

## Anti-codeine voice

**PAIN** specialist Dr Michael Vagg says the current campaign against up-scheduling OTC codeine products is a "risk to patients".

Vagg is a dissenting voice to the chorus opposing the TGA proposal to make codeine S4, and yesterday issued a statement saying "there's a scare campaign going on, which really doesn't take account of the facts and drug safety."

"Harm from over the counter codeine continues and other countries have made a difference by making codeine prescription only....the TGA quite sensibly decided that the benefits from having codeine in some medications is low or non-existent and the risks sufficiently high to restrict access by leaving the decision to doctors in discussion with their patients," Vagg added.

He said up-scheduling codeine would bring Australia into line with many other developed nations including the USA, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Finland, Italy, Hong Kong, Japan and more.

"Pharmacists will be able to advise on alternative codeine free products and if someone needs acute pain relief that needs an opioid medication, they should be consulting their GP," he contended.

## My Health med record push

**UP TO** 230,000 hospitalisations in Australia annually are attributed to medication misadventure, many of which may be avoidable, Medicines Australia (MA) has asserted in its submission to the federal government on the proposed *My Health Record*.

MA is calling for patient medication records to be a mandatory inclusion in eHealth profiles to improve the safe use of medicines by better data collation, coordination and records access via the *My Health Record* system.

The submission from the peak industry body says, "Optimising *My Health Record* to improve the recording, sharing and management of prescribed (and

non-prescribed) medication will enable better monitoring of patients' medication management through the primary care, hospital, aged care and pharmacy settings.

"This will in turn reduce duplication, missed or inappropriate prescribing and dispensing, overuse, misuse and abuse of medications."

The submission supported the proposed Bill and reinforced the value of the "op-out" design saying it will enable *My Health Record* to provide better, more useful and usable information to healthcare practitioners, which will in turn lead to improved whole-of-care for patients.

## APP2016 program out

**THE** full program for next year's Australian Pharmacy Professional conference (APP2016) has been revealed in the newly released registration brochure.

Earlybird registration is available until 31 Jan 2016, saving \$100.

The brochure outlines all sessions and workshops, the line-up of speakers, exhibitors and the social program - [appconference.com](http://appconference.com).

## Guild buys publisher

**THE** Pharmacy Guild's wholly owned Gold Cross Products & Services has acquired a publication called Trade Talk, with gm Trevor Clarkin claiming the move "strengthens our overall communication of product and market information to pharmacy".

## Today's issue of PD

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

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## Baxter equality award

**BAXTER** Healthcare has been honoured as an Employer of Choice for Gender Equality by the government's Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA).

WGEA director Libby Lyons congratulated the 2015 winners, which also included Merck Sharp & Dohme and Monash University, emphasising that these employers are "driving positive change as they set the gold standard for inclusive workplaces".

Baxter was awarded the citation for its overall approach to gender equality and creating an inclusive work culture within the company.

Baxter policies include encouragement of women into leadership roles, equal and merit-based pay policies, 12 weeks paid parental leave for men and women as well as flexible working hours.

## Integrated care call

**THE** UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has called for an integrated approach to health and social care for older people, especially with multiple long-term conditions, in its latest social care guidance.

The organisation identified community pharmacists, physiotherapists or occupational therapists, mental health workers or psychiatrists, and community-based services liaison workers as appropriate team members.

Chair of the guideline development group Bernard Walker said: "when social care and health practitioners work together well, it helps both people using services and their carers to have choice and control over their care."

"It also avoids unnecessary duplication of services," he said.

**CLICK HERE** for the new NICE guidance on social care needs of older people.



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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist In Charge** - Darling Downs Region, QLD (Job# 2011747)  
Country pharmacy at it's best with loads of benefits for career and \$\$\$
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Great Ocean Road, VIC (Job# 2011694)  
Beachside small town on Victoria's west coast, very popular with tourists.
- **Managing Pharmacist** - Newcastle, NSW (Job# 2011855)  
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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).

