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Pharmacy prescribing success

A NEWLY published Cochrane review has found that non-medical prescribers such as pharmacists and nurses are capable of undertaking disease management roles, in both primary and secondary care settings.

Greg Weeks and Johnson George from the Monash University Centre for Medicine Use and Safety within the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences along with Katie Maclure and Derek Stewart of the Robert Gordon University School of Pharmacy in Aberdeen, UK collaborated on the review which looked at improved access to medicines via prescribing by non-medical health professionals.

The review of 46 studies included 26 involving nurse prescribers and 20 with pharmacist prescribers, with a total of 37,338 participants.

Patients were generally satisfied with non-medical prescriber care, while there was little difference in medication adherence across the various studies examined.

"The findings suggest that non-medical prescribers, practising with varying but high levels of prescribing autonomy, in a range of settings, were as effective as usual care medical prescribers," the authors concluded.

"Non-medical prescribers can deliver comparable outcomes for systolic blood pressure, glycated haemoglobin, low-density lipoprotein, medication adherence, patient satisfaction, and health-related quality of life," they added.

CLICK HERE to view the review.

Dispensing laws to change

HEALTH Minister Sussan Ley tabled legislative changes to the National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Bill 2016 in Federal Parliament yesterday, including key alterations to day of death dispensing and location rules for temporary premises in the event of a disaster.

The day of death amendment ensures PBS entitlements apply until midnight on the day a concessional beneficiary or a dependent dies, rather than the day prior to death.

This change addresses a long standing, delicate anomaly faced largely by community pharmacies who deliver services and medications to nursing homes.

Without the amendment there was a shortfall in the payment to the pharmacists, equal to the difference between the general patient co-payment and the concessional co-payment (\$32.10 per prescription).

The amount owing across all PBS pharmacies is accruing at around \$2,000 per month.

A retrospective commencement of the amendment from 01 Apr 2015 will see back payment of outstanding amounts on prescriptions since then.

Also addressed was cutting the red tape in securing an alternative premises for a pharmacy following a disaster such as a fire or flood.

The proposed amendments would allow affected pharmacies

to use their PBS approval number to supply medicines at an alternative premises in the same locality for up to six months.

This would give pharmacies time to return to the damaged store or await approval of a new PSB number for a different site.

PBS claims will be paid at the full rate, not at the current setting of 90%, during this period.

Such allowances are reserved only for cases where the pharmacy is beyond use due to a major disaster or event.

The Secretary of The Department of Health will determine whether the circumstances meet the criteria.

The Guild has thrown its support behind the changes, calling them both "common sense solutions".

APC seeks executive

THE Australian Pharmacy Council is soliciting applications for a new Executive Director Professional Services.

Reporting to the APC ceo, the successful applicant will oversee National Registration and Accreditation Scheme functions including accreditation, assessments, examinations and Independent Assurance Solutions.

The post holder will also be required to deputise for the CEO in agreed areas, and oversee a team of nine staff.

See pharmacycouncil.org.au.

New Gelati from TBN



TOTAL Beauty Network has this week introduced The Gelati range of nail polishes, including its new French formula.

Highly pigmented chip-resistant colour is complemented by matching coloured caps to make colours easier to find and in-store displays more eye-catching.

Colour by TBN ceo Tony Rechtman said the company had also updated its merchandising material with a new Bowl stand, Colour Lab stand and revamped 600mm wall stand.

He said the aim was to increase impulse purchase and stock turnover of the new lines.

Colour by TBN nail polishes lead in at \$2.95 each.

Lilly AD drug fail

PROMISING Alzheimer's Disease (AD) drug solanezumab has failed to meet its main goals in trials, Eli Lilly has announced.

Company shares lost value on the announcement that the drug failed to slow down cognitive decline in patients with Alzheimer's compared to those who took placebo.

Solanezumab targeted beta amyloid, seeking to remove the problematic protein that forms clumps in the brains of Alzheimer's patients, as it had done in mouse studies, in the hope that this would lessen the symptoms and slow the progress of the disease.

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Dispensary Corner

DIETITIANS won't be pleased, but a Japanese scientist from Tokyo's Kyorin University has concluded that ice cream for breakfast improves people's alertness and mental capacity.

