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## TGA software slide set

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has posted online a presentation on the regulation of software relating to medicines, biologicals, blood, tissues and devices.

The 43-slide set was presented on 27 May to the Medical Software Industry Association of Australia and the Medical Technology Association of Australia, and details how the TGA takes a systems approach to the regulation.

As well as covering the regulation of software for manufacturing and quality management systems the presentation explained the role of the TGA with relation to software with a therapeutic purpose, such as medical device software.

These include mobile phone (and smartwatch, smarteyewear etc) and tablet apps, desktop applications, software that runs in the cloud or on any other general purpose computing platform.

The TGA calls for rigorous reporting of adverse events associated with the use of software.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the slide set.

## Teenage drug abuse

**HIGH** school students in China engaged in non-medical use of prescription pain relievers (NMUPPR) were investigated in a study published in *BMJ Open*.

The research aimed to measure the prevalence differences between general high school (GHS) and vocational high school (VHS) students and related metrics.

The financial status of students was found to be directly correlated with higher drug abuse citing pain relievers as the most abused prescription drugs among teenagers, followed by stimulants, tranquillisers and sedatives.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full study.

## SHPA Choosing Wisely

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has announced that it is the first pharmacist member organisation to join the Choosing Wisely Australia initiative, coordinated by NPS MedicineWise.

The partnership is intended to support clinicians seeking to improve the quality of health care.

SHPA said it will be focusing on appropriate and high quality evidence-based use of medicines by reducing medical tests, treatments and procedures of proven low value.

NPS MedicineWise has published on its website lists of low value tests, treatments and procedures, developed by five specialist medical organisations, with the aim of generating conversations between clinicians and consumers about what is necessary and appropriate.

SHPA federal president Professor Michael Dooley will represent SHPA on the Choosing Wisely Australia Representative Panel.

Dooley said the SHPA will seek input from members to develop a series of evidence-based statements focusing on the use of medicines and the role of

pharmacists in supporting the quality use of medicines.

These statements will be released in the second Choosing Wisely launch, early in 2016.

"SHPA strongly supports evidence-based decision making so we are pleased to champion the recommendations made through Choosing Wisely Australia.

Dooley went on to say that reinforcing the evidence and improving the quality use of medicines is the cornerstone of pharmacy practice, particularly in hospitals.

"Four of the recent recommendations from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners relate to the use of medicines.

"This highlights the important role for pharmacists in supporting this initiative – in having the conversations with patients and with prescribers when evidence does not support the use of a medicine," he concluded.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the lists.

## Paracetamol dangers

**LIVER** toxicity is well understood with relation to paracetamol dosing and as long as the drug is used within recommended guidelines, the product has a well-known safety profile, Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) has repeatedly confirmed (*PD 26 Jun*) but a recent investigation in Canada revealed some variations.

The *Acetaminophen Report* is the most recent summary of the issue, acetaminophen being the US and Canadian name for paracetamol.

The summary stated that one in five of acetaminophen-related liver injuries reported to Canada Vigilance mentioned doses within the recommended range (i.e., less than 4 g per day).

[CLICK HERE](#) for the summary.

## AFT metoprolol win

**PHARMAC** has announced that it has awarded Sole Supply Status in the Community and Hospital Supply Status in DHB hospitals to AFT Pharmaceuticals Limited for its brand of metoprolol succinate.

## Homeopathy debate

**LONG** presumed dead by most evidence-oriented scientists (*PD 04 Jun*), the debate around the value of homeopathy has again been aired in the *BMJ*.

Peter Fisher, director of research, Royal London Hospital for Integrated Medicine, London argues the pro case while respected scientist Edzard Ernst, Emeritus Professor, University of Exeter clarifies why homeopathic remedies are not only a waste of money but may even cause harm.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the debate.

