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Scheduling comments

THE TGA is seeking comments on proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard, including making naproxen available for sale outside pharmacy when containing 200mg or less of naproxen per dosage unit in packs of 12 or less.

The proposals include changes to the Schedule 2 entry for paracetamol to restrict pack size requirements to no more than 100 tablets or capsules per pack, and no more than 50 wrapped powders or sachets of granules per pack for domestic supply; and specifically limiting bulk pack sizes for supply only to hospital, nursing homes and pharmacies for dispensing purposes.

Changes are also proposed for ketoprofen and loratadine, with comments sought by 10 Dec - for details see www.tga.gov.au.

60,000 tins of formula

WITH reports of shortages of infant formula across Australia as trolleys full of product are shipped to China by friends and relatives,



Kids Smart has launched a special delivery program of 60,000 cans to Chemist Warehouse pharmacies.

"The new offering features three consecutive formulas designed to meet the evolving nutritional needs and dietary requirements of babies and toddlers as they grow, learn and develop," a company spokesperson said.

\$316m cost of codeine move

A NEW Guild-commissioned report into the impact of up-scheduling OTC codeine medicines has found additional GP visits will cost Medicare an extra \$316 million every year.

Undertaken by analysis firm Cadence Economics, the report "conservatively" estimated that 53% of patients would need to visit a GP to obtain scripts for products containing codeine.

Pharmacy grants

THE University of Sydney Faculty of Pharmacy has congratulated Professor Kim Chan, Professor Mary Collins, Professor Deborah Schofield and Dr Fanfan Zhou for their recent NHMRC and ARC grant success and on their research achievements.

Chan's work attracted an ARC grant of \$374,000 for studies relating to the deposition of aerosol particles in human airways.

Collins' research investigates oxytocin as an antagonist of alcohol and was granted \$739,105 by the NHMRC.

Schofield's team earned NHMRC grants to the value of \$25m for projects in genomic medicine.

An NHMRC grant valued at \$728,044 was granted to Zhou through the Monash University for work relating to imaging systems and inhaled polymyxins for treating pulmonary infections.

Also, Professor Sallie-Anne Pearson (UNSW) and team won an NHMRC grant of \$806,176 for measuring healthcare policies.

Currently there are 16.4 million purchases of OTC codeine-based analgesics annually and a further 5.2m purchases of OTC cold and flu medications containing codeine.

Cadence estimated there would be 8.7 million additional GP visits - and that does not include the MBS cost of any increased GP visits by patients who are no longer able to access codeine containing cough and cold medications without a prescription.

The company said there may also be an additional cost to the government in the form of increased PBS outlays as patients "up-scale" to higher dose medicines that require a PBS subsidy.

And that's not to mention the impact on patients in terms of inconvenience and time taken to visit the GP to obtain a prescription for a codeine-containing medicine, with Cadence citing a Macquarie Centre for the Health Economy study which found an additional \$585 million in lost productivity costs per year.

Cadence concluded that the govt should consider the net costs and benefits of the proposal to reclassify S3 codeine-based medicines, particularly due to the significant fiscal impact of increased GP visits and "obvious lower cost alternatives to addressing the health issue (such as instituting a register of OTC codeine medicines)".

Labelling changes

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is proposing to register an updated edition of the Medicines Advisory Statements Specification in one month's time.

The updated edition of the MASS will be titled Medicines Advisory Statements Specification 2016 (MASS 2016) which will commence on 01 Jan 2016 (**PD** yesterday).

It will contain a new version of the Required Advisory Statements for Medicines Labels (RASML), titled RASML No. 3.

The MASS 2016 will allow for an 18-month transition period for adoption of the new and amended advisory statements in RASML No. 3 onto medicine labels.

Changes will include new and amended statements that were the subject of either public consultation or a new Condition of Listing between Jan 2014 and Oct 2015, including the consultation on NSAIDs which ruled that an additional advisory statement be included to the effect that excessive or prolonged use can increase the risk of heart attack, stroke or liver damage.

Other items subject to changes include cimetidine, famotidine, nizatidine, ranitidine, esomeprazole, metoclopramide, chloramphenicol and propamide as well as OTC nasal decongestant preparations for topical use and OTC cough medicines for oral use - for details see tga.gov.au.

Win with DESIGNER BRANDS

This week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away each day a prize pack with all six flavours of Designer Brands Balm Balls.

