

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from Wizard Pharmacy.

Analgesics course

GUILD Learning and Development has partnered with Reckitt Benckiser (RB), the makers of Nurofen products, to develop a CPD-accredited online course titled 'Paracetamol and ibuprofen combination analgesics'.

The new offering reviews the evidence supporting the efficacy and tolerability of paracetamol and ibuprofen combination analgesics, with the Guild saying pharmacists play an integral role in assessing a patient's pain - visit myCPD.org.au.

Irish pharmacy crisis

LIMITATIONS on pharmacy practice in Ireland are leading to a significant shortage of qualified pharmacists who want to work in community pharmacy.

The Irish Pharmacy Union hosted its annual conference last weekend, with spokesperson Caitriona O'Riordan saying "there is evidence that young qualified pharmacists are either not entering community pharmacy or are leaving the profession...we know that one major off-putting factor is excessive and increasing levels of administration and bureaucracy, coupled with a perception that their professional skills are underutilised in comparison to their colleagues in other countries".

O'Riordan cited the example of the UK where pharmacists are allowed to prescribe for minor ailments, as well as in Canada where pharmacists are allowed to monitor patients with chronic illnesses and renew or adjust their prescriptions.

"Community practice is no longer attractive to young pharmacy graduates, who are frustrated that their knowledge and skills are not properly utilised by a system that fails to recognise them...this problem will, if not addressed, have serious ramifications, not just for community pharmacy, but for the wider community," O'Riordan said.

Supermarket appeal won

A PHARMACIST on the NSW Central Coast has won the right to operate a dispensary as part of a convenience store, after an Administrative Appeals Tribunal ruling following an initial decision by the Australian Community Pharmacy Authority denying him permission for the operation.

Geoff Seed sought approval to supply pharmaceutical benefits from a "free-standing house" in Erina, proposing running a pharmacy from the location as part of a larger business supplying groceries and other domestic items.

In 2016 the Australian Community Pharmacy Authority recommended that the application not be approved, and Seed sought review of that decision, with details of the ruling published last week.

The Tribunal heard evidence that Seed had obtained development approval to conduct a "neighbourhood shop with an ancillary dispensary," but the key issue relates to item 212(b) of the Australian Community Pharmacy Authority Rules which states that pharmacy premises "must not be directly accessible by the public from a supermarket".

The pharmacist testified that rather than operating a pharmacy "within" a supermarket, he was instead operating a single integrated business supplying, among other things, pharmaceutical benefits, and that the entire business including the pharmacy was accessed from outside the building through a

single entrance.

Tribunal deputy president Bernard McCabe considered evidence about whether the proposed business was technically a "supermarket" with Seed saying this should only extend to "larger stores like those operated by Coles, Woolworths and Aldi, or perhaps IGA".

The Authority said the definition also extended to a 'neighbourhood shop' and provided a list of general merchandise stocked by the store.

After considering evidence about whether customers would do their weekly shopping at the proposed business, McCabe ruled there was a distinction between a supermarket and a neighbourhood store, saying "I am not satisfied the applicant's business is properly characterised as a supermarket".

Accordingly he set aside the initial decision by the Authority, instead recommending to the Secretary of the Department of Health that the application to supply pharmaceutical benefits for the proposed premises situated in Erina on the Central Coast of NSW be approved".

The full decision can be accessed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Penalty rates review?

THE Australian Retailers Association (ARA) says it will strongly oppose any application from the Shop, Distributive & Allied Employees Association for judicial review of the Sunday penalty rates decision (**PD** 22 Feb 2017).

ARA executive director Russell Zimmerman said the change to Sunday pay levels was passed by the Fair Work Commission (FWC) because "the evidence presented conclusively proved a reduction in penalty rates would increase employment rates across Australia and sustain economic growth".

The union group strongly opposes the ruling and has threatened to request a review of the move which is scheduled to see Sunday penalty rates reduced from 01 Jul.

Zimmerman said the Association would be working with its members and legal providers to strongly defend the FWC decision "and ensure the changes to Sunday penalty rates are implemented from 1 July 2017".

Any applications for judicial review will be made after the FWC issues orders on the transition for the Sunday penalty rate reduction, which is expected to happen later this month.

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Pharmacist 'superpowers'

PHARMACISTS working as integrated parts of the team in GP clinics have "superpowers," according to international expert Dr Kirsten Meisinger from Cambridge Health Alliance in Boston, USA.

Meisinger is a pioneer of the American patient-centred primary care model, and recently visited Australia as part of an ongoing partnership consulting to the WentWest primary health care network in western Sydney.

The US model is a prototype for the government's Health Care Homes initiative, with Meisinger saying practices that had integrated a multidisciplinary team reported improved outcomes and better engagement from patients.

Practice nurses and pharmacists are key, she said, according to a report in *The Medical Republic* which quoted Meisinger's experiences implementing the model in the USA.

"Add the nurse and it's like you are adding another superpower to

the team. Add the pharmacist and you have two superpowers.

"Within one year of adding those visits we had amazing results on things like blood-sugar control...we actually found in the first year more disease than we'd ever identified before, but that's a good thing."

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia highlighted the report, reiterating calls for the government "to support a large-scale trial integrating pharmacists in general practice, to determine the best approach for an evidence-based model in Australia".

PSA national vice president Dr Chris Freeman said the Society had known for some time about the benefits a practice pharmacist brought to patient care.

"But the growth of this model has been limited to a small number of practices due to the absence of funding - and led to Australia falling behind other countries in terms of this collaborative healthcare approach," Freeman added.

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Lou Gehrig's approval

THE US Food and Drug Administration has granted approval for Radicava (edaravone) for the treatment of patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) which is commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease.