**7 Nov:** Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy Accredited Pharmacists' Forum; Novotel Sydney Brighton Beach; for details see: [www.aacp.com.au](http://www.aacp.com.au)

**9-11 Nov:** National Allied Health Conference (NAHC) - *Allied Health: Front and Centre*; Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne; see: [www.nahc.com.au](http://www.nahc.com.au)

**11 Nov:** ASMI Annual Conference, AGM & Awards Dinner; Waterview Convention Centre, Homebush; visit: [www.asmi.com.au](http://www.asmi.com.au)

**11 Nov:** CPD Accredited First Aid, Brisbane; info and rego: [www.guild.org.au/qldcpd](http://www.guild.org.au/qldcpd)

**14-15 Nov:** Current Treatments in Oncology Seminar; Rendezvous Hotel Melbourne; see: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)

**16-18 Nov:** Improving Healthcare International Convention; Pullman & Mercure Melbourne Albert Park; see: [ihic.improve.org.au](http://ihic.improve.org.au)

**25 Nov:** Pharmacy Business Insight (PBI) Workshop: Building a more sustainable healthcare business for your community; Sydney; info and registration: <http://pbivorkshop.com.au>

**3-6 Dec:** Medicines Management 2015, the 41st SHPA National Conference; Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre; more info at: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)

**3-10 Jan 2016:** Education Vacation, Canyons/Park City USA; more info from [www.cpdconferencing.com.au](http://www.cpdconferencing.com.au)

## "Movember" osteo link

**THE** annual 'Movember' campaign encouraging the growth of facial hair to focus on men's health is now being linked to raising awareness around osteoporosis by NPS MedicineWise.

According to NPS, osteoporosis is an "under-investigated and under-treated condition in men" with effects in males more common than in women.

An estimated one in four men over the age of 50 will experience a minimal trauma fracture due to osteoporosis, NPS said - yet less than 15% are being treated.

NPS MedicineWise clinical adviser Andrew Boyden said asking men a few questions to find out if they had had a minor bump or fall could lead to diagnosis and treatment which could keep them out of

hospital in the long run.

Men who have had a fracture, are over 70 years of age or are on long term corticosteroid treatment are at highest risk, Boyden added.

NPS has launched a new learning program and resources on osteoporosis - see [nps.org.au](http://nps.org.au).

## AD med packs change

**THE** UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is working with the pharmaceutical industry to ensure more helpful packaging is designed to assist Alzheimer's Disease (AD) patients.

From 2016, all AD medications will need to be presented in calendarised platforms to minimise compliance failure.

George McNamara, head of policy at Alzheimer's Society, said, "It's great that the voices of people with dementia have been heard and much-needed action is being taken.

"Medication packaging can be confusing for people with dementia. Simple modifications, such as indicating the days of the week or making the font clearer to read, can have huge implications for both the independence and the safety of people living with dementia," McNamara said.

## Concord EMM award

**SYDNEY** Local Health District has won the state's top honour for innovation at the 17th annual NSW Health Awards, for the Concord Hospital rollout of the Cerner electronic medication management (EMM) system replacing paper records, and eliminating the human error risk of a patient receiving the wrong medicine or dosage.

## WIN with Hydralyte

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Hydralyte are giving away a Hydralyte pack each day.

Stay hydrated over the festive season! Did you know that for each standard alcoholic drink consumed, you urinate 100mL more than you drink, leading to dehydration? Hydralyte contains the correct balance of fluid, electrolytes and glucose, to restore hydration effectively. Visit [www.hydralyte.com.au](http://www.hydralyte.com.au) for more information. Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist consult your healthcare professional.

To win, be the first person from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the following question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**True or false: Hydralyte has been formulated in accordance with the World Health Organisation guidelines?**

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Michelle Hyatt from Alphapharm.



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## DISPENSARY CORNER

**DON'T** rush to empty the garbage.

An elementary school in Seattle has a garbage collector to thank for retrieving almost US\$12,000 in cheques from the rubbish bin.

Waste management employee Micah Speir was picking up overflow rubbish next to some bins when he found a number of cheques made out to Lawson Elementary School.

