

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus our regular **Health & Beauty** feature.

PBS stationery online

PHARMACISTS now have access to a new online form to order Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Safety Net cards and envelopes.

The Department of Human Services noted that the form should be typed - not handwritten - and must include the pharmacy approval number and email address so a dispatch notice and tracking reference number can be sent.

PBS safety net cards and envelopes can also still be ordered by phone, the department said. Visit humanservices.gov.au.

Pfizer consumer sale?

PFIZER announced on Tuesday it was considering the sale or spin-off of its consumer healthcare business, according to *Reuters*.

The move would throw a \$15b lip balm operation onto the market just as Germany's Merck KGaA is also looking to divest its non-prescription products, including brands such as its Seven Seas vitamins, worth around \$4.5b.

Pfizer's consumer business, whose brands include painkiller Advil and lip balm Chapstick, had revenue of about \$3.4 billion in 2016, with analysts citing possible suitors including Nestle, Reckitt Benckiser, Procter & Gamble, GSK, Johnson & Johnson and Abbott.

Sigma wins \$40m tenders

SIGMA Healthcare offshoot Sigma Hospital Services has won another tender to provide pharmaceutical products, this time to Northern Health, a key provider of public healthcare in Melbourne's north.

Pharmacy product supply to Northern Health's four major healthcare campuses located in Melbourne's north will commence from this month, the company said.

This follows Sigma Hospital Services also winning a similar deal with Western Health in Melbourne, which commenced in Jul.

Together these new contracts are worth close to \$40 million per year.

Sigma Healthcare gm Peter Nolan said he believed these two new contracts showed the impact of Sigma's strong investment in the hospital wholesale market, with more growth to come.

"Sigma's hospital services business is growing rapidly and that's because we are competing aggressively in the hospital sector and establishing long-term relationships with many of the key hospital providers," Nolan said.

"We continue to seek opportunities to provide a differentiated pitch to the market. "With the recent launch of

our service offering in Western Australia, we continue to roll out the Sigma Hospital Services business nationally.

"We look forward to providing exceptional service levels to our customers and are excited about generating new partnerships as the business grows."

Sigma Hospital Services grew out of Sigma's acquisition of CHS in 2014, which had a Victoria only hospital business, but now has a national presence with annualised revenue around \$250m and a strong pipeline of growth opportunities.

Nolan said it was the strategic focus and ongoing investment in expanding services that had brought the company to this point.

Qld doc slams Guild

THE Queensland chairman of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Edwin Kruys, has slammed the Pharmacy Guild's approach to codeine rescheduling as "weak," in a blog post titled *About addictive painkillers and dirty backdoor deals*.

The outspoken doctor says there is unambiguous international evidence of the harm caused by codeine, and in terms of the Guild's MedsASSIST system cited a TGA example "where an individual was able to receive 660 codeine tablets in one month despite their purchasing being tracked by the software".

See Kruys' controversial blog post online at doctorsbag.net.

Rates decision upheld

THE Federal Court has ruled against a union bid to overturn the Fair Work Commission's decision to reduce penalty rates in pharmacy.

The Court this morning said the FWC met its legal obligations in its ruling earlier this year (**PD** 23 Feb).

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Duavive TGA approval

PFIZER'S Duavive (conjugated estrogens/bazedoxifene), a novel menopausal hormone therapy, has received TGA approval for treatment of menopausal vasomotor symptoms under certain conditions - see the PI at tga.gov.au.



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Genetic tests alert

THE National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has warned the public to "exercise caution" when ordering direct to consumer genetic tests, and be mindful that results should not be treated as a diagnosis - nhmrc.gov.au.

WIN WITH PLAQUEAWAY

Each day this week, Pharmacy Daily and PlaqueAway are giving away one bottle of PlaqueAway capsules valued at \$37.95.

PlaqueAway is a new and unique food supplement in Australia with significant oral health benefits.



The capsules contain organic *Ascophyllum nodosum* (seaweed) powder which reduces plaque and tartar on teeth. Oral health benefits include a reduction in bad breath. As plaque is often stained, teeth will be whiter.

For more info visit www.plaqueaway.com.au.

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

Can PlaqueAway help whiten teeth?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Joss Beare from Blooms the Chemist, Kingaroy.

Ubiquinol website

KANEKA Corporation has launched a new Australian website showcasing Ubiquinol, the active form of CoQ10.

The Japanese-based manufacturer is the only maker of Ubiquinol as a raw material, using a patented yeast fermentation process.

In Australia the supplement is sold by a range of brands such as Bioceuticals, Swisse, Blackmores and Herbs of Gold.

Manager of Kaneka's Supplemental Nutrition Group in Japan, Tsuyoshi Takakuwa, said the company was excited about the new website and the "robust information it provides for our customers, retailers and general consumers to better understand the benefits of Ubiquinol".

See www.ubiquinol.net.au.

Funded NRT detailed

THE Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand has provided new guidance for pharmacists around the opportunity to supply patients with funded nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) without a script.

The details follow consultation by NZ regulatory agency PHARMAC (PD 21 Jul 2017), with the new arrangements enabling pharmacists to initiate funded access to up to three months supply of NRT for patients without a prescription.

This includes nicotine patches, gum and lozenges and attracts a \$5 co-payment for the first dispensing.

NZ pharmacists do not need extra training or accreditation before supplying funded NRT.

Visit psnz.org.nz for more.



