislation will be

enacted through amendments to Australia's Narcotic Drugs Act 1967 and this would also ensure Australia could be confident of its compliance with international obligations under the United Nations' Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961.

Bipartisan agreement will be sought from all parties starting this week with an exposure draft outlining the proposed legislative changes for further consultation.

Ley also said a national cultivation scheme would also align with the national approaches to the production and supply of medical cannabis that were already in place in Australia under various acts.

Any decriminalisation of cannabis for recreational use still remained an enforcement issue for individual states and territories, the minister added.

US has most diabetes

AMONG developed countries, the United States has the highest prevalence of diabetes at 11% of the population aged 20-79 years, according to data from the new International Diabetes Federation Diabetes Atlas, released at the World Diabetes Congress in Vancouver, Canada this week.

Singapore finished a close second to the USA (10.5%), followed by Malta (10%), Portugal (10%) and Cyprus (9.5%) in 3rd, 4th, and 5th place respectively.

Lowest rates were recorded by Lithuania, Estonia, and Ireland (all around 4%), followed by Sweden, Luxembourg, the UK, and Australia (all around 5%).

New Zealand scored 7% and host country Canada 9.5% compared to the world average at 8.8%.

CLICK HERE for more detail.

FIP 'green phcy' call

PHARMACISTS and scientists need to take the lead in reducing the environmental impact of medicines, the International Pharmaceutical Federation says.

The organisation has released a new reference document outlining the principles of "Green Pharmacy Practice" from research and development stages through to disposal processes.

The document is intended to raise awareness among pharmacists.

CLICK HERE to access the paper.

TGA tests PPI CV risk

THE TGA has conducted an evaluation of cardiovascular disease risk associated with the use of proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) after two independent studies found a positive correlation.

The TGA said neither study was designed to address the possibility that PPI use was itself a marker of increased cardiovascular risk, as information on "significant baseline risk factors was not collected," and concluded that the studies did not demonstrate an increased cardiovascular risk for PPIs that was independent of the patient population in which they were being used.

The update was included in the latest Medicines Safety Update from the TGA which also looked at IUDs and uterine perforation, potential interactions between allopurinol and 6-mercaptopurine/azathioprine, plus peginterferon alfa-2a and facial palsy.

The TGA also yesterday advised that the product information for varenicline (Champix) has recently been updated with new safety information in relation to the risks of psychiatric symptoms and potential interaction with alcohol - for details see tga.gov.au.

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Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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Capitol Theatre accommodation deal

IF you are planning to see *The Sound of Music*, *Fiddler on the Roof* or any other show at the Capitol Theatre, Metro Hotel Marlow Sydney Central (located opposite the Theatre) is offering its Capitol Theatre Package for just \$165 per night including accommodation for two in a Superior Queen Room, hot buffet breakfasts and extended checkout to 12.00 noon.

Theatre tickets not included.

To book, call 1800 004 321 or see www.metrohotels.com.au.

Best Western 20% off summer sale

MAJOR Australasian and South Pacific hotel chain Best Western Hotels and Resorts is offering 20% discount on stays booked by 20 Dec for a minimum of two nights plus a gift bonus of 1000 Best Western Rewards points and a chance to win a 5 night stay at the Sunshine Coast's new Best Western Plus Oceanside Kawana Hotel.

The offer applies to stays until 29 Feb 2016, with rates starting at \$95 per night at Best Western Lazy Lizard Motor Inn in Port Douglas Queensland.

For more offers see the website at www.bestwestern.com.au.

DAA outsourcing possible

NEW Pharmacy Board of Australia guidelines for Dose Administration Aids have opened the way for third party packing of DAAs, according to EBOS offshoot DoseAid.

Effective from next Mon 07 Dec the revised guidelines clarify that it is the pharmacist's prerogative as to whether further checking of the DAA is required.

If using outsourced packing for DAAs the supplying pharmacist must "make an assessment of the measures, techniques and technology used by the packing pharmacist at the third party packing facility to check packed DAAs for accuracy, to determine whether additional checking of a DAA is required prior to its supply to a patient," the guidelines state.

There has been a perceived need

for DAAs to be checked upon their return to the pharmacy - an often laborious and costly task.

However DoseAid national manager Seth Grantley says under the clarified guidelines, pharmacists should have their minds eased with respect to re-checking - particularly if they partner with a TGA licensed operation that follows Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) standards and processes.

