Whooping cough rate up

SUPPLIES of whooping cough vaccine to the private market fell short of demand as 12,240 whooping cough notifications were reported in New South Wales in 2015, four times as many as 2014, according to Fairfax Media. With the NSW government providing the vaccine to children and pregnant women based on clinical evidence, the National Immunisation Program (NIP) has created more demand than anticipated in the tender for supply, leaving, the lower prioritised private market uncovered.

According to comments from NSW Director of Communicable Diseases Dr Vicky Sheppeard, whooping cough outbreaks were cyclical because unlike diseases such as measles or diphtheria, immunity given by the vaccine diminishes after about four years. Recent concerns over a similar situation developing this year have drawn attention from health authorities while vaccine supplier GSK has made assurances (PD 03 Feb).

The company confirmed uninterrupted supply of its diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (whooping cough) (dTpa) vaccine Boosterix in 2016 for NIP, State, Territory and Federal Government programs, GSK said. However, in the face of unprecedented demand from the private market again this year, GSK has clarified that stock outs may occur intermittently, but temporarily, in some areas around Australia.

The company further reassured PD that they are “working to resolve the situation and are expecting additional supplies to be available in the coming months”.

TGA on advertising

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has updated its rules around advertising and endorsements. Advertisements that refer to the TGA and use government logo, or imply that any government body (including a foreign government agency) endorses a therapeutic good are not permitted in consumer advertising.

Examples of disallowed phrases are statements such as “TGA approved”, “Government endorsed” or even “registered by the TGA”.

For the full rundown on rules surrounding TGA related advertising CLICK HERE.

MEANWHILE the Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) has announced that it has developed face-to-face training seminars on the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code and the surrounding regulatory framework.

These have replaced the TGACC seminar series, which were discontinued in 2013, ASMI said.

The seminar explains each aspect of the current system, including the application of the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code, the approvals process and complaints mechanisms.

CLICK HERE for more.
FDA 8% fund increase bid

UNITED States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is fighting for a total budget of $5.1b to protect and promote the public’s health as part of the President’s fiscal year 2017 budget, representing an eight percent increase over the enacted budget for FY 2016.

What could be interpreted as an ambit claim, the FDA is seeking a net increase of $14.6m in budget authority and $268.7 million in user fees for initiatives tied to several key areas, including the implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and efforts to improve medical product safety and quality.

The agency has said it is also seeking $75m in new mandatory funding to support the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative being led by the Vice President (PD 21 Jan).

FDA Acting Commissioner Stephen Ostroff said, “The FDA continues to work to obtain the most public health value for the federal dollar as we address expanded regulatory responsibilities and scientific challenges.”

This will require more than $3m in building and facilities funding, he said, along with some $600,000 for other infrastructure.

“The agency remains fully committed to meeting the needs and high expectations of the American people regarding the products we regulate, as well as advancing the prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer,” Ostroff explained.

Multiple meds danger

POLYPHARMACY, officially described as the simultaneous use of five or more medications, can trigger a decline into frailty and death, according to a report from the Monash University.

Research, led by Monash’s Centre for Medicine Use and Safety, in collaboration with the University of Sydney, followed men aged 70 years and over measuring increases in the Drug Burden Index (DBI).

Higher DBIs were associated with a 22% greater risk of transition from a robust state, to various stages of frailty, and finally death.

The work was published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society - CLICK HERE.

Win with flo

This week Pharmacy Daily and Flo are giving readers each day the chance to win a Flo Pumper Pack.

Flo Baby and Flo Kids Saline Nasal sprays help clear congested, snuffy or snotty noses to help your child breathe more easily. Flo Baby and Flo Kids sprays are gentle enough to be used daily and are natural and preservative-free. The handy thing about Flo Baby Kids sprays is that they can be used at any angle, which means you can clear your child’s nose quickly and easily in any position that is comfortable for them.

For more information WATCH THIS or CLICK HERE.

Does clearing a baby’s nose with a saline spray like Flo Baby help improve feeding and sleeping?

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