

## Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today has three pages of news plus full pages from:

- Wizard Pharmacy Services
- Pharmacy 4 Less

## Heater-cooler alert

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has launched a product safety review into all heater-cooler devices supplied in Australia, after four confirmed cases of patient infection.

The devices are used within operating theatres and intensive care units to control the temperature of blood, with tanks providing temperature-controlled water for operation, which is not intended to come in contact with the patient or their blood.

The focus of the review is on heater-cooler devices used for cardiac bypass surgery and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO).

Previously the TGA has published advice about the potential for water within the units to become contaminated with bacteria, most commonly non-tuberculosis mycobacterium, with evidence suggesting patients are infected when bacteria becomes airborne.

## Amazon seeks local suppliers

**THE** Australian pharmacy sector faces a new threat - or opportunity - in the form of US online retailing giant Amazon, which has today confirmed it will roll out a full retail offering here from next year.

This morning the company posted a notice on its Australian portal inviting businesses to join an Australian version of the 'Amazon Marketplace' - essentially an online supermarket where small business vendors can utilise the company's e-commerce expertise to sell their products to a wider audience.

Described as a "new wave of retail disruption," the company is estimated to already hold 1% of the Australian market for health and beauty products.

In the US, Amazon accounts for 43% of all online retail sales and last year the health and beauty sector contributed 10% to its overall sales growth.

According to *Fairfax*, about 50% of the company's revenue comes from third party sellers, while the company is also understood to be on the hunt for a large distribution centre in Australia.

Amazon already has about 1,000 Australian staff, with the company saying "we are excited to bring

thousands of new jobs to Australia, millions of dollars in additional investment, and to empower small Australian businesses through Amazon Marketplace".

Australian pharmacy retailers and suppliers are seeing strong success in similar online marketplaces in China, with Chemist Warehouse, Blackmores, Swisse and Nature's Way among the top local brands available on Alibaba's Tmall.

## Health media balance

**MEDIA** coverage of health and medicines issues is frequently plagued by limited understanding of scientific rigour and principles of balance and risk-management with scientists often afraid to speak with the media for fear of being misquoted, according to Monash's health activist Adjunct Associate Professor Ken Harvey.

To help address some of these concerns, the Monash Department of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences is conducting a one day interactive course designed for media, research and academic personnel to clarify the paradigm of evidence-based medicine.

Visit [med.monash.edu.au](http://med.monash.edu.au).

## Winter is coming...

**PHARMACY** suppliers are being invited to participate in an upcoming Winter Spotlight feature in **Pharmacy Daily**.

The cost-effective promotion will feature four items on a page, with insertions including an image, a brief description and a call to action for phone, email or website ordering of the product.

To have your products included call 1300 799 220 or email [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au).

## Austrade on Asia

**AUSTRADE** is offering two upcoming free webinars on 27 Apr covering opportunities for Australian companies to sell their products in the Asian market.

At 1pm *Why ASEAN Why Now: Opportunities for Complementary Health in ASEAN* will discuss opportunities in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines - **CLICK HERE**.

And at 4pm a business update titled *e-Commerce in China* will take place, with the Austrade China team providing information on the proposed changes to the rules for consumer products including complementary medicines - for details **CLICK HERE**.



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## Chicago pharmacist workload battle

**AUTHORITIES** in Chicago, USA have proposed new regulations which would limit the hours and workloads of pharmacists.

The plan is currently before the Chicago City Council, and was inspired by a 2016 *Chicago Tribune* mystery shopping investigation that found more than half of 255 pharmacies across the region failed to warn consumers about potentially harmful or fatal drug interactions.

The Illinois Pharmacists Association has admitted that the *Tribune* findings are "concerning and inexcusable" but says they aren't an accurate representation of the sector as a whole.

The proposal would formally limit the hours pharmacists can work and restrict the number of

prescriptions they can dispense per hour, as well as enforce meal and break times and provide protection for whistleblowers who highlight breaches of the rules.

The newspaper cited examples of pharmacists who said they felt overwhelmed by workplace pressure and requirements to fill prescription quotas.

While major chains such as CVS, Walgreens and Wal-Mart had significant failure rates to warn about interactions, the worst performers were independent pharmacies where 72% did not provide the required information.

Councillors are proposing that pharmacists be required to counsel patients about drug interactions and other issues when dispensing a medication to a patient for the first time or when a prescription changes.

The proposals are being staunchly opposed by pharmacy groups, who warn the changes would result in higher costs and make it harder for pharmacists to balance a "sustainable practice and quality patient care".

## Aftstyla approved

**CSL Behring** has announced that the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved Afstyla (lonocetog alfa) a recombinant single chain coagulation factor VIII (rFVIII SingleChain) in patients with haemophilia A (congenital factor VIII deficiency).

Afstyla is the first and only single-chain recombinant factor VIII specifically designed to treat haemophilia A, the company said.

The announcement comes just 48 hours after the company had marked World Haemophilia Day on Monday 17th Apr.

## Pharmac rejection

**NZ'S** Pharmac medicines authority has rejected a bid to fund feminine hygiene products such as tampons and sanitary pads.

*Radio New Zealand* cited a Pharmac statement saying in the organisation's view "sanitary products are not medicines or medical devices".



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## Shoplifters caught on cam

**A VIDEO** of four teenagers allegedly shoplifting from a south-east Queensland Chemist Warehouse store has gone viral.

The footage (right) was captured on the dash-cam of a vehicle parked outside the outlet in Logan.

It shows the boys approaching the front doors of the store, three on foot and one with a bicycle.