With a cult celebrity following, the secret to the Designer Brands Balm Balls is they are hygienic. The balm sits in a sphere outside the tub so you're not dipping your finger in it! With 100 percent natural ingredients including Vitamin E, Honeysuckle, Shea Butter, Peppermint and JoJoba, they are available in six flavours to soften and moisturise your lips. Visit www.dbcosmetics.com.au

To win, be the first from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Name two of the six flavours.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Andrea Watson from Angaston Amcal Pharmacy.



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Jobs of the Week

- **Managing Pharmacist** - Western NSW (Job# 2011700)
Huge package for the right candidate + accom assistance.
- **General Manager (Pharmacy)** - Bass Coast, VIC (Job# 2011875)
Provide strong leadership and primary responsibility for the pharmacy.
- **Customer Care Pharmacist** - Capricornia Coast, QLD (Job# 2011798)
Idyllic lifestyle, career opportunity, dynamic pharmacy group + palm trees.

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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.

14-15 Nov: Current Treatments in Oncology Seminar; Rendezvous Hotel Melbourne; see: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

16-18 Nov: Improving Healthcare International Convention; Pullman & Mercure Melbourne Albert Park; see: 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://pbiworkshop.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

3-10 Jan 2016: Education Vacation, Canyons/Park City USA; more info from www.cpdconferencing.com.au

8-10 Feb: 2016 Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar; Crowne Plaza Melbourne; see: www.pharmeducation.com.au

13-14 Feb: Evidence Based Practice Seminar; Rydges Sydney Central; details at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

19-21 Feb: Foundation Clinical Pharmacy Practice; Novotel Brisbane; for more info visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

17-20 Mar: Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual National Conference APP 2016, Gold Coast - more information at: www.appconference.com

New venue for PSA conference

NEXT year's Pharmaceutical Society of Australia national conference, PSA16, will be one of the first events to take place at Sydney's Four Points by Sheraton at Darling Harbour following a major upgrade including significant enhancements to its conference and meetings spaces.

The new facility opens in May, with PSA16 taking place from 29-31 Jul 2016, and PSA NSW branch director and conference chairman Steven Drew says the "revitalised delegate engagement area" will allow for the expected 1,000 delegates to easily interact with suppliers and other exhibitors.

PSA National President, Joe Demarte, said PSA16 would focus

on innovation, understanding that "the future of the profession and the industry is in innovation, diversity and expanded and new models of practice".

PSA ceo Lance Emerson said the Society had listened to valuable feedback provided from last year's event, with delegates keenly interested in products and services on display so they could take them back with them to their practice and help make a difference to their patients.

Together with the enlarged interaction space, the PSA16 program will include the latest in clinical education, aiming to "engage and spark new direction in pharmacy".

Priceline Sisterhood at \$2m goal

THE Priceline Sisterhood Foundation has reached the significant milestone of \$2m for its five charity partners with \$600,000 raised in just two weeks during a recent key promotion.

For the fortnight from 24 Sep, donations were made upon sale of featured products in-store across all 420 Priceline Pharmacy outlets as well as online, plus in-store events and also direct donations.

Announcing the achievement, API ceo Stephen Roche said, "Priceline Pharmacy has made it a priority to give back to the community through supporting charities which assist women and their families, providing help to those who are personally going through a difficult time and also those who are caring

for a loved one.

The five charity partners are Alzheimer's Australia, Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation, Children First Foundation, Look Good Feel Better and Perinatal Anxiety and Depression Australia.

Pictured are Ita Buttrose, Priceline Sisterhood Foundation Patron and Lynne Gallucci, Priceline Pharmacy.



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Ebola risk reduced

WITH a decreased risk to Australia of Ebola infection, the Health Department has announced that it will downscale its screening processes at airports and seaports from early next month.

This means that incoming travellers to Australia will no longer be required to complete the Ebola-related Travel History Card.

The cards have attracted some controversy because they are rarely collected by staff at airports.



DISPENSARY CORNER

FORGET aftershave - garlic can actually make men attractive, according to a study undertaken at the University of Stirling in Scotland and Charles University in the Czech Republic.

The intriguing "sniff test" research saw women smell pads which had been worn under the arms of males, some of whom had eaten garlic and others who hadn't - and the garlic eaters came out on top as a clear preference.

Reported in the journal *Appetite*, the researchers said that while fresh breath is important, "human axillary (armpit) odour is an important factor in intimate relationships".

They postulated that preference for the garlic-infused sweat could be part of an evolutionary response that suggests the male is healthy - or alternatively the antibacterial action of the garlic reduces the density of B.O. inducing microbes.

Interestingly the effects were only seen for larger quantities of garlic, with two cloves not cutting it at all - but when the dosage was doubled to four cloves (12g) the men were judged to be more attractive than when they were au naturel.

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