

## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today has two pages of news, our regular health & beauty feature plus a full page from **Sensipure**.

## MA in discussions over new agreement

**MEDICINES** Australia is understood to be in advanced discussions with the government, with the aim of securing a multi-year agreement in return for a range of PBS savings.

The move was revealed this morning in the *PharmaDispatch* newsletter, with the talks coming in the lead-up to the federal budget which is released in early May.

In 2015 the peak pharmaceutical manufacturers' body came close to finalising a five-year strategic agreement with the government, to provide certainty for the industry.

However talks broke down and a deal was never finalised after what former MA ceo Tim James described as "disappointing and difficult" negotiations.

## Hep C patent battle

**MEDICINES** Sans Frontieres (MSF) has joined with a range of other organisations in filing a patent challenge with the European Patent Office in relation to the hepatitis C sofosbuvir.

The groups aim to challenge Gilead's monopoly on the expensive therapy, in a bid to "remove barriers that prevent millions of people receiving treatment".

MSF said the price of sofosbuvir is keeping it out of reach for many people who need it, with treatment being rationed or unavailable right across the globe.

"A drug that cures doesn't do any good if the people who need it can't afford it," MSF said.

## Natural disaster provisions

**THE** Federal Parliament has passed new legislation which aims to improve arrangements for PBS pharmacies affected by disaster.

The "section 91A" changes, foreshadowed last year (*PD* 25 Nov 2016), will allow pharmacies impacted by disaster to apply for permission to supply PBS medicines at alternative premises in the same locality for a temporary period - until either supply resumes at the original pharmacy, or a new PBS approval number is obtained for a different site.

During this time PBS claims will be paid at the full rate, not 90%, while an approved pharmacy is operating at alternative premises following a disaster.

The Health Department said the amendments would make it explicit that the new provision applied only for disaster situations, and only when the PBS-approved pharmacy could not operate due to a disaster.

The changes also make it clear that one approval can only be used to supply PBS medicines at one pharmacy premises at a time - the approved pharmacy premises,

or the alternative premises if permission has been granted.

The bill was passed by the Senate on Mon and gained Royal Assent by the Governor General yesterday - meaning all measures in the bill commence effective immediately.

That's good news for pharmacies in far north Queensland where cyclone Debbie has been wreaking havoc for the last couple of days.

Any pharmacies needing to apply for permission to supply PBS medicines at alternative premises can contact the department on 02 6289 2425 or via email on [acpamail@health.gov.au](mailto:acpamail@health.gov.au).

## Biologics review

**THE** Health Department has announced the addition of secukinumab and ixekizumab into its post-market review of the use of biologics in the treatment of severe chronic plaque psoriasis.

Sponsors of the medicines recently added to the group will be invited to provide a submission to the review, while stakeholders who have previously provided input to the now closed consultation will also be invited to update their submissions if required - [pbs.gov.au](http://pbs.gov.au).

## Zejula maintenance

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has announced the approval of Zejula (niraparib) for maintenance treatment, intended to delay cancer growth, for adult patients with recurrent epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancer.

## Sensipure offer

**HEALTHONE** is offering up to 30% off its Sensipure skin therapy range, with co-op marketing opportunities also available.

The deal is on offer until 30 Apr - see **page four** for details.

## Philips Australian Pharmacy Sleep deal

**DUTCH** technology giant Philips has confirmed an agreement to acquire Sydney-based Australian Pharmacy Sleep Services, with the aim of accelerating its home sleep testing offering through the pharmacy channel in Australia.

Australian Pharmacy Sleep Services (APSS) was established in 2011 and offers a sleep apnea program to pharmacies including screening, home-based sleep studies based on Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) therapy, training and services.

APSS supplies all initial training and ongoing support, including trials and sales of CPAP machines.

Financial details weren't revealed, with the deal expected to settle in the second quarter of 2017.

"The retail pharmacy market provides a convenient and central local access point to offer simple and effective sleep screening," said Kevin Barrow, md of Philips Australia and New Zealand.