After entering the store they can be seen walking towards the exit before the alarm is triggered as they step through the door, at



© K. Burn / Youtube

which point they quickly make a suspicious exit.

The video, taken two days ago, has now been viewed almost 5,000 times on YouTube posted by a user named K Burn who captioned the post: "Kids leaving Chemist Warehouse on my Dash Cam. You can't hear it but the beepers go off when they exit".

The *Daily Mail* quoted a Chemist Warehouse spokesperson saying the outlet was aware of the incident and would be passing the information onto police.

See the video online at [pharmacydaily.com.au/videos](http://pharmacydaily.com.au/videos).

## Span-K recall

**ASPEN** Pharmacare, in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration, has initiated a recall for product correction of its Span-K (potassium chloride) 600mg tablets.

The TGA advised it had been identified that bottles of the medicine had been provided without child-resistant caps.

Aspen Australia has launched the recall to replace all caps on bottles of Span-K 600mg tablets regardless of batch number or expiry date.

The TGA noted there was no concern regarding the quality or safety of the medicine itself, other than the absence of child-resistant packaging.

## Merck \$150k award

**MERCK** has announced a two year \$150,000 fellowship award to support Australian clinical research into gastrointestinal cancer.

The funding for the Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group (AGITG) will provide a candidate with the opportunity to study for 12 months at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London.

## WIN WITH LIFESTREAM

This week, Pharmacy Daily and Lifestream are giving away each day 1.25L Lifestream Aloe Vera Juice, valued at \$32.95 RRP.

For optimum digestion, Lifestream Aloe Vera Juice soothes the lining of the stomach and intestines to support smooth and natural digestion. It is 99.7% premium quality aloe and supports the immune system and helps maintain the health of intestinal bacteria. To find out more go to [www.Kadac/brands/Lifestream](http://www.Kadac/brands/Lifestream), or [www.Lifestream.co.nz](http://www.Lifestream.co.nz).

To win, be the first to send the correct answer to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Can Lifestream Aloe Vera Juice help your immune system?

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## Dispensary Corner

**A HANKERING** for hygiene has left two Danish tourists visiting Rome a little lighter in the pocket, after they were arrested for washing their feet in one of the city's public fountains.

The woman aged 60 and a 17-year-old boy were stopped by police at the Fountain of the Two Seas (**below**), close to the Roman Forum and the Colosseum.

The pair were apparently dangling their feet from the side of the fountain "up to their knees" - a definite no-no.

A whopping €900 (A\$1285) fine was levied, with the outraged woman saying she would complain to the Danish Embassy.

Earlier this week an Italian man was also arrested for taking a nude dip in the city's famous Trevi Fountain.



**IT'S** all in the snot...well frog snot anyway, which is being touted as potentially destroying human strains of influenza.

Apparently all animals have a few anti-microbial host defence peptides as part of their immune systems, so researchers from Rajiv Gandhi Center for Biotechnology in India decided to test it out.

They screened 32 frog defence peptides to see which had flu-busting abilities and it turns out four are fighting fit.

Scientists at Emory University in Atlanta also tested mucus from a rare hydrophylax bahuvistara frog, native to India.

## UK 'hub-and-spoke' rollout

**BRITISH** pharmacy group Well Pharmacy has confirmed plans to roll out so-called "hub-and-spoke" dispensing across its entire network later this year.

Well Pharmacy, formerly known as The Co-operative Pharmacy, is the third largest pharmacy business in the United Kingdom with about 800 branches in total.

The new dispensing model will



see prescriptions collected at branches but dispensed centrally, with customers sent a text message to advise

when they are ready to pick up again at the branch, according to a report in UK trade publication *Chemist and Druggist*.

Well Pharmacy ceo John Nuttall was quoted as saying the new system would "relieve a lot of pharmacists' time" allowing them to be "front and centre, facing the customers".

He said the Well Pharmacy dispensing hub was itself a registered pharmacy, meaning the business was "maintaining the importance of bricks and mortar pharmacy".

The hub-and-spoke model has been trialled at six Well pharmacy branches already in the lead-up to a wider roll-out across the entire business during 2017.

## Zydelig advisory

**IDELALISIB**, marketed in Australia as Zydelig, should no longer be used in combination with rituximab in specific situations, according to a safety review conducted by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Idelalisib is an antineoplastic agent which is approved to treat some rare kinds of blood cancer by affecting the growth of cancerous lymphocytes.

The TGA review was undertaken after advice from the product's sponsor, Gilead Sciences, of a potential increased risk of serious adverse events in patients receiving the medicine in combination with other cancer drugs to treat chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) and relapsed indolent non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (iNHL).

Affected patients received the medicine as part of now-ceased phase 3 clinical trials.

The TGA found the results, which related to currently unapproved uses for Zydelig, were also relevant to some of the previously approved uses for the medicine, with resulting changes to indications for idelalisib and additional information relating to serious infections, including a boxed warning, now added to the product information for the medication.

## Somalia vax campaign

**GAVI**, the private-public Vaccine Alliance, sponsored by private organisations and governments across the world, has delivered 953,000 doses of Oral Cholera Vaccine to Somalia.

The program is designed to protect over 450,000 people from the disease and is taking place in three of the worst-hit regions, Banadir, Kismayo and Beledweyne, with the vaccine given in two doses to everyone aged one or more.

The first round ran from 15-19 Mar and the second from 18-22 Apr, with the vaccines procured, transported and stored at the appropriate temperature by UNICEF, and administered by the Government of Somalia with the support of the World Health Organisation and UNICEF.



## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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