



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus the latest MIMS Update.

AHPRA offline

THE website of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) will be inaccessible tomorrow, with scheduled maintenance seeing it taken offline between 7am and 4pm AEST.

That means the public register, along with account services, registration renewals, graduate applications and other online options will be unavailable, with AHPRA apologising for any inconvenience as a result.

Flu vax recording

THE Department of Health has reminded pharmacists and other health practitioners that flu vaccinations can be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

According to an update on the government's Human Services website, patients may need proof of vaccination for employment or to enrol in child care or school.

"You can record vaccines on the AIR for people of all ages...this includes vaccines for adults such as Zostavax, pneumococcal and private vaccines for flu and travel," the update advises.

Patients are able to access their own Immunisation History Statement via Medicare Online on the myGov portal, as well as by using the Express Plus Medicare mobile app.

To request access to the AIR website see humanservices.gov.au.

PSA18 to focus on future

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia this morning unveiled details of its upcoming PSA18 flagship conference, set to take place 27-29 Jun at Sydney's Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Themed 'Leading Pharmacy Future,' the conference will include an opening plenary from Catherine Duggan, recently appointed as ceo of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (PD 08 Feb).

A major new "The Shark Tank" addition to the program will see pharmacists from across the country pitch their pharmacy innovations to an expert panel, while other key topics will include artificial intelligence and the future of healthcare, along with new streams in specialty practice, healthcare pathways and other industry matters.

An interactive forum will also see delegates collaborate to strategise and provide their input on key

issues in pharmacy.

There will also be plenty of networking opportunities at a range of social events including a welcome reception, gala dinner and Early Career Pharmacist party.

Earlybird pricing is on offer until 20 May at psa18.com, with discounts on offer for students, interns & early career pharmacists.

Neratinib access

SPECIALISED Therapeutics Asia has launched an early access program for Australian patients to receive neratinib, an extended adjuvant treatment for early-stage HER2-positive breast cancer.

The Special Access Program covers patients with special clinical needs that cannot be met by currently approved and available medicines, with the move following the signing of a licence agreement with Puma Biotechnology which gives Specialised Therapeutics exclusive rights to commercialise neratinib in Australia, NZ and South East Asia.

Resistant red bags

AS PART of the 'Seriously Resistant' campaign led by England's NHS Leeds and Leeds City Council, pharmacies across the county will dispense medicine in red bags with a message to patients to complete their course of antibiotics "even if they start to feel better".

"Switching regular prescription bags for standout red ones highlights the severity of this threat to the future of healthcare," explained Becky Dam, director of marketing agency Magpie which was commissioned to develop the campaign.

Drive-through pharmacy for ACT

DISCOUNT Drug Stores is set to open the first drive-through pharmacy in the ACT, with the Gold Creek DDS to launch the new facility on 14 Apr.

Proprietor Nader Ibrahim said the initiative creates a "new form of accessible healthcare for the brand and the ACT community to meet consumer needs".

The drive-through pharmacy will offer a click and collect program, script pick-up and online ordering.

"I've worked in the Gold Creek area for six years now and I've learned that our customers, particularly mothers in the area, really value convenience.

"This inspired our ambition to introduce the first drive-through concept in ACT to our pharmacy," Ibrahim said.

Douglas Kuskopf-Dallas, gm of Sigma Healthcare's Discount Pharmacy Retail Group, said the ACT drive-through pharmacy is a "revolutionary step forward for our brand" and an example of how DDS is adapting to serve customers.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Great Ocean Road, VIC (Job# 200015592)
Charming coastal location with \$110,000pa + Bonuses + Relocation
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Central QLD (Job# 200015562)
Great career opportunity - Standout salary on offer to the right Candidate
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Yamba, NSW (Job# 200015468)
Surf B4 work/beach walk after diverse forward dispensing Pharmacist

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Dispensary Corner

IF YOU'RE planning on taking up sumo wrestling, make sure you have a men-only first aid team on hand in case of any injuries.

That's the advice being given to prospective fighters in Japan, where last week female paramedics were ordered from a sumo ring when they tried to help an official who collapsed while giving a speech.

Ryozo Tatami, mayor of Maizuru city, was welcoming fighters and the audience to a tournament when he fainted in the ring.

