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CSO, NDSS applications solicited

THE Health Department is formally inviting applications from organisations wishing to access the Community Service Obligation (CSO) funding pool and the National Diabetes Services Scheme to supply PBS medicines and NDSS products.

A formal Invitation to Apply process opened yesterday, with applications invited from "all pharmaceutical wholesalers, organisations in the pharmaceutical industry, or other interested parties associated with the product delivery industry".

Successful applicants will supply PBS medicines and NDSS products via community pharmacies.

Responses are due by 03 Nov, with a full documentation set available at pbs.gov.au.

Hospira into Pfizer Direct

PFIZER Australia has confirmed that effective next Mon 03 Oct community pharmacies will only be able to obtain Hospira medicines via the Pfizer Direct distribution channel.

The move follows last year's acquisition of Hospira by Pfizer (PD 14 Aug 15), with the integration of the business into Pfizer's current operating model now complete, according to Pfizer Head of Trade Operations ANZ, Madonna McLaughlin.

McLaughlin said pharmacies can order Hospira medicines alongside Pfizer products through POS

systems and the iStore portal.

"Pfizer is committed to ensuring consumers have access to our medicines in every location in Australia...we offer next business day delivery to over 5,400 pharmacies in Australia," she said.

Existing distribution arrangements for Hospira products into the hospital channel as well as Pfizer's consumer business will remain unchanged at this stage.

McLaughlin confirmed Pfizer Australia had been working with wholesalers of legacy Hospira medicines on transitional activities, such as stock management and other processes in preparation for the change.

She said Pfizer Australia's direct distribution facility, which started on 31 Jan 2011, had since then delivered more than 2.3 million orders "demonstrating the depth of capability and commitment to this operation".

Bayer hails CRP ruling on Zyrtec adverts

BAYER Pharmaceuticals has welcomed the decision by the Complaints Resolution Panel (CRP) that the Johnson & Johnson Zyrtec superiority claims were found to be misleading and in breach of sections of the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code.

J&J's advertising had compared their hayfever product to Bayer's product, Claratyne, claiming that "Zyrtec starts to work faster than Claratyne".

The CRP determined this claim was "not verified, was not correct and balanced, was likely to arouse unwarranted expectations, was misleading, exploited the lack of knowledge of consumers and was a misleading comparison".

J&J has been ordered to withdraw the advertisement and any other representations that Zyrtec starts to work faster than Claratyne including from third parties, as well as providing evidence to the Panel of full compliance.

Details at www.tgacrp.com.au.

Health data drama

THE Health Dept has confirmed the withdrawal of some deidentified PBS and MBS datasets from the data.gov.au website after an alert from a researcher who said it was possible to decrypt some service provider ID numbers.

The department said no patient information had been compromised with a full audit of the process of compiling and publishing the data currently under way.

EU-TGA consultation

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has opened a consultation on the proposed adoption of a range of European Union guidelines in Australia.

Topics covered include guidelines around clinical pharmacology and pharmacokinetics, products across many therapeutic areas, biological medicines guidelines and multidisciplinary guidelines.

Submissions commenting on adoption or non-adoption are invited and can be sent by email to euguidelines@tga.gov.au.

PSA: utilise pharmacy

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has submitted to the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation its "comprehensive evidence-based" arguments to see the government "invest in primary health care services that make best use of the available pharmacy workforce and provide cost-effective, collaborative care solutions to meet local health needs" - **CLICK HERE** to access.

Peanut allergy cure

VENTURE capital fund OneVentures has announced a \$15m deal with Murdoch Childrens Research Institute (MCRI) to fund the development of a game changing treatment to cure peanut food allergies, an \$8 billion market.

The investment will forward the development of ProTA, an Australian innovation that allows children with peanut allergy to incorporate peanut products as a regular part of their diet.

The novel action, discovered and developed by MCRI's Professor Mimi Tang, is in the combination of the two components; peanut allergen together with a specific probiotic which has been shown, in clinical trials, to induce "tolerance" to peanut.

This approach has the potential to be used to treat other common food allergies, such as milk, egg, shellfish and other nuts, Tang said.

