

### Biosimilar awareness

**THE** Health Department has launched a consultation on the Implementation Framework for its Biosimilars Awareness project, which will see \$20m invested between 2015-18 to lift confidence in biosimilars - [pbs.gov.au](http://pbs.gov.au).

### Med review service worthwhile

**NEW** research found 90% of patients who received a medication review by a hospital pharmacist after leaving hospital said they felt more confident and less confused about their medicines.

Monash Health researchers reviewed how patients and GPs felt about the Hospital Outreach Medication Review (HOMR) service at the hospital, in the study published in the *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*.

As part of the service, a hospital-based clinical pharmacist visits a person at home to review their medicines and help them understand their medicines.

A report with the reasons the medicines were started, changed or stopped is then sent to the person's GP, nominated community pharmacist and any specialist.

The study found doctors appreciated the reports, with almost all agreeing with the recommendations and adopting some or all of the changes.

Although many patients were initially unsure of the home visit or thought it was unnecessary, Ian Larmour, Emeritus director of Pharmacy at Monash Health said once the patients had a conversation with the clinical pharmacist, they found the service "very helpful" and that it "enables them to ask any questions in a

relaxed environment".

"Hospital pharmacists are particularly suited to this role as they work across different clinical areas in hospitals and therefore have well-developed clinical knowledge on the safe and effective use of medicines. They also have excellent communication skills due to their extensive experience in counselling patients about their medicines," Larmour said.

### eRx identifies value

**ERX** Script Exchange has today released the results of a survey which identifies the "business impact" of electronic transfer of prescriptions (ETP) on community pharmacy since eRx launched six years ago.

75% of the 740 pharmacies which participated in the poll said they find eRx "valuable or extremely valuable," and identified a key priority of connecting more local doctors into ETP "so that the benefits of improved and more accurate dispensing can be shared more widely".

Community pharmacy also identified a significant role for ETP in real-time prescription checks and the monitoring of controlled drugs.

And the tracking of medication history was also seen as a promising area, along with moving to paperless prescriptions.

Fred IT ceo Paul Naismith said eRx remains committed continuing to advance eHealth, with ETP key to better medicines management and reducing misadventure and fraud.

### India pharmacy strike

**THE** All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists has called for pharmacies across the country to close their doors tomorrow, in a protest at government proposals which would legitimise the online sale of medicines.

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### Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today has two pages of news plus a full page from **Instigo**.



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## Guild Update

### Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs (ERRCD)

THE Guild is pleased to be among the peak medicine, pharmacy and consumer bodies that have made a call for the urgent implementation of a national system for the Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs (ERRCD).

The peak bodies recently wrote to the Australian Health Minister and all State and Territory Health Ministers, pointing out that coroners in jurisdictions around Australia have repeatedly called for the urgent implementation of a real-time prescription monitoring system.

In the absence of such a system, avoidable deaths involving prescription medicines continue to occur at an alarming rate.

The ERRCD system will provide clinicians with a crucial tool, enabling them to better address the serious problem of addiction to Controlled Drugs.

The ERRCD is at various stages of implementation in the States and Territories after Commonwealth funding was provided in 2010 as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement. However, this roll out has been extremely slow due to a range of technical issues.

The letter to Ministers called on all jurisdictions to agree on a clear implementation plan and timeline for a national ERRCD system at the next COAG Health Council meeting.

## NZ pharmacy consultation

THE New Zealand government has launched a consultation on the future of pharmacy services across the Tasman, including a proposal for pharmacist prescribers.

The *Draft Pharmacy Action Plan 2015-2020* set out "how we can make better use of the knowledge and skills of our pharmacy workforce," according to NZ Health Minister, Jonathan Coleman.

"The role of pharmacists is evolving and we need to ensure that we have a plan in place to respond and harness these changes," Coleman said.

Themes in the plan include 'Population and personal health,' outlining public health interventions by pharmacists which enable people to stay well; 'Pharmacist clinical services,' which covers collaboration across integrated health care teams to deliver a range of medicines management services; and 'Acute

demand management,' detailing how pharmacists can offer patients equitable and timely access to self-care advice, treatment of minor ailments, acute demand triage and appropriate referral.

A section on 'Prescribing pharmacists' describes how they would "contribute to better health outcomes by improving medicines management," while another theme is 'Dispensing and supply services' covering more effective use of the pharmacy workforce and technology to streamline the dispensing and supply process.

The document is open for feedback until 23 November 2015 - to view see [www.health.govt.nz](http://www.health.govt.nz).

## Influenza symposium

A PRESENTATION at the Australian Influenza Symposium in Geelong this week will detail the recent UK initiative which will see all children receive flu vaccinations.

The extension of the National Immunisation Program aims to offer "population immunity" to the overall community, and is currently being piloted in pre-schools before being rolled out to all schools, according to Professor David Salisbury whose visit to Australia is sponsored by AstraZeneca.

## Hay fever help

GSK has launched a new "Tried-It-All" hay fever campaign, urging sufferers who feel they have explored all options to consider visiting their doctor for advice.

For more details on the campaign see [hayfeverhelp.com.au](http://hayfeverhelp.com.au).

## DISPENSARY CORNER

ONLY in America?

Police in the US state of Ohio responded to an emergency call last week in response to a man who complained he had "gotten too high" smoking marijuana.

According to the *Youngstown Vindicator*, officers found the 22-year-old lying on the floor in a foetal position, "groaning and surrounded by snacks that included Doritos, Goldfish crackers and Chips Ahoy cookies".

He reportedly told the police that he had called 911 because he "couldn't feel his hands".

The man apparently refused medical treatment, with the newspaper stating he has not yet been charged with a crime.

A CHINESE woman's efforts to eat healthy snacks got her into trouble last week, when she was stopped at an airport security checkpoint and accused of trying to smuggle a knife on board.

The incident occurred in Kunming, with a sharp-eyed security guard spotting the 9cm fruit knife stuck in the woman's hair bun (below).



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According to the *South China Morning Post* she told officials she had bought some fruit while on holiday in Yunnan Province, and was hoping to snack on it if there were long delays while waiting to board the flight home.

Guards did not agree that the potential weapon was simply decorative, and refused to let the woman board the plane until she handed it over.

## Win with sukin

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and *Sukin* are giving readers the chance to win a Sukin Super Greens gift pack worth \$41.85.

The Super Greens range is a super food smoothie of skincare actives! Kale, spirulina, parslets and chlorella combined with acai, goji and many more to promote a healthy glow and leave a clean, radiant complexion.

To win, be the first person from QLD to send the correct answer to

[comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

When would a customer look to use the Super Greens range over the core range?

Need a hint? Visit [www.sukinorganics.com](http://www.sukinorganics.com)

Congratulations to yesterday's winner Leah Davies from Alphapharm.



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