

Billion dollar switch

THE World Self-Medication Industry has released a new report estimating savings of more than \$1 billion to the Australian economy if just a few prescription medicines were reclassified as OTC.

The Precision Health Economics report reviews existing evidence to support the use of self-medication, focusing on the cost-related impacts of self care in terms of healthcare resource use, medication costs and productivity.

Conditions targeted for the study included allergic rhinitis and chronic urticaria; heartburn/non-ulcer dyspepsia; common cold symptom management; and cardiovascular disease, with evidence reviewed in the report indicating a significant reduction in doctor visits once a class of medicines becomes available without a script.

"A large proportion of patients are seeking medical care for conditions that are suitable for self care," the organisation said, with the review showing improving access to medicines that people can use to manage their own health can deliver significant economic benefits to healthcare systems.

The study was published in the *Journal of Medical Economics* - see www.tandfonline.com.

NSW compounding survey

COMMUNITY pharmacists are being asked to help "shape the future of compounding in NSW," as part of a project being undertaken by researchers from the University of Canberra.

The Pharmacy Council of NSW says "the increase in the amount and complexity of prescribed compounded medicines presents particular challenges in terms of maintaining public safety," with the study looking at the current scope of compounding services provided.

The research will also collate the level of training of compounders, the extent of compliance with current practice standards, and the incentives for providing compounding services.

Information is being gathered via an online survey ([CLICK HERE](#))

TerryWhite on top

TERRY White Chemists has come out on top of the Retail - Chemist/ Pharmacy customer satisfaction awards for Sep 2017, according to Roy Morgan Research.

My Chemist was in second place, followed by Discount Drug stores, Chemmart Pharmacy and then Chemist Warehouse in fifth spot.

as well as through more in depth telephone interviews.

Some pharmacies will also have received a postal survey seeking their input to the research.

Pharmacists who would like to confidentially discuss compounding with one of the researchers can contact Louise Deeks via email at louise.deeks@canberra.edu.au.

The resultant telephone interview should take around 15 minutes.

All responses are confidential, and comments will be de-identified in any reports or publications.

Cannabis deal inked

ASX-LISTED skin care and health products company Bod Australia has announced a supply and collaboration agreement with Swiss herbal extracts company Linnea Natural Pharma Solutions, maker of proprietary cannabis extracts.

Paths to market under evaluation include therapeutic products for treating multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting.

Bod said it would also develop cosmetics & topical skin care items based on Linnea's NioSkin range of active cosmetic ingredients.

Vic lethal cocktail

THE Victorian Government has reportedly approached Monash University's pharmacy department to research the kind of drugs that could be used for "voluntary assisted dying" if the state's proposed new legislation passes.

There is some discussion that indicates the resultant mixture could be a powder form made with pain killers to induce a coma and eventually cause respiratory arrest, according to an article by researchers Betty Char and Sami Isaac from the University of Sydney, writing in *The Conversation*.

It may also use sedatives and muscle relaxants, a drug to slow down the heart, possibly as well as an anti-epileptic to prevent seizure, they wrote.

Secobarbital capsules and pentobarbital liquid have been used either alone or in combination for physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia and are the preferred drugs in the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland and some USA states where euthanasia is legal.

In Australia, Nembutal and secobarbital can be used for animals, but are illegal for human use making implementation of the newly proposed euthanasia law in Victoria difficult, the article said.

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Diabetes pharmacy accreditation

THE National Association of Diabetes Centres (NADC) has announced the release of its new Pharmacy Accreditation standards which are designed to support pharmacy-based diabetes services as they deliver best-practice care to people with, or at risk of diabetes.

NADC ceo Natalie Wischer said with the increasing contribution pharmacies are making in delivering care to people with diabetes, the National Association of Diabetes Centres has recognised a need to better support pharmacy-based services.



“The NADC Pharmacy Accreditation aims to lift the standard of service and care delivered at pharmacy-based diabetes services across Australia,” she explained.

“I am pleased to announce this exciting new accreditation and hope it will assist pharmacies to continue delivering important support to those in our community who have, or who are at risk of developing diabetes,” said Wischer.

Pharmacy diabetes services of all models and sizes across Australia can apply for the Accreditation with the NADC standards offering a comprehensive level across three broad criteria: governance, educational and clinical quality improvement.

Service teams that complete accreditation will have their status updated to say ‘Accredited NADC Pharmacy Diabetes Service’ which will be promoted on the NADC website, in NADC member lists, maps published on the website as well as in information provided to other health professional organisations.

Expressions of interest from pharmacies wanting to be part of the service are now being sought via a simple one-page form.

Visit nadc.net.au for details.

MHR exceeds 5 million

LATEST statistics from the Department of Health show that 5,247,398 individual registrations have been recorded for the My Health Record (MHR) system, with numbers growing at a rate of one new record every 38 seconds.

This brings the proportion of Australians registered to approximately 21%, 54% of whom are female.

Over 13.5 million prescription and dispense records have been uploaded and more than 10,486 healthcare providers are connected, including GPs, hospitals, pharmacies, aged care residential services and allied health.