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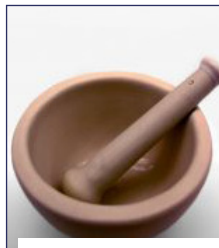
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Manuka UTI effect

MANUKA honey could prevent serious urinary tract infections caused by catheters used to drain patients' bladders, according to new laboratory research published in the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*. Investigators recommend flushing catheters with diluted manuka honey - [CLICK HERE](#) for the study.



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.

- 20-21 Oct:** Australian Disease Management Association (ADMA) 2016 National Conference; Melbourne Convention Centre; register here: www.adma.org.au
- 26-28 Oct:** ACHSM/ACHS Joint 2016 Asia-Pacific Annual Congress; Sofitel Brisbane Central; details and to register: www.achsm.org.au
- 27-29 Oct:** Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; Sea World Resort, Gold Coast; visit: www.pharmacyassistants.com
- 16-19 Nov:** Medicines Management 2016; Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre; for more info visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 2-5 Dec:** Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association (APSA) Scientific Meeting; The University of Sydney; more info at: expertevents.eventsair.com
- 9-12 Mar:** APP 2017; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; for details visit: www.appconference.com

OTC, CM compliance poor

VERIFIED compliance breaches for over the counter and complementary medicines were reported at a staggering 80% for 2015-16 compared with an equally alarming 73% for 2014-15, in the latest *Performance Statistics Report*, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) report card. Labelling, advertising and evidence continued to be the major compliance breaches for listed medicines, with the TGA targeting "safety-related issues" and the results in spite of a "significant increase in compliance reviews".

Key performance indicators for the TGA were the focus of the report revealing some improvements of approval times for prescription medicines but a significant increase in approval times for new generic medicines. There was a significant increase in applications received for variations to approved biologicals and an increase in the number of Special Access Scheme Category B applications for biologicals in 2015-16, due to an increase in applications by dental practitioners for access to a new bone graft item.

Medicine and vaccine adverse events reports in 2015-16 were

similar to those in 2014-15, while reports from pharmacists declined, reflecting a change to pharmacist reporting classifications during reporting periods.

Adverse event reporting from members of the public increased, probably as a result of promotion around adverse event reporting.

Device incident increases may have been due to the 'inSite' program and increased vigilance within the medical community the report said.

For full details see tga.gov.au.

NPSA CSO reminder

THE National Pharmaceutical Services Association says yesterday's power failure in South Australia is a "telling reminder of the benefits of Australia's National Medicines Policy and the value of the Community Services Obligation".

NPSA chairman Mark Hooper from Sigma said Australia has a secure, reliable medicines delivery system that has "back up and redundancy built into its very design... wholesalers always rise to the challenge and cooperate to get medicines delivered, come fire, high water or blackouts".



Dispensary Corner

RICKY the arthritic rooster (pictured below) has been given a special set of orthopaedic shoes to relieve his painful symptoms.

The lucky rooster was found as a stray wandering around Stanley Park in Vancouver and was rescued by the park's employees.

Instead of cooking him up for a roast dinner, they adopted him as the park pet and even tended to his health needs.

Ricky has become somewhat of an internet sensation after an amusing video emerged of him strutting around his lair in his special footwear.

[CLICK HERE](#) to check out his confident high-stepping style.



WOULD you relish the opportunity to punch notorious pharmaceutical executive Martin Shkreli in the face?

Shkreli, you may remember, wasn't so popular when last year his company, Turing Pharmaceuticals, upped the price of its antimalaria drug Daraprim by more than 5,000%.

Anyone looking to give him a bruising, can do so, but for a price.

He announced via his Twitter account he is auctioning off one "slap/punch in the face" to raise funds for the family of a friend who passed away leaving behind a young son who survived cancer.

He claims to have bids of up to \$78,000 already.

How much would you pay to take a punch at him?

Win with MOR

This week Pharmacy Daily and MOR are giving away each day the Essentials Wash and Lotions in Black Iris valued at \$39.90.

The Essentials collection presents five memorable fragrances in an assortment of quality products to embrace everyday self-indulgence. The prize contains a hydrating Hand & Body Wash to leave skin cleansed and refreshed, complemented by a nourishing Hand & Body Lotion to moisturise and hydrate. For more info visit morboutique.com.

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

What benefits does the conditioning agent Lanolin provide in MOR's Essentials Hand & Body Lotion?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Julie Page from Symbion.



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