Additional 6CPA funding for DAAs and the revised guidelines have "reaffirmed the value of DoseAid's offering," said EBOS' Stuart Spencer, saying the business helps pharmacies form stronger relationships with their customers by providing a service that enhances medication adherence".

FDA nods Empliciti

EMPLICITI (elotuzumab) now has US FDA approval for use in combination with two other therapies to treat people with multiple myeloma.

The FDA granted breakthrough therapy designation for the product as well as priority review and orphan drug designations.

New BI bronchodilator

BOEHRINGER Ingelheim (BI) has announced the 01 Dec funding of the first tiotropium-based combination therapy on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for the treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Spiolto Respiat combines 5µg of tiotropium and 5µg of olodaterol in the Respiat Soft Mist inhaler.



DISPENSARY CORNER

SMILE like a crocodile.

While you never want to find yourself on the pointy end of them, crocodile teeth have another use in the health education arena.

Queensland Health staff in the Torres Strait are using an innovative educational crocodile puppet named Bala to promote good dental hygiene among children in the region.

Bala the toothy crocodile (pictured below with friends) and his puppet colleagues Totol the turtle, the leopard shark Twins and Sugu the wise elder octopus set about teaching children how to brush their teeth correctly and maintain good dental hygiene.



FLATULENT foods are fabulous!

Or so our esteemed CSIRO tells us, explaining that the production of gas means that your body is hosting the right kinds of bacteria.

To encourage these 'good' bugs - known as our microbiome - we need to eat fibre, said CSIRO Food and Nutrition Head of the Gut Health and Nutrition Group, Dr Trevor Lockett.

"Fermentable components of dietary fibre have a critical role in feeding the gut microbiome.

"This part of fibre is fermented mostly to short chain fatty acids, a process which creates gas."

Lockett was presenting to colleagues at the 2015 National Scientific Conference of the Australian Society for Medical Research held in Adelaide, South Australia last week.

Win with NS-8

This week Pharmacy Daily and NS-8 are giving 2 readers the chance each day to win NS-8 Leg Care Cream and Heel Balm.

Your legs deserve some extra love - NS-8 Leg Care Cream restores dry legs, refreshes hot, tired legs and relieves heavy legs. The natural formula absorbs quickly and penetrates deeply to intensively moisturise your skin.

Enriched with Vitamins C, E and F to nourish your skin and Shea and Cocoa Butter to soften dry skin. Menthol cools and refreshes. Suitable for everyone and all skin types, perfect for those with diabetes. Proudly Australian made and owned.

To win, be one of the first two from SA or NT to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Is NS-8 Leg Care Cream suitable for diabetics?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Lorraine Brouard from Symbion.



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Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

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New Products

Carbaglu (carglumic acid)

is a structural analogue of N-acetylglutamate (NAG) and is indicated in the treatment of hyperammonaemia due to N-acetylglutamate synthase primary deficiency; hyperammonaemia due to organic acidaemias such as hyperammonaemia due to isovaleric acidaemia, methymalonic acidaemia, and propionic acidaemia. Breastfeeding during the use of carglumic acid is contraindicated. Carbaglu is available as 200 mg dispersible tablets in packs of 5's.

Disodium Edetate 3g + Sodium Ascorbate 5g in 50mL Solution (disodium edetate + sodium ascorbate) contains the chelating agent EDTA. Disodium edetate is indicated in low level lead accumulation, poisoning; hypercalcaemia; severe digitalis arrhythmia; radioactive metal elimination including calcium, strontium, radium, cobalt and the very toxic plutonium. It is contraindicated in inadequate renal function, active liver disease, history of tuberculosis, and hypocalcaemia. Intramuscular injection of disodium edetate is also contraindicated. Disodium Edetate 3g + Sodium Ascorbate 5g in 50mL Solution concentrate for infusion is available in packs of 1's.