The product is sponsored by Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma America, with an FDA spokesman saying "after learning about the use of edaravone to treat ALS in Japan, we rapidly engaged with the drug developer about filing a marketing application in the United States".

It's the first new treatment approved by the FDA for ALS in many years, he said.

ALS is a rare progressive disease that attacks and kills the nerve cells that control voluntary muscles, eventually leading to paralysis.

The condition came to prominence a couple of years ago via the social media-focused 'ice bucket challenge' which raised funds for research by people being sponsored to have ice poured over their heads.

Vitamin D deficiency

THE definition of vitamin D deficiency and its health implications continues to be a contentious issue around the world, according to a new review study of the literature from Iran.

Authors from Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran called for a national consensus in their country with data they surveyed generating a variety of definitions with differing measurement parameters and assay systems.

"The spectrum of vitamin D health effects is quite wide, from bone and muscles (so-called calcemic effects) to a variety of non-calcemic effects including cardiovascular, insulin function, adipogenesis, obesity, immunity and mental status," other researchers said, adding that consequently, "having an optimal vitamin D status has attracted huge attention".

The study concluded that the situation is "confounding" and needs early attention - **CLICK HERE**.

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Dispensary Corner

STUDIES are showing growing concerns that letting a toddler or baby use a smartphone could lead to expressive language delay.

According to the American Academy of Family Physicians, for each 30-minute increase in handheld screen time, there was a 49% increased risk of speech delays in infants.

Nearly 900 children from Toronto were studied, aged between six months to two years.

Of the children in the study, 20% used a handheld device for 28 mins on average per day.

The study didn't find a direct cause-and-effect link between device and speech delays, with further research to be undertaken before firm conclusions could be drawn, the researchers said.

NEW legislation in France is targeting eating disorders and "unrealistic body images" by banning unhealthy thin models.

Under the rules, models will be required to provide a doctor's certificate confirming their overall health and that they aren't "underweight" as defined by the World Health Organization.

The new law will also require photos where a model's shape has been digitally altered to be marked as such from 01 Oct.

Employers who flout the regulations and use excessively thin models are subject to a prison term of up to six months and a €75,000 fine if convicted.

"Exposing young people to normative and unrealistic images of bodies leads to a sense of self-depreciation and poor self-esteem that can impact health-related behaviour," said French minister for social affairs and health, Marisol Touraine.

UK mole scanning service

BRITISH pharmacy giant Boots is now offering to examine patients' moles, with a new service rolling out at 50 stores across the country after a successful trial last year.

Patients aged 18 and over can access the service for an initial payment of £35 which includes dermatological testing of one mole.

The screening process includes a private 20 minute consultation with a "member of your Boots Pharmacy team" including a short consent form and questionnaire.

The service is being offered in partnership with a company called ScreenCancer UK, with Boots saying it hopes to "raise awareness of melanoma among young people and encourage them to establish a life-long habit of regularly checking their moles".

Patients are asked to identify the mole or pigmented lesion they would like looked at, with the pharmacy staffer then taking a scan using a ScreenCancer SIAscope.

Scanning of additional moles or lesions costs £15 each.

The image is sent electronically to a ScreenCancer dermatology

specialist who will analyse it for signs of malignant melanoma, and if the patient is judged to be at risk they will be contacted to discuss the next steps.

Boots pharmacy spokesperson Richard Bradley was quoted by *Chemist+Druggist* as saying the service was a "fantastic example of how community pharmacists could use their clinical skills to support patients' health in locations and at times that are convenient to them".

Patients wanting to have more than four moles scanned are advised to speak to their GP.

See boots.com/molescanning.

Viekira Pak AusPAR

THE assessment process for AbbVie's oral hepatitis C treatment Viekira Pak (paritaprevir/ritonavir/ombitasvir and dasabuvir) has been summarised by the TGA in a newly published Australian Public Assessment Report (AusPAR).

The product is presented in a composite blister pack with 56 tabs of paritaprevir/ritonavir/ombitasvir and 56 dasabuvir tablets.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to PD's weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is Narisha Ashelford, Certified Sleep Consultant and DU'IT Baby Skincare Expert.



Myth 2: Moisturising all the time will improve my baby's skin

MOISTURISING your baby's skin is extremely important as baby's skin is soft and supple, and often susceptible to dryness. Thus, moisturising is essential in avoiding skin rashes and locking in the moisture absorbed by the skin after bathing and cleansing. Make sure to apply the lotion whilst the skin is still wet, and pat dry instead of rubbing for optimal moisturising.

In terms of lotion, I always look for Australian-made, trusted products that are gentle, hydrating and provide a long lasting protective barrier, retaining natural oils in the skin. Products that contain high quality ingredients like calming organic oils and plant extracts such as aloe vera, evening primrose and avocado ensure the soothing of sensitive, irritated and flaky skin.

WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS

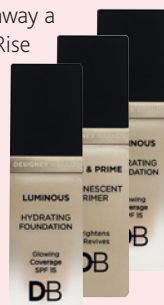
This week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away a set each day of their Luminous Longwear Foundation and Rise & Prime Luminescent Primer.

The Rise & Prime Illuminating Primer enhances the skin's natural radiance by providing a luminous and hydrating base that's perfect for any foundation. Its light diffusing properties brighten fatigued or dull skin. The Longwear Luminous Foundation's hydrating and dewy formula leaves skin looking brighter and more radiant. It's enriched with Green Tea, Aloe Vera and Vitamins A, C & E to hydrate and keep skin looking fresh. **CLICK HERE** to see more.

To win, be the first from NSW or ACT to send the answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What three foundation types can you use the DB Rise & Prime Luminescent Primer with?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



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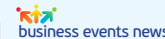
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