"With the addition of APSS to our sleep and respiratory care business in Australia, Philips will be able to provide better access to home sleep testing for those who need it, where and when they need it".



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## NSW/ACT Intern PotY



**HIGH-ACHIEVING** intern pharmacist Seema Khiani (pictured 2nd from left) has been announced the winner of the PSA MIMS NSW/ACT Intern Pharmacist of the Year Award by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

Khiani, from Capital Chemist in Charnwood in Canberra, championed and led a number of professional service initiatives during her intern year at the pharmacy prompting PSA NSW Branch director Caroline Khalil to congratulate Khiani saying, "Ms Khiani has demonstrated a patient-centric approach to driving the best possible patient outcomes while adding to the viability of the community pharmacy and contributing to professional satisfaction."

Khiani will now compete at PSA's flagship conference PSA17 28-30 Jul in Sydney for the national award.

**Pictured** are PSA ACT Branch director Caroline Khalil, Seema

Khiani, Dinah Graham from MIMS Australia, Seema's preceptor Samantha Khoutris and PSA NSW Branch director Simone Diamandis.

## UK OTC Viagra

**BRITAIN'S** Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has opened a public consultation after recommending that sildenafil be made available over-the-counter as a pharmacist-only medicine.

The recommendation follows a submission by Pfizer to make the product more easily accessible, with the MHRA proposing that 50mg sildenafil citrate tablets should be available for purchase in pharmacy without a script.

Pfizer has produced collateral for pharmacists to use when supplying the product, saying it should not be sold to men with diagnosed cardiovascular conditions.

Feedback is sought by 18 Apr.

## US pharmacists charged with fraud

**THE** US Department of Justice has charged eight people from Texas for their participation in a massive pharmacy fraud scheme involving US\$158 million in false claims for compounded medications.

Three pharmacies are alleged to have been part of the conspiracy, with some of the participants also charged with money laundering.

The scheme involved the filing of forms to transmit payments from the US Department of Labor - Office of Workers' Compensation for creams used to treat scars, wounds and pain, with some having reimbursement rates of as much as US\$28,000 per prescription.

The participants allegedly marketed the creams to doctors treating workers' compensation payments, bribing them to write unnecessary prescriptions for the costly creams in exchange for payments, free rent and other benefits, according to the formal indictment.

## Dupixent FDA tick

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Regeneron Pharmaceuticals' Dupixent (dupilumab) to treat adults with moderate-to-severe eczema (atopic dermatitis).

Dupixent is intended for patients whose eczema is not controlled adequately by topical therapies, or those for whom topical therapies are not advisable.

It is indicated for use with or without topical corticosteroids, and is administered as an injection.

## CHF unity call

**THE** Consumers Health Forum (CHF) of Australia held a colloquium earlier this month, with the overarching message of the need to "get it together".

The meeting brought together more than 60 consumer advocates and stakeholders with an interest in supporting consumer leadership from all around Australia.

CHF urged its members to collaborate with other consumer-focused organisations, mentoring and supporting consumer advocates, exchanging ideas, seeking government and community support.

Visit [chf.org.au](http://chf.org.au) for the full blog.

## NOAC v warfarin in AF

**PATIENTS** treated with one of the non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulants (NOACs), namely Pfizer's Eliquis (apixaban), Boehringer Ingelheim's Pradaxa (dabigatran) or Bayer's Xarelto (rivaroxaban), can rest easy to learn that these drugs have a strong safety record even in the presence of a non-valvular atrial fibrillation (AF) comorbidity.

The findings came from the largest-ever real-world analysis of the US Medicare database comparing the risk of stroke or systemic embolism and rate of major bleeding among over 180,000 patients treated with NOACs versus warfarin.

In this analysis Eliquis was associated with a significantly lower risk of stroke or systemic embolism and lower rate of major bleeding than patients treated with warfarin.

## Win with SkinB5

This week **Pharmacy Daily** & **SkinB5** are giving away each day the Acne Control Extra Strength Tablets.