PlaqueAway: for effective, natural reduction of plaque on teeth

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Push to slash med errors

AUSTRALIA

has joined the global push to

halve medication errors within five years, aligning with the World Health Organization's drive to save lives and reduce the harm caused by medication mix-ups, says the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

The WHO's third Global Patient Safety Challenge, called 'Medication Without Harm', aims to help countries strengthen their systems for preventing medication errors, which are estimated to cost US\$42 billion annually – with people in low-income countries disproportionately affected.

"Medication errors are a problem in Australia, as they are in other countries," said the Commission.

"Previous estimates indicate between 2% and 3% of all Australian hospital admissions are medication-related.

"This suggests at least 230,000 admissions annually in this country are caused by patients taking too much or too little of a medicine, or taking the wrong medicine – with an estimated annual cost of at least \$1.2 billion."

Human and other factors affect how medicines are prescribed, dispensed or administered, and improving medication safety is a key area of focus for the Commission, which facilitated this week's WHO regional campaign launch in Brisbane with the Australian Government Department of Health.

Commission ceo Adjunct

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

Professor Debora Picone said unsafe medication practices and medication errors were a leading cause of injury and avoidable harm in health care systems across the world.

"Some people in our community with poorer health are taking four or more different medicines at once, sometimes under the supervision of a number of GPs, hospitals and specialists," Picone said in the lead-up to the meeting.

Tools to underpin medication safety in hospitals include standard inpatient and specialised medication charts, 'Tall man lettering' norms and standardised terms and abbreviations.

CLICK HERE for more.

Look in the mirror

THE Australian College of Pharmacy has issued new recommendations for pharmacists suggesting they "reflect on every CPD activity you undertake".

The advice follows several recent audits of member CPD by the Pharmacy Board of Australia, where pharmacists were asked to provide more details on their CPD reflections.

"The depth of your reflection depends on the length of the activity and the number of CPD credits it attracts...the more credits you have earned, the greater the detail required in your reflection for that activity," the ACP said.

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Dispensary Corner

EATING too much bacon is obviously bad for your health - but the risks definitely multiply if your pork products originate from Scandinavia.

Health authorities in Sweden have raised significant concerns about packs of radioactive wild boar, which have been spotted moving across the country.

One animal shot by a hunter was found to have more than 10 times the safe level of radiation, according to a UK *Telegraph* report published this week.

Incredibly the radiation is believed to be a leftover from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Ukraine, with large amounts of iodine and caesium-137 still present in the soil in areas where radioactive clouds drifted.

The issue is set to spiral into a crisis for farmers, who fear the high levels of radiation will mean hunters stop shooting them and cause a pig population explosion - in turn damaging crops.



IT LOOKED like the dead had risen in New Jersey, USA, last weekend when organisers staged an annual Zombie Walk.

Following the mass shooting in Las Vegas, organisers banned the use of "prop weapons" but there was still lots of fun to be had, with participants believed to include four undead Disney Princesses.

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

NS Working Hands skin repair

NS **Working Hands** repairs work-damaged hands. This intensive, non-greasy, non-slip treatment absorbs instantly and leaves an invisible protection barrier that locks in the natural ingredients to restore dry, cracked, calloused hands and split fingers. Working Hands is for people that don't want a slick, thick greasy residue. Working Hands leaves hands moisturised without the grease factor... so hands can get back to work, fast! This targeted product is designed for frequently washed hands, dry or cracked hands, rough calloused hands and hands irritated by gloves and chemicals - working hands.



Stockist: Major wholesalers nationally
RRP: \$11.95
Website: www.nsWorkingHands.com.au

Make Me Shine Spray Gloss by ELEVEN



Spring has sprung and to match the mood, ELEVEN offers this outstanding quick-finish hair dressing that prepares your coiffure for any situation, from wild casual to sensual and sophisticated. Glossy, shiny hair is a key look on international runways and red carpets, but also an easy answer to simple and cool style. ELEVEN Australia's **Make Me Shine Spray Gloss** is the key to unlocking all of the best spring looks. Make Me Shine Spray Gloss is a finishing spray that both controls flyaways and adds shine. The lightweight formula still allows hair to move naturally while adding a sleek finish perfect for any hairstyle - face the world with an 'I-look-great' confidence.

Stockist: 1800 104 204
RRP: \$23.95
Website: www.elevenaustralia.com

Hamilton sunscreens protect GC2018

Hamilton has been announced as the Official Sunscreen Supplier for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018). The company will supply sunscreen to athletes, volunteers and staff in the lead up to and during the Games. Hamilton sunscreens are Australian made and owned and are proud to have been protecting Australian families and visitors from Australia's harsh conditions for over 80 years, the company said. **Pictured** is Hamilton **Active Family SPF 50+ Sunscreen**, sweat resistant, UVA and UVB broad spectrum, four hours water resistant and suitable for all skin types.



Stockist: 1800 653 373
RRP: \$16.95 for 250 mL
Website: www.hamiltonsun.com.au

Playboy King Body Spray + Shower Gel



With only 10 weeks to Christmas, it's time to get organised with gifts for all the family and friends. Make Coty's **King of Game Body Spray and Shower Gel** gift set part of your gifting game plan. With skintouch technology the Body Spray is designed

to release an hypnotic invitation to play throughout the day. Paired with the King of Game Shower Gel offering an addictive mix of cardamom, cedarwood and black coffee, it's a shot of pure seduction. He can only be seriously impressed.

Stockist: 02 9267 5500
RRP: \$12.95
Website: www.playboyfrances.com