



Oct disclosure cycle

THE Department of Health has posted Price Disclosure Reductions for the 2017 Oct Cycle on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) website.

Determined price disclosure outcomes for this cycle were calculated in accordance with the National Health Act 1953 and National Health Regulations 2017, and show percentage price differences and ex-manufacturer level prices.

For sponsors of F2 drug brands affected by flow-on price disclosure reductions, the Department advises it will communicate to the responsible person mid to late Jul.

Access the Excel version of the outcomes summary at pbs.gov.au.

Guild drives 6CPA

NATIONAL president of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia George Tambassis has acknowledged Guild members' desire to hear about progress in the allocation of the \$600 million in the Sixth Community Services Agreement (6CPA) for new and existing community pharmacy programs.

"In the Pharmacy Compact reached between the Government and Guild at the time of the Federal Budget, the Government re-committed to delivering the full value of this funding over the remainder of the Agreement, starting from 01 Jul this year," Tambassis said in a missive.

"Because of the confidential nature of the Pharmacy Compact, the Government was not able to commence work with us on the specific allocations until after the Budget, and with time marching on, we are now in very detailed and urgent discussions with the Department of Health to finalise these allocations by 01 Jul."

Tambassis added that this has a direct bearing on programs such as dose administration aids, staged supply, MedsChecks, Diabetes MedsChecks, and Home Medicines Reviews.

Conscious of members' need for firm indications around allocations, he recommended monitoring the 6CPA.com.au website for updates.

Medlab cannabis studies

AUSTRALIAN-LISTED Medical life science company, Medlab Clinical Limited, has announced it has received Human Research Ethics Committee approvals by the Northern Sydney Local District, the Kolling Institute of Medical Research, Royal North Shore Hospital, to begin human trials of two different patent pending cannabis-based medicines.

The medicines are NanaBis, being trialled for advance stage cancer patients with intractable pain, and NanaBidual for chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting.

Nanabidual will also have a secondary endpoint in patients suffering seizures.

NanaBis combines the two most active ingredients in cannabis, cannabidiol (CBD) and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), while NanaBidual comprises cannabidiol (CBD) derived from marijuana.

The company said both drugs would be administered using Medlab's own patented nano-particle spray to the inside of the cheek, speeding the absorption of the medicine into the bloodstream.

Further, the clinical studies will



establish Medlab's cannabis based intellectual property as a medicine, distinct from 'medicinal' cannabis, and help Medlab's path toward special access scheme approvals from TGA, a pre-requisite for medical practitioners being able to prescribe confidently.

University of Sydney Professor of Medicine medical oncologist and palliative medicine specialist Stephen Clarke will supervise the research program.

The NanaBis trial will be a safety, efficacy, tolerability and exploratory study, with proposed listing as a Schedule 8 drug permitting only medical specialists to prescribe the medicine intended for seriously ill cancer patients, the company said.

NanaBidual is intended to be made available to GPs, once approved.

Medlab is hoping for trial completion and market introduction by the end of 2018, should Special Access Scheme applications succeed.

Injectables Handbook

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has announced the release of the



7th edition of the Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook (AIDH).

A "key resource for healthcare professionals", this edition

contains 450 injectable medicines with an increased focus on warnings and patient monitoring together with expanded content on extravasation, intravenous fluids and sample infusion-rate calculations.

Institutional subscriptions to the AIDH 7th Edition are available by contacting MD on 1800 622 678 or knowledge@medicaldirector.com.

Hospira NaHCO₃ recall

PFIZER offshoot Hospira has confirmed a voluntary recall in the US of 47 lots of sodium bicarbonate injection and other injectables to the hospital/retail level, upon fears of microbial contamination.

The FDA has allowed the vetted Australian drugmaker Phebra to export NaHCO₃ vials to the US to help alleviate the shortage, but at more than 10 times the cost, according to *Modern Healthcare*.

Get ready for RUM

RETURN Unwanted Medicines (RUM) has announced a new "READ, REMOVE & RETURN" consumer campaign, and alerts pharmacists across the country to prepare for increased collection volumes of unwanted medicines.

To place an order for a RUM bin, pharmacies should contact their pharmacy wholesaler, while downloadable RUM resources for pharmacy are available at returnmed.com.au.



Check-list saves errors

THE introduction of a discharge medication checklist demonstrated a significant reduction in errors in hospital discharge prescription assembly by nurses, according to a study by three senior pharmacists based at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London.

