

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from Zostrix.

Hospital e-prescribing

THE latest version of a guide to help hospitals implement electronic prescribing and reduce adverse drug events has been launched by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

The third edition of the guide, called *Electronic Medication Management Systems: A guide to safe implementation*, takes account of newer evidence that has come to light since the second edition was published in 2012.

It also reflects the experiences of Australian hospitals that have already implemented electronic medication management (EMM) systems, the Commission said.

EMM systems are intended to provide doctors, nurses and pharmacists with a safer and more efficient way of prescribing and administering medicines in hospitals, minimising medication errors.

CLICK HERE to access the guide.

Cough & cold solution

WHAT a child with a cough and cold will need to recover in most cases is time and rest, along with over-the-counter pain relief medications if required, according to NPS MedicineWise medical adviser Dr Andrew Boyden.

He was responding to research released by the independent non-profit agency to coincide with World Antibiotic Awareness Week taking place 13-17 Nov.

The study collated a survey of over 1,000 respondents, finding close to one third of parents demand antibiotics of their GP.

"A typically healthy child's immune system is powerful and will clear up most common infections on its own... it's important to remember that antibiotics are not the answer to all infections.

"Taking antibiotics when they aren't needed increases the likelihood of resistance developing," Boyden warned.

Bod builds cannabis brands

LISTED Australian natural health and cosmetics company Bod Australia has announced it has begun formulating a range of cannabis-based topical creams and cosmetics through its partnership with Swiss cannabis extracts manufacturer Linnea, signed just last month (**PD** 24 Oct).

Alongside the new cosmetics, Bod is currently in the process of setting up a Phase-I clinical trial of cannabis-based medicines treating a range of medical conditions, including epilepsy, chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, as well as multiple sclerosis.

Unlike some other companies joining what some perceive as the medicinal cannabis "gold rush," Bod Australia already has an established revenue-generating business as the

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official Australian distributor for Pommade Divine, pharmacy-only skincare products Uber Secrets and BIOEFFECT, and also produces a range of non-cannabis natural medicines including Pinpoint and Flexofytol that are currently sold through Australian supermarkets and pharmacies.

The company has also established distribution agreements for these products with national retailers and pharmacy banners, including Priceline, API, Ritchie's IGA, Good Price Pharmacy, Romeo's Retail Group, Drakes, and in-flight sales on Virgin Australia.

Bod anticipates releasing its first cannabis-based topical treatments next year, with its forward planning relying on projections of the global skincare market reaching \$233.7 billion by 2022 and the medicinal cannabis market growing to \$72.8 billion by 2025.

New Health Minister

NEW Zealand's newly elected Labour Government has appointed its Minister of Health, with the party's long-time health spokesman Dr David Clark taking up the role.

The Pharmacy Guild of NZ welcomed the appointment, saying Clark had previously stated that the affordable provision of high quality health care services and equity of access for all New Zealanders hinged on pharmacists practising "at the top of their scope".

Clark has indicated his focus will be on restoring funding to allow access for all, a "real focus on primary care," reviewing mental health services, and addressing standards of care and the financial sustainability of aged care services.

NZ Guild ceo Andrew Gaudin said community pharmacy was ideally placed to offer support and advice in each of these areas.

"We look forward to engaging with the new Health Minister to further develop pharmacy's role as a professional and accessible health care service provider within our communities and wish Hon Dr Clark all the best in this complex role supporting the health and wellbeing of New Zealanders".

CMA 2018 events

COMPLEMENTARY Medicines Australia has released the dates for several events it is hosting next year, including an Innovation Seminar & Supplier Expo which will take place in Sydney on 02 May.

Later in the year, on 19 Sep 2018, CMA will once again hold its annual conference and industry awards, with the organisation's ceo Carl Gibson saying "we are grateful that continued support from industry has allowed CMA to...establish the conference as a highlight of the complementary medicines industry calendar".

Social codeine promo

ADDITIONAL funding provided by the Federal Government for consumer education about the upcoming rescheduling of OTC codeine products is likely to be devoted to a targeted social media campaign aimed at informing country consumers about the change, according to a Guild update from president George Tambassis.

The campaign would focus on popular channels including Facebook to heighten awareness among consumers who may not ordinarily have easy access to a GP, and may be prompted to ask their pharmacist for advice on pain management alternatives.