SkinB5 is an all-natural acne supplement that works from within to treat acne on the face and all over the body. The SkinB5 Extra Strength Tablets is based on a potent dosage of vitamin B5, proven to increase skin health and reduce acne by regulating the skin's production of sebum, or skin oil. See [www.skinb5.com](http://www.skinb5.com) for more.

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

How many SkinB5 Acne Control Extra Strength Tablets do you need to take a day to control acne?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Sue French from Chempro Chemists.



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## Dispensary Corner

**FANCY** a drop of wine? Not red, not white, but blue!

Spanish startup company Gik has produced the world's first blue wine (**pictured below**).

The concoction has been dubbed the "anti-wine" and looks more like Gatorade.

It is created from anthocyanin (a fancy word for a pigment found in grape skin) and indigotine dye, which are added to turn it blue.

It's already made waves in the US and Malaysia and is set to come to Australian and New Zealand shores soon.



**IN OTHER** news, a transgender man from Ohio has fulfilled his wife's wishes of being a mum...by carrying their baby.

Chris Rehs-Dupin and his wife Amy struggled to get pregnant for years so he decided to fall pregnant via a sperm donor.

The couple experienced a miscarriage before conceiving.

They got excited when they went to the midwife and heard a heartbeat.

Baby Hayden arrived safe and healthy and... in case you're wondering, Chris was listed as a "parent" on the birth certificate, not as the child's mother or father.

Amy gave birth to their second child Milo last year, completing her desire to have a family.

## Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy.

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### New makeup miracle beauty hacks

Long forgotten as the miracle product that it still is, **Vaseline** petroleum jelly is again recognised as an essential for the beauty kit with so many uses. For the glowing cheek look, apply Vaseline instead of a blush for a gorgeous, glowing, nude effect. Vaseline on the brow comb can control unruly brow hair. Apply Vaseline over matte lipstick to turn on the gloss. Vaseline literally melts into the skin, flowing into tiny cracks of dryness, making it an extremely powerful moisturiser while providing a barrier against water loss.



**Stockist:** 1800 061 027

**RRP:** 50g \$2.73, 100g \$4.10

**Website:** [www.vaseline.com.au](http://www.vaseline.com.au)

### DU'IT Baby Body Moisturiser



Based on a natural emulsifying system for mildness with olive oil and lactylate, **DU'IT Baby Body Moisturiser** is enriched with high quality pure organic oils (a natural blend of apricot, avocado and calming evening primrose oils) to soothe and moisturise dry sensitive skin.

The ultra-gentle formula provides a long-lasting protective barrier on baby's skin to protect their natural oils. This product is allergen- and irritant-free, Australian made and owned.

**Stockist:** 02 9965 9600

**RRP:** \$16.95

**Website:** [www.duit.com.au](http://www.duit.com.au)

### Kakadu - Water Lily Hand Crème

Glasshouse Fragrances **Kakadu Water Lily Hand Crème** features an exotic blend of water lily, spring orange blossom, precious woods and amber. The smooth and moisturising crème absorbs over a few minutes leaving a delicate, almost powdery feel to the skin. For a lingering soft and silky finish, apply Glasshouse Fragrances Kakadu Water Lily Hand Crème liberally throughout the day, protecting against dry cracking areas and the development of rough spots such as elbows and knees.



**Stockist:** 2 9757 3080

**RRP:** \$24.95

**Website:** [www.glasshousefragrances.com](http://www.glasshousefragrances.com)

### Flawless Bronzing Stick by DB



Designer Brands (DB) has released its new **Flawless Collection**, an illuminating and on-trend range of photo-finishing products. The newest addition to the DB makeup stable, the updated range now includes the all new **Flawless Bronzing Stick**. The new formulation is enriched with aloe vera, Q10, hyaluronic acid and fine mica, all allowing the product to blend seamlessly into the skin, leaving a model-esque bronzed and even glow. Use as a contour applicator or for all over bronzing, or under a powder bronzer for a more intense-looking localised glow.

**Stockist:** 1300 765 332

**RRP:** \$14.99

**Website:** [www.dbcosmetics.com.au](http://www.dbcosmetics.com.au)

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