SHPA survey

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is about to release a survey to provide data supporting a review of the future scope of practice for pharmacy technicians and assistants working in hospitals. SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels said the survey had already been piloted on the National Pharmacy Technician Network to ensure the questionnaire design is robust, and it will now be distributed to hospitals across Australia. The research will quantify differences in functions and future expectations as well as supporting a review of legislative and industrial frameworks, Michaels explained. She said the outcome would help plan education and development of the pharmacy workforce to support emerging needs in hospitals.

Pharmacy vax now national

THE ratification of pharmacy vaccinations by the Victorian government (PD breaking news yesterday) has brought the state into line with all other Australian jurisdictions in allowing immunisations by pharmacists. The move was welcomed as a “major public health boost for the state” by the Victorian branches of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society (PSA). Pharmacist vaccination was detailed yesterday in the Victoria Government Gazette, requiring pharmacists to satisfactorily complete the assessment of an ‘Immuniser program of study’ as well as having recency of practice and continuing professional development in immunisation.

The immunisations can take place in a hospital, community pharmacy or general practice or immunisation clinic, with approval granted for adult administration of influenza and pertussis-containing vaccines. PSA Vic president Ben Marchant said the move was a breakthrough that would help members of the community who would previously not have been vaccinated.

And Pharmacy Guild Victorian branch president, Anthony Tassone, said with community pharmacies one of the most accessible primary healthcare destinations in Australia, it makes sense that we better utilise the community pharmacy network to help deliver quality health outcomes for Victorians. “The PSA and the Guild look forward to working closely with the Minister and the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services to implement this and other vital health initiatives through community pharmacy in the future,” he said.

Pharmacy and opioids

THE majority of opioids in Australia are supplied direct to patients through community pharmacy, according to a research project referenced in this week’s National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) annual report 2015. The year-long study began last Jul, and is titled Expanding the capacity of community pharmacy to respond to pharmaceutical opioid problems. A number of pharmacists are included in the Project Expert Group including Angelo Pricolo and Denis Leahy from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Michelle Lynch from the PSA along with several international experts in the field.

The study aims to develop an understanding of pharmacists’ attitudes and confidence in different areas of harm reduction including naloxone supply. Another study, called the Poppy Project, examined the patterns and costs of PBS-subsidised opioid use, including extra-medical use, in the Australian population.

CLICK HERE to access the report.
Health, Beauty and New Products

Bisolvon Dry Forte Liquid
Bisolvon Pholcodine Dry Forte Liquid is a high strength addition to the Bisolvon brand, available in Australian pharmacies from early May. Bisolvon Pholcodine Dry Forte Liquid provides soothing relief from stubborn dry, tickly coughs and comes in a pleasant peach flavour. Each single dose contains 4mg pholcodine, per 3mL. This high strength dose enables the convenience of up to 8-hour dosing and means you use less per dose.

Stockist: 1800 226 315
RRP: $15.00 for 200mL
Website: www.bisolvon.com.au

Activance Baby Shampoo & Bodywash
Activance Baby Shampoo & Bodywash is an ultra-gentle shampoo and body wash formulated with lavender and calendula oils to soothe and cleanse children’s sensitive skin. It is free from common irritants like sodium lauryl sulphate and sodium laureth sulphate, parabens, phthalates, betaines, petrochemical cleaners, silicones, mineral oils, and synthetic colouring and fragrance.

Stockist: 03 9326 8844
RRP: $15.00 for 100mL
Website: www.activance.com.au

Kids Probiotic Powder
Bioglan Kids Probiotic Powder is a children’s probiotic powder supplement designed to replenish beneficial bacteria and assist with stomach upsets, enhance digestive health and support the immune system, the company states. Formulated with manuka honey, the powder is naturally sweet enough to enjoy on its own as well as in drinks, yoghurt and even on breakfast cereal.

Stockist: 02 9997 1466
RRP: $15.95
Website: www.bioglan.com.au

Guess Night for men
Guess Night is a masculine fragrance that features a seductive combination of spicy, woody, heady and energetic notes. Hints of hot pepper, grapefruit and vetiver complement the aroma of geranium and patchouli, for a classic scent with a modern twist. The bottle features strong electric blue edging and an electric blue nozzle.

Stockist: 1800 812 663
RRP: from $39.00 for 30mL
Website: www.cotyaustralia.com.au