Tambassis also advised members about new social media 'how to guides' developed by the Guild for members to use in their pharmacy businesses, covering Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.

The guides can be viewed by members at www.guild.org.au.

Zostavax for NZ

NEW Zealand's Pharmaceutical Management Agency PHARMAC has announced that it will fund the provision of shingles (herpes zoster) vaccine Zostavax from Merck Sharpe & Dohme, but the implementation will not take effect until 01 Apr next year.

The Australian Government has funded Zostavax by Seqirus through the National Immunisation Program from Nov 2016 to people aged 70 years, with a catch-up program for people aged 71-79 (**PD** 03 Nov 16).



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Dispensary Corner

YOU'D better watch out...don't get those festive tunes going too early in your pharmacy, because it could be a threat to mental health.

That's the conclusion of a British clinical psychologist, who says for some people, hearing Christmas music too far ahead of the holiday can generate feelings of stress.

Linda Blair said carols remind people of all the presents they haven't bought and whom they need to invite to Christmas parties, adding that retail staff are among the most likely to experience mental health issues due to the music.

Her concerns were echoed by UK shop employee union USDAW which said "we ask employers to consider the staff who have to listen to Christmas music all day, because playing the same songs repeatedly can become very irritating and distracting".



SMALL knives can once again be carried on flights in Canada - but baby powder has been banned, under new regulations being introduced there this month.

Blades of up to 6cm in length are OK but powders and granular materials in containers bigger than 350ml may not be taken on board - including sea salt, sand, baby powder and foot powder.

Baby formula and protein powders are still OK in any size.

ASADA peptide alarm

THE Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) has issued a stark warning on the safety of peptides and other substances not approved for human use, which are also banned in sport.

The agency was responding to a recent media article which described peptides as 'the legal performance enhancer even doctors are using'.

Visit asada.gov.au for more.

NZ grocery probe

NEW Zealand's Medsafe agency is investigating the sale of pharmacy-only medications at a food store, according to NZ publication *Pharmacy Today*.

Medsafe acted on a tip-off when it took action to have Panadol Sinus Pain & Congestion Relief Day & Night removed from the shelves of a bulk supply and health food outlet called Bin Inn in the NZ North Island city of Hamilton.

Staff at the store claim they were misled by their supplier who told them it was allowed to be sold.

TGA fake slimcaps alert

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a safety alert warning that LISHOU Fuling Jiaonang capsules contain the banned substance sibutramine.



This substance, the active ingredient in Reductil, was withdrawn in Oct 2010 after a study showed an increased risk of major cardiac events.

Consumers who have bought the product online are urged to cease taking it, and to take any remaining capsules to their local community pharmacy for safe disposal.

myDNA mental move

GENETIC testing firm myDNA is suggesting mental health patients consult their pharmacist to see whether one of its DNA tests could help improve their treatment.

The company has released the results of a survey showing a large proportion of patients believe improvements could be made, with many waiting a long time for medication to take effect.

Twenty percent still don't believe they are on the right drug or dose to manage their mental health effectively, with myDNA medical director Les Sheffield saying "understanding our genetics can reduce the trial and error process of finding the right prescription".



Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Catherine Cervasio**, Director Aromababy



Travel with baby

AS WE approach the holiday season, these travel skincare tips are a great way to support parents with young families in your pharmacy.

Travel can take its toll and be extremely dehydrating to the skin. To help minimise skin dryness during flights or in air-conditioned hotel rooms, parents can apply a non-greasy, water based natural cream or lotion regularly. A good routine which includes the application of a high quality, fragrance free product to hands, face, legs as well as keeping up fluid intake, is particular crucial to help reduce skin dehydration. A thicker cream (less water in the formulation) will go further, offer better value and be more emollient. Opting for fragrance free means the product is also ideal for eczema and dermatitis sufferers.

To help settle young babies prior to any long haul travel, consider massage as a way to provide a soothing start to the journey - not to mention, this is a great way for parents to engage in playful interaction (for older babies and toddlers) but most importantly, relaxation time pre flight. For older children, short-story telling can be done whilst parents are massaging limbs or soles of feet, as a way to encourage their child to better engage in the experience.

Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away a NS prize pack valued at \$30 each.

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