Professor Yoshihiko Koga conducted the study by getting one group of subjects to eat ice cream each morning, and another to have a normal breakfast before completing a series of mental exercises on a computer.

Those with the sweet ice treat in their system proved better at processing new information and had faster reaction times.

The ice cream seemed to make the subjects' brains fire off a higher amount of high-frequency alpha-waves.



SOUTH Korea's President has defended an office purchase of more than 360 Viagra pills.

President Park Geun-hye's office said the pills were purchased to treat altitude sickness for employees on trips to Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya.

Seems legitimate, why not purchase erectile dysfunction drugs instead of actual altitude sickness ones?

In another bizarre twist the office has also been caught buying a injection drugs used for fatigue and anti-ageing treatment.

Park's office said the treatments were for the entire staff - what a workplace!

Fred IT seals Sigma deal

THE multi-million dollar deal between Sigma Pharmaceuticals and the Fred IT group (**PD** breaking news) will support the technology requirements of more than 700 pharmacies across Australia.

Based on the Fred NXT integrated pharmacy cloud solution, the contract follows an extensive evaluation process, "and will enable Sigma to provide market leading support to its brand members - Amcal, Guardian, Discount Drug Stores, PharmaSave and Chemist King," the company said.

Sigma ceo Mark Hooper said the company now has the largest branded pharmacy footprint in Australia, delivering almost 20% pharmacy retail market share.

"So having a solution that is agile, has full connectivity into retail pharmacy, and supports our growth is critical," he said.

"It strengthens our market position and also provides opportunities to explore extensions of our partnership with Fred IT and the Telstra Health team," he added.

The new platform will underpin Sigma's broader technology and

data strategy implementation, and is said to provide a "significantly improved pharmacy user experience, as well as driving synergies across merchandising, pricing and promotional functions".

Fred IT Group ceo Paul Naismith hailed the "commitment and vision" of Sigma in providing its members with an enterprise grade integrated IT solution.

"Sigma's innovative platform will enable Sigma's pharmacy brand members to delight their customers with retail and professional services innovations that are quickly implemented across the entire store network," he said.

Naismith said Sigma members would enjoy lower average store IT costs, along with all the benefits of a modern solution such as security, safety and robustness.

A dedicated Sigma/Fred IT team will oversee the full rollout along with upgrades, conversions and training, with the majority of stores converted within 24 months.

"We can't wait to help Sigma achieve their exciting vision," Naismith concluded.

Cannabis consultation

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is seeking input from interested parties on the draft Therapeutic Goods Order (TGO) No. 93 Standard for Medicinal Cannabis and draft guidance on TGO No. 93.

Consultation documents are on the TGA website and comments should be received by the TGA by close of business Monday, 16 Jan 2017 - go to www.tga.gov.au.

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.

2-5 Dec: Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association (APSA) Scientific Meeting; The University of Sydney; more info at: expertevents.eventsair.com

3-10 Jan: Dental & Medical Sci Conference; Canyons/Park City, USA; more info and register at: www.cpdconferencing.com.au

17 Feb: Foundation Seminar in Clinical Medication Management; Melbourne, VIC; registrations opening soon: www.shpa.org.au

9-12 Mar: APP 2017; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; for details visit: www.appconference.com

31 Mar: Foundation Seminar in Clinical Pharmacy Practice; Sydney, NSW; registrations opening soon: www.shpa.org.au

WIN WITH SOUTHERNATURE

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and SOUTHERNATURE are giving away Grape Seed 40 000 PLUS Green Tea, and AURIEL Lanolin Cream with Grape Seed & Collagen each day.

SOUTHERNATURE'S Grape Seed 40 000 PLUS Green Tea contains potent antioxidants which help protect the body from the damaging effects of free radicals. The Vegan tablets contain Vitamin C, Green Tea and Grape Seed. Vitamin C aids the synthesis of collagen, Grape Seed can help to strengthen collagen in the body, and Green Tea provides antioxidant support to help protect against free radicals. For more info **CLICK HERE**.

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

Fill in the blank: The Vitamin C in the SOUTHERNATURE Grape Seed 40 000 PLUS Green Tea tablets aid the synthesis of _____.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Tahlia McGinty from Village Pharmacy.



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