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## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**31 Jul-2 Aug:** PSA15; Sofitel Sydney Wentworth; visit: [www.psa.org.au/psa15](http://www.psa.org.au/psa15)

**5 Aug:** Cardiovascular Update: Dyslipidemia; St Leonards; visit: [www.guild.org.au](http://www.guild.org.au)

**7-8 Aug:** Critical Care Seminar (advanced); Rydges Sydney Central; further details at: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)

**8 Aug:** Provide First Aid; St George's Leagues Club; Kogarah; visit: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**15-16 Aug:** Medication Review Skills in Primary Care; Novotel Brisbane; more info at: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)

**15-19 Aug:** Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2015; more details at: [www.medici.com.au/event/pharmacy-snow-business](http://www.medici.com.au/event/pharmacy-snow-business)

**19 Aug:** Consumer-led Ideas for Better Primary Health Care forum; info and RSVP to [k.hollis@chf.org.au](mailto:k.hollis@chf.org.au)

**20-21 Aug:** Pharmacy WA Forum; Pan Pacific Perth; visit: [www.pharmacywa.com.au](http://www.pharmacywa.com.au)

**24 Aug:** Pharmacists in General Practice Forum; Sofitel Sydney Wentworth; details at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**25 Aug:** Australian Pharmacy Council 2015 Colloquium; Canberra; further details at: [www.pharmacycouncil.org.au](http://www.pharmacycouncil.org.au)

**26 Aug:** Cardiovascular Update: Atrial Fibrillation and Anticoagulants; St Leonards; visit: [www.guild.org.au](http://www.guild.org.au)

## Metformin indication

**ONE** of the most widely prescribed drugs in the management of diabetes type 2, metformin, has been shown in a study in the *American Journal of Physiology* to improve portal hypertension in cirrhotic animals after one week of treatment.

Although only demonstrated in rats at this stage the study opens the way for human studies.

The strongest effect was evident when metformin was added to a standard antihypertensive, beta-blocker propranolol, when portal hypertension in cirrhotic rats was reduced by more than 27%.

The combination could become a new approach to treating portal hypertension in patients with cirrhosis, the authors concluded.

## NSAID-antidepressant haemorrhage risk

**COMBINED** administration of antidepressants and NSAIDs was associated with an increased risk of intracranial haemorrhage within 30 days of initial combination, according to research published in the *BMJ*.

The analysis included more than four million people the authors said, also uncovering that there were no significant differences observed between different antidepressants.

**CLICK HERE** for the abstract.

## WHO nods Coartem

**NOVARTIS** has announced the approval for pre-qualification of its malaria treatment Coartem 80/480mg, opening up greater access for patients.

Coartem is the first and only high strength (80/480mg) Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACT) antimalarial treatment available for public sector procurement.

The availability of this product may be able to help relieve suffering for as many as 25 million African malaria patients, Novartis said.

## AusPAR on Triumeq

**AN AUSTRALIAN** Public Assessment Report has been compiled for ViiV Healthcare's Triumeq (dolutegravir sodium/abacavir sulfate/lamivudine), a treatment for human immunodeficiency virus under specific circumstances.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

## ASMI course 50% disc

**THE** Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) is offering up to 50% discount on its online induction course as a one-time only package with specific conditions.

Discounts range from 30% to 50% if you register a number of participants and pay before 31 Jul.

**CLICK HERE** for details.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**NOT** recommended in the tropics.

The Russian town of Berezniki in the Ural Mountains is the venue for a celebration of the mosquito, yes they're the ones, the same little flying blood-suckers we have in Australia, reports *BBC News*.

If bitten by a mosquito in far North Queensland, you have a significant risk of contracting Ross River fever or a number of other unsavoury illnesses, but in Berezniki, you could win a prize.

In the "most delicious girl" event at the small town celebration, women will be judged based on how many mosquito bites they receive after standing around in shorts and vests for 20 minutes, the report said.

Judges, including a doctor, examine the bodies afterwards to count the bites - the winner this year received 100 bites, apparently.

**ANOTHER** bizarre festival.

Yet another Russian festival of "Why would you even do that?" happens in the little village of Krylovo Osa where rural bliss is celebrated in traditional ways as well as odd.

While designed to promote the revival of the Russian village, its traditions, respect for its roots, with local arts, crafts and produce presented, bought and sold, there is also something for the weird and whacky to enjoy - cow pat throwing.

There's no mention of glove wearing at the agricultural "Merry mullein" festival, but as well as throwing cow patties, you could race motor-blocks (doesn't sound fast), run with a yoke (doesn't sound funny) or run with garden carts (sounds fascinating).

Apparently the festival attracts tourists, with the normally quiet village of 200 swelling to 1500.

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**Jobs of the Week**

- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Gippsland, VIC (Job# 2011256)  
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- **Retail Pharmacist Manager** - Gold Coast, QLD (Job# 2011419)  
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- **Pharmacist Manager** - New England, NSW (Job# 2011339)  
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Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

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