



# The **NEW**\* combination anaesthetic cream that helps prevent pain and unnecessary expense.

Containing both lidocaine (lignocaine) and prilocaine, new Numit 5% cream provides effective topical anaesthesia for a wide range of applications and procedures.<sup>1-3</sup> Even better, Numit is around 37% less expensive than the leading competitor.<sup>4</sup>

Also available in a 10g size.

\*New from Ego Pharmaceuticals.

Before recommending, please review the full Product Information by clicking [here](#).

**Always read the label and use only as directed. If symptoms persist see a healthcare professional.**

**References:** 1. Numit Product Information, June 2016. 2. Shah V, Taddio A, McMurtry CM, Halperin SA, Noel M, Riddell RP et al. Clin J Pain. 2015; 31(10S):S38-S63. 3. Kleiber C, Sorenson M, Whiteside K, Gronstal BA, Tannous R. Pediatrics. 2002; 110(4):758-61. 4. Based on the average retail price of Emla 30g. Data held on file, January 18, 2017.

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**Today's issue of PD**  
*Pharmacy Daily* today has two pages of news plus a front full page wrap from Ego.

## Botox script update

**THE** Health Department has released new guidelines for botulinum toxin, allowing prescribers to write two scripts for the medication on the same day where a patient requires treatment for two different conditions.

The changes become effective from 01 Mar 2017, and apply to all botulinum toxin medicines supplied under the PBS.

Patient and prescriber eligibility criteria remain unchanged - for more details see the updated FAQ document at [www.pbs.gov.au](http://www.pbs.gov.au).

## \$93m workforce push

**FEDERAL** assistant minister for health David Gillespie yesterday announced \$93 million in funding for a new national Rural Workforce Agency Program, with a targeted grants round in the coming months.

The move will see a revamp of existing activities, with the aim of addressing the lack of health professionals in rural and regional areas of Australia.

## Chemist Warehouse IT deal

**CHEMIST** Warehouse has signed an agreement with Medscope which will see the company's pharmCare professional services software platform roll out right across the national Chemist Warehouse network.

Medscope ceo George Giannakopoulos said the deal "introduces real competition in the pharmacy software space.

"As new vendors enter the market, the quality and affordability of software improves...pharmacy now has a real choice," he said.

Chemist Warehouse managing partner Mark Finocchiaro said the company was looking for a modern professional services platform that encouraged pharmacists to provide better health-centred services to their customers, and at the same time was sensitive to pharmacy's busy workloads.

"pharmCare does that," he said.

Medscope is a joint venture between academics from the school of pharmacy at the University of Tasmania - including Dr Peter Tenni, Dr Shane Jackson & Professor Greg Peterson - and IT company Verdant Health.

The company's professional services platform also includes

Medication Review Mentor (MRM) and MedsChecks modules, promising pharmacists the ability to "convert your dispensing system into a patient-centric professional services console".

See [www.medscope.com.au](http://www.medscope.com.au).

## New Numit from Ego

**EGO** Pharmaceuticals has launched a new combination topical anaesthetic which includes lidocaine and prilocaine.

Numit provides effective topical anaesthesia for a wide range of applications and procedures, Ego said - see the **cover page** for details.

## WA PSA winners are grinner!



**THIS** group of Western Australian pharmacists was honoured earlier this month at the WA Excellence Awards, hosted by the PSA.

Winners included, from left: Dr Carolyn Glazier, PSA MIMS WA Intern of the Year who is completing her internship at Gerald Burns Pharmacy; Lusi Sheehan from Pharmacy 777 Applecross

Village who was highlighted for wound care services by winning the WA Pharmacy Practice Innovation Award; Malcolm Roberts, given the WA Lifetime Achievement Award; and Steve Lewis, proprietor of High Wycombe Pharmacy, named as WA Pharmacist of the Year.

The WA Early Career Pharmacist Award went to Luke Vrankovich.

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## Dispensary Corner

A US man has gained online notoriety after spending two days standing under a precariously poised 'Pharmacy' sign at his local Walmart, in the hope it would fall and hit him on the head.