Evotaz (atazanavir sulfate + cobicistat) is a fixed dose combination of the HIV-1 antiviral drug atazanavir sulfate boosted by the pharmacokinetic enhancer cobicistat. Evotaz is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults. Evotaz should not be used with medicinal products that are substrates of the CYP3A4 isoform of cytochrome P450 or are highly dependent on UGT1A1 for clearance and have narrow therapeutic windows. Coadministration of Evotaz with the following medicines is contraindicated due to the potential for serious and/or life-threatening events or loss of virological response and possible resistance: α_1 -adrenoreceptor antagonist alfuzosin; antiarrhythmics dronedarone, quinidine; antimycobacterials rifabutin, rifampicin, rifapentine; antineoplastic irinotecan; calcium channel blocker bepridil; ergot derivatives dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, methylergonovine; GI motility agent

cisapride; herbal product St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*); HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors lovastatin, simvastatin; neuroleptic pimozide; non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors nevirapine, efavirenz; PDE-5 inhibitors sildenafil and tadalafil for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension; orally administered sedative/hypnotics midazolam, triazolam; and β -agonist salmeterol. Evotaz is available as a fixed dose combination tablet containing 300 mg atazanavir as atazanavir sulfate and 150 mg cobicistat in packs of 30's.

Imbruvica (ibrutinib) is a small molecule inhibitor of Bruton's tyrosine kinase (BTK). Preclinical studies have shown that ibrutinib inhibits B cell proliferation and survival in vivo as well as cell migration and substrate adhesion in vitro. Imbruvica is indicated for the treatment of patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL)/ small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL) who have received at least one prior therapy or as first line in patients with CLL with 17p deletion, and in patients with mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) who have received at least one prior therapy. Use of preparations containing St. John's wort is contraindicated in patients treated with Imbruvica. Imbruvica is available as 140 mg tablets in packs of 90's and 120's.

ElELYso (taliglucerase alfa (rpc)) is a recombinant active form of the human lysosomal enzyme, β -glucocerebrosidase. ElELYso is indicated for long-term enzyme replacement therapy for adult and paediatric patients with a confirmed diagnosis of type 1 Gaucher disease associated with at least one of the following: splenomegaly, hepatomegaly, anaemia, thrombocytopenia. ElELYso is contraindicated in patients with severe allergic reactions to other similar glucocerebrosidase enzymes. ElELYso is available as a powder for intravenous infusion containing 200 units in packs of 1's.

Latuda (lurasidone hydrochloride) is an atypical antipsychotic belonging to the chemical class of benzisothiazol derivatives. It has antagonist activity on the dopamine 2 (D_2) and serotonin ($5HT_{2A}$) receptors. Latuda is indicated for the treatment of adults with schizophrenia. It is contraindicated with strong CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g. ketoconazole, clarithromycin,

ritonavir, and voriconazole) and strong CYP3A4 inducers (e.g. rifampicin, St. John's wort, phenytoin, and carbamazepine). Latuda is available as 40 mg and 80 mg tablets in packs of 30's.

Vimizim (elosulfase alfa (rch)) is a purified recombinant human N-acetylgalactosamine-6-sulfatase enzyme. Vimizim is indicated for the treatment of mucopolysaccharidosis type IVA (MPS IVA; Morquio A syndrome). Vimizim is available as a 5 mL concentrate for infusion delivering 5 mg elosulfase alfa in packs of 1's.

Restylane SubQ Lido (hyaluronic acid, lignocaine hydrochloride) is a sterile, transparent gel of stabilised hyaluronic acid of nonanimal origin with the addition of 0.3% lignocaine hydrochloride. Restylane SubQ Lido is a filler that adds volume to the tissue, thereby supporting the overlying (dermal) tissue to shape the contours of the face, to the desired level of correction. Restylane SubQ Lido is intended to be used for facial tissue augmentation. It is recommended to be used for shaping the contours of the face, e.g. more pronounced cheeks or chin. Restylane SubQ Lido should not be used in the following circumstances: patients with hypersensitivity to amide type local anaesthetics; intravascular injection; patients with bleeding disorders or in patients taking thrombolytics or anticoagulants; after resterilisation or mixing with other products prior to injection of the device; Restylane SubQ Lido is only intended for subcutaneous and/or supraperiosteal administration. Restylane SubQ Lido is available as an injectable gel (2 mL prefilled glass syringe) containing hyaluronic acid 20 mg/L, lignocaine hydrochloride 3 mg/mL.

Safety Related Changes

Eylea (aflibercept) is now also indicated in patients with visual impairment due to macular oedema secondary to branch retinal vein occlusion (BRVO).

Saizen (somatropin (rmc)) is now also indicated for growth disturbance (growth retardation) in prepubertal children due to chronic renal insufficiency (CRI).

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.