Publishing in the *British Journal of Nursing*, the pharmacists observed, over a two-year period, 15 serious medication errors relating to discharge, prompting the research project.

An audit period identifying medication errors was followed by education, training and the introduction of a discharge medication checklist.

There was a statistically significant reduction in the number of errors (28/56 - 50% vs 9/44 - 20.5%; p=0.0478) when re-audited.

Authors recommended rolling out the program across all medical wards - **CLICK HERE** for the abstract.



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Dispensary Corner

RUH-ROH! There's been some significant nutritional confusion in New Zealand households this week, after scores of parents were believed to have fed their children "Scooby Snacks" which are actually made for dogs.

The *Wanganui Chronicle* reported that the treats, which come complete with a picture of cartoon character Scooby Doo (pictured below), were accidentally placed near the snack aisle in a local supermarket.

Notices have been erected in nearby schools warning that the dog treats are not suitable for kids and urging that adults should check lunchboxes for the snacks.

"Unfortunately it appears some customers mistook them for human food," said a spokesperson for the Pak'n'Save retail chain.

"On reflection, we can see how the cartoon characters on the packaging might be confusing".

Outraged parents have taken to social media, with one asking "I wondered why my boy didn't like the taste of them".

However the manufacturer says there shouldn't be major concerns, with the Scooby Snacks advertised as "supporting bone strengthening and skin- and coat-health".



Blackmores to advise China

AUSTRALIAN-LISTED natural health company Blackmores has been named to take a key leadership advisory role for the China Association for Quality Inspection (CAQI), a "high level non-profit Chinese organisation with responsibility for product quality inspection".

BLACKMORES

The confirmation came during the Healthplex Expo in Shanghai, China where Complementary Medicines Australia (CMA) ceo Carl Gibson is leading a delegation of Australian industry leaders.

Gibson said "we welcome this appointment as an endorsement for Blackmores and for the quality and exceptional reputation of Australian complementary medicines.

"CMA would also like to congratulate Blackmores managing director, Asia, Peter Osborne, for his appointment as vice chairman of CAQI's Advisory Committee, as he will have the honour of being the first foreign citizen to hold a CAQI board position."

Blackmores and Osborne have

both been appointed for five years.

Blackmores ceo Christine Holgate said the appointment reflected the importance of Australia as a trading partner with China.

CAQI vice chair Zhang Ming said Osborne was uniquely positioned to serve on the organisation's board, with 23 years of diplomatic experience with Austrade.

Holgate also announced the appointment of former Murray Goulburn senior executive Jeff Zhang as Blackmores general manager, China.

Europe biosimilar tick

THE European Commission has approved Sandoz' rituximab biosimilar Rixathon (also approved as Riximyo), for treatment of blood cancers and immunological diseases, according to an announcement from Sandoz' parent company Novartis.

The reference product is Roche's MabThera which will consequently be under pricing pressure.

Win with Aromababy

This week Pharmacy Daily and Aromababy are giving away five Eczema Care Kits including Pure Baby Moisture Cream 125mL, Pure Baby Wash 150mL and best selling Barrier Balm.

Aromababy offers a comprehensive selection of natural and organic products for mother and child, all of which are free from dairy/goatsmilk, sulphates and parabens. Aromababy's best seller Barrier Balm is now available in two convenient sizes. Gift-with-purchase, free samples, testers, training and product for Maternal and Child Health Nurse available to pharmacy. Email info@aromababy.com or call 03 9464 0888 for more information.

To win, be the first from QLD to send the correct answer the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Name two organic oils in our Barrier Balm that may help moisturise and soothe, including when eczema and nappy rash are present.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Josephine de Lucia.



Slim-Extra caps fail

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has warned that a product labelled 7-Days Herbal Slim-Extra capsules contains the banned substance sibutramine, poses a risk to health and is illegal to supply in Australia.

Guild Update

A focus on pain

IT IS important that pharmacy assistants have a strong understanding of how to assess pain, management options that are available and when referral to the pharmacist is required.

Guild Learning and Development is partnering with RB in the development of a QCPP Refresher training online course titled 'Paracetamol and ibuprofen combination analgesics'.

This course reviews the mode of action, benefits and tolerability profile of paracetamol and ibuprofen combination analgesics as well as assisting pharmacy assistants to identify when acute pain may require a combination pain reliever. Pharmacy assistants who complete this course will be issued with a certificate of completion that can be used to demonstrate their QCPP Refresher Training requirements.

Please contact the Guild Learning and Development on 03 9810 9930 or email learninganddevelopment@guild.org.au for more information.

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