See myhealthrecord.gov.au.

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

How many stages of R.I.C.E does CoolXChange do?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Cathy Portolesi from Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

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ASMI 2017 Diamond winners

THE Australian Self-Medication Industry (ASMI) has unveiled the winners of its 2017 Diamond Awards, with the top achievers named during the gala dinner for last week's World Self Medication Industry General Assembly in Sydney.

The Best Consumer Healthcare Product Launch award went to Ego Pharmaceuticals (right) for the Sensesensitive Invisible Launch put together by Geometry Global.



The Care Pharmaceuticals team (pictured left) were thrilled to take home the award for Best Large Budget Marketing Campaign (>\$1m) for the Hydralite “Usage Occasions” campaign.

Other winners included GSK Consumer Healthcare (right) for Best Small Budget Marketing Campaign (<\$1m), for the Panadol & Voltaren Osteo “Regime” campaign.

Ego also won the Best Healthcare Professional Initiative for the QV “Skin Tears” campaign, while 2017 sales award winners (<\$100m)

included Ego (gold), Apotex (silver) and Aspen (bronze).

In the >\$100m category the sales winners were GSK Consumer (gold), Bayer (silver) and J&J Pacific (bronze).



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Dispensary Corner

HERE'S a unique way to get your intake of minerals - at least the very expensive type.

The Westin New York Hotel has announced the return of its famous "gold-topped bagel" which costs US\$1,000 per serve.

Toppings (pictured) include goji berry infused Riesling jelly, gold leaves and white truffle cream cheese - the "second most expensive food in the world, next to caviar," the hotel enthused.

The price tag includes tax and a tip, and all proceeds will be donated to charity.

It's a limited edition item only available from 01 Nov-15 Dec and must be ordered a day in advance.



NEVER let a chance go by...

That's certainly a suitable motto for a man in Pennsylvania, who has been imprisoned on charges he sold heroin in the maternity ward where people were visiting his newborn daughter.

The 25-year-old was charged with heroin delivery and endangering the welfare of children, according to the *Philadelphia Tribune-Review*.

Apparently the alleged offender was arrested after a car was stopped with heroin and other drug paraphernalia inside.

The driver told police he had just bought the drugs from the man at Excelsa Health Westmoreland Hospital.

Goat milk formula goes off

MORE than 1,000 pharmacies across Australia are now stocking goat milk formula Oli6, with the brand achieving substantial growth and success since its launch just 18 months ago.

The product is made by Nucheve, an Australian firm founded by Ben Dingle who also co-founded ASX and NZX-listed Synlait Milk, which he left in 2013 to establish his new venture.

Oli6 is the only Australian goat milk formula to be "core ranged" in Chemist Warehouse and TerryWhite Chemmart stores, with the goat milk formula segment estimated to be worth about \$85 million through the pharmacy channel - a massive multiple of its \$3 million value just four years ago.

The product is available through all three of the major wholesalers and also recently started selling into Metcash stores.

Effective from this month, Chemist Warehouse now stocks



all three Oli6 goat's milk formula products across all 356 of its stores nationally.

Nucheve's Ben Dingle is pictured above with Chemist Warehouse chief operating officer Mario Tascone.

New IVF app

COUPLES undergoing IVF treatment can now access the new MiFertility Plan App, which has been created to alleviate some of the stress associated with IVF.

It allows users to store all their data in one place including clinic appointments, injection times and medications, along with automatic synchronisation of calendars.

Shingles vax FDA OK

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved GlaxoSmithKline's Shingrix shingles vaccine, indicated for the prevention of herpes zoster in adults aged 50 years and older.

The vaccine is also currently under review for approval in the EU, Japan and Australia.

GSK Vaccines chief medical officer Thomas Breuer said Shingrix had been "developed specifically to overcome the age-related decline in immunity".

J&J wins appeal

A JUDGE in California has ruled in favour of Johnson & Johnson in an appeal against a massive US\$417 damages judgement.

The award was made in an earlier lawsuit where a woman claimed she had developed ovarian cancer after a lifetime of using Johnson's Baby Powder for feminine hygiene.

In Aug a jury awarded California resident Eva Echeverria US\$70 million in compensatory damages and US\$347 million in punitive damages, but last Fri Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Maren Nelson reversed the verdict and granted J&J's request for a new trial.

The judge said the previous hearing had been marked by "errors and insufficient evidence on both sides," resulting in the "excessive" damages award.

J&J is facing lawsuits from over 4,800 plaintiffs across the USA in relation to its talc products.

Guild Update

Click and collect

SO FAR over 925 pharmacies have registered for pharmacy.com.au - the pharmacy click and collect platform. This is becoming one of the largest click and collect networks in the country. With every new pharmacy on board comes a compelling reason for suppliers to connect. By activating today, you'll make the initiative stronger and bring benefits to your own pharmacy. Get behind these brands and this initiative from the Guild. Call Kylie on 1300 286 880 for all questions and activate today.