Manuel Garcia from Texas shared a photo of his attempt on Facebook, which has since been shared thousands of times.

It's understood he was hoping the 'P' would plummet onto him so he could sue the supermarket giant over the resulting injuries.



**THIS** meal probably didn't contain any of the five food groups.

A sports journalist in Belarus has kept a promise to eat his own words - literally - after he vowed that a local ice hockey team wouldn't make it to the finals.

Vyacheslav Fedorenkov (pictured) made the undertaking a year ago because he believed Dinamo Minsk was unlikely to reach the play-offs in the Kontinental Hockey League.

However the players proved him wrong - and he kept his promise by chowing down on an edition of the paper - dipped in soup to make it a little more palatable.



## Sigma bad pharmacy debt

**SIGMA** Pharmaceuticals has made provision for a doubtful debt of around \$8 million relating to a single pharmacy group (PD breaking news Fri), with the impact affecting the company's full year results to 31 Dec which will be released in a month's time.

According to an ASX announcement from ceo Mark Hooper, the bad debt, combined with a previously announced \$11.4 million insurance premium recovery, will lead to an overall one-off accounting adjustment totalling almost \$20 million.

"While Sigma continues to seek a resolution for the outstanding debt, it was considered prudent to provide for the full extent of our exposure," Hooper said.

Apart from the provision, underlying earnings for the company are expected to be just over \$100 million, which is about 12% higher than last year.

"Whilst the one-off impacts are disappointing, Sigma's business is in good shape and we remain

comfortable with our existing guidance of at least 5% underlying EBIT growth for the 2017/18 financial year even after delivering above guidance underlying growth for the current year," he said.

Details of the pharmacy group owing the money to Sigma were not made available.

**MEANWHILE** difficult trading conditions for pharmacy have been underlined by the appointment of administrators to two pharmacies in Rockhampton, Queensland.

The Terry White Chemmart and Priceline chemists located in the Stockland shopping centre were closed for two days last week, but reopened on Friday after administrators Andrew Schwartz and Matt Adams took over.

The pair said they were in discussions with parties interested in acquiring the businesses as a going concern.

A report in the *Queensland Times* cited PBS pressures and also suggested one of the pharmacies was paying rent of \$70,000 a month.



## Weekly Comment

Welcome to PD's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is Li Yan, Research & Development Scientist, Digestive Health - Procter & Gamble.



### Recommend the right probiotics

**PHARMACISTS** can empower patients by providing advice on different medical conditions and their treatment options. Probiotic treatment is a non-prescription option that many pharmacists recommend to patients with digestive symptoms. There are many different probiotic products available in the market today. The health benefits provided by probiotics are strain and dosage specific.

#### 1) Right Strain

It's best to recommend a probiotic product containing the exact strain (or strains) that have demonstrated clinical evidence for the benefit patients are seeking. The genus, species and strain should be specified.

#### 2) Right Dosage

Different probiotics are found to be effective at different doses and a higher number of CFUs per dose is not necessarily better. Bifidobacterium infantis 35624 (Bifantis®) has been clinically proven for medically diagnosed IBS relief at the optimal dosage of 1 billion CFU per dose.

#### 3) Right Storage

Probiotics need to be stored appropriately to ensure maximum survival of the bacteria. However, not all probiotics require refrigeration in order to remain stable. For best results products which are individually packed should be kept in the original packaging until use.

## Win with australis

This week Pharmacy Daily and Australis are giving away a set of both Gold and Pink Liquid Strobe Illuminating Drops each day.

Australis have taken illuminating to the next level with this silky smooth formula to enhance your cheekbones and create a luminous glow. Just a few drops of the new Australis Liquid Strobe Illuminating Drops will add subtle radiance to your face, neck or décolletage. To create a fresh, dewy complexion mix either the pink or gold into your current foundation for a subtle luminosity. Or for a more striking result, apply directly onto your face.

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For more information head to our website [www.australiscosmetics.com.au](http://www.australiscosmetics.com.au).

To win, be the first person from **NSW** or **ACT** to send the correct answer to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

How many drops in range?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



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