The windfall was the result of a fundraising drive, after which a Parent-Teacher Association member had inadvertently dropped the bag of proceeds along the garbage truck's route.

Attempts to compensate Speir were politely refused because he was concerned that the school benefit by all the hard-won money.

**MISBEHAVING** children? Whom do you call?

Mr Wrinkles, of course!

Parents at their wit's end with difficult children in Florida, USA have a new option to scare them into submission.

Hidden behind a very creepy looking wrinkly clown mask and sporting a polka-dot onesie, Wrinkles (pictured) is available for adult parties for a scare-factor.

Or for "a few hundred dollars" Wrinkles will even intentionally frighten children by jumping out of their clothes cupboards, or simply lurking menacingly outside the house.



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### New Products

**Ceprothin (protein C)** is indicated in purpura fulminans and coumarin induced skin necrosis in patients with severe congenital protein C deficiency. Protein C is available as a powder for injection in a vial containing 500 IU supplied with 5 mL of diluent and 1000 IU supplied with 10 mL of diluent.

**Ofev (nintedanib esilate)** is a triple angiokine inhibitor, blocking vascular endothelial growth factor receptors (VEGFR 1-3), platelet derived growth factor receptors (PDGFR  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ ) and fibroblast growth factor receptor (FGFR 1-3) kinase activity. Ofev is indicated in combination with docetaxel for the treatment of patients with locally advanced, metastatic or recurrent non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) of adenocarcinoma tumour histology after failure of first line chemotherapy. Ofev is also indicated for the treatment of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). Ofev is contraindicated during pregnancy. Ofev is available as 100 mg and 150 mg capsules in packs of 60's.

**Ozurdex (dexamethasone)** is an intravitreal implant indicated for the treatment of diabetic macular oedema (DME). It is contraindicated in the following conditions: patients with active or suspected ocular or periocular

infection, including most viral diseases of the cornea and conjunctiva, including active epithelial herpes simplex keratitis (dendritic keratitis), vaccinia, varicella, mycobacterial infections, and fungal diseases; patients with advanced glaucoma; aphakic eyes with rupture of the posterior lens capsule, and in eyes with an anterior chamber intraocular lens (ACIOL), iris or transscleral fixated IOLs, and rupture of the posterior lens capsule. Ozurdex is available as an intravitreal implant containing 700 microgram of dexamethasone.

**Soolantra (ivermectin)** is indicated for the topical treatment of inflammatory lesions of rosacea (papulo-pustular) in adult patients 18 years and over. Soolantra is available as a 30 g tube containing 10 mg/g of ivermectin.

**Spiolto Respimat (tiotropium bromide; olodaterol)** is a combination long acting anticholinergic and beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist, respectively. It is indicated as a once daily maintenance bronchodilator treatment to relieve symptoms in adult patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Spiolto Respimat is contraindicated in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to atropine or its derivatives, e.g. ipratropium or oxitropium. Spiolto Respimat is available as a cartridge containing solution

for inhalation and one inhaler delivering 60 metered dose puffs each containing 2.5 microgram olodaterol and 2.5 microgram tiotropium.

### Safety Related Changes

**Pradaxa (dabigatran etexilate)** is now also indicated in the treatment of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE), and for the prevention of recurrent DVT and PE in adults.

**Pradaxa (dabigatran etexilate)** is now also contraindicated with a lesion or condition at risk of major bleeding (including current, recent GI ulcer; malignant neoplasm with high bleeding risk; recent brain/ spinal injury, brain/ spinal/ ophthalmic surgery, intracranial haemorrhage; oesophageal varices including suspected; arteriovenous malformation; vascular aneurysm; major intraspinal, intracerebral vascular abnormality) and also with concomitant anticoagulants, e.g. unfractionated heparin (excluding when given to maintain open central venous, arterial catheter), LMWH (e.g. enoxaparin, dalteparin), heparin derivatives (e.g. fondaparinux), or oral anticoagulants (e.g. warfarin, rivaroxaban, apixaban) excluding when switching anticoagulant therapy.

*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.*