Traditionally women are banned from walking on the "sacred" ring, and the first responding ladies were ordered from the fighting area by a referee who was later disciplined by the head of Japan's sumo association.

Nobuyoshi Hakkaku said it was an "inappropriate act in a situation that involves one's life... we deeply apologise".

Adding insult to injury, some spectators were outraged when salt was thrown into the area where the women went - an act used to purify the space - which some interpreted as implying the women had "dirtied" the wrestling ring.

The mayor was taken to hospital after the incident and is reportedly in a stable condition, according to the BBC.



Bod into API

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries will stock the full range of product made by ASX-listed natural medicines and cosmetics company Bod Australia, under a new distribution agreement which makes the items available nationally.

The entire Bod range, including Pinpoint, Flexofytol and new products SediStress and Enterofytol, will be stocked by API and have now been classed as part of API's 'core range' which allows for better market positioning, improved working capital management and centralised deliveries, Bod Australia said.

New pack sizes will help secure additional 'on shelf' presence, and Bod will work with API to promote the range across Priceline, Chemsave and Pharmacy 4 Less.

The additions to API's stable will be live by mid Apr, with the exception of SediStress which should be added in Jul this year.

Bod also has plans to develop a range of products based on GMP-certified cannabis extracts.

Cannabis evidence

A SYSTEMATIC literature review published in the *European Journal of Internal Medicine* this month has concluded there is evidence to support the therapeutic effect of cannabis and cannabinoids.

Conducted by a 16-member committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, the review considered 10,000 recent abstracts focusing on 11 priority health areas.

The report concluded that there was "conclusive or substantial evidence that cannabis or cannabinoids are effective for the treatment of pain in adults; chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting and spasticity associated with multiple sclerosis".

Moderate evidence was found for secondary sleep disturbances, but evidence supporting improvement in appetite, Tourette syndrome, anxiety, PTSD, cancer, irritable bowel syndrome, epilepsy and neurodegenerative disorders was described as "limited, insufficient or absent" - visit ejnme.com.

CM website launch

BLACKMORES Institute has relaunched its website which offers CPD accredited education, the latest complementary medicines research, its CM interactions guide and more, with existing users asked to reset passwords for access at blackmoresinstitute.org/forgot.



Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

28-29 Apr: Victorian Pharmacy Conference 2018; Parkville, Victoria; find out more here: www.psa.org.au

3-6 May: APP 2018; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; find out more and register at: www.appconference.com

27 May-8 Jun: 43rd PSA Offshore Refresher Conference; San Francisco; travel information and registrations at: www.psa.org.au

30 May - 1 Jun: National Medicines Symposium (NMS) 2018; National Convention Centre, Canberra; registrations now open: www.nps.org.au

15 - 17 Jun: ConPharm 2018; Sofitel Brisbane Central Hotel; for details and to register see: www.aacp.com.au

27 - 29 Jul: PSA18; Sofitel The Hyatt Regency Sydney; early bird registrations now open: www.psa18.com

Win with Nutri-Synergy

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away an NS prize pack valued at \$38 each including NS Working Hands, NS-8 Heel Balm and NS-8 Leg Care Cream.

Hands, Legs and Heels

Dry, rough, cracked hands, legs and heels? NS Working Hands is an intensive repair treatment, it absorbs quickly so that hands get back to work fast. NS-8 Heel Balm is diabetic friendly and recommended by podiatrists while NS-8 Leg Care Cream refreshes and cools dry, tired, heavy legs. Visit: www.Plunketts.com.au.

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

NS-8 Leg Care Cream contains which 3 vitamins?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Vicki Whalland from The Green Dispensary Pharmacy.



New Products

- **Alprolix (eftrenonacog alfa (rhu))** is a long acting, fully recombinant fusion protein consisting of human coagulation factor IX (FIX) covalently linked to the Fc domain of human IgG1. Alprolix is indicated in adults and children with haemophilia B (congenital factor IX deficiency) for: control and prevention of bleeding episodes; routine prophylaxis to prevent or reduce the frequency of bleeding episodes; perioperative management (surgical prophylaxis). Alprolix is available in single vials containing 250 IU, 500 IU, 1000 IU, 2000 IU and 3000 IU.
- **Darzalex (daratumumab (rch))** is an IgG1 κ human monoclonal antibody that binds to the CD38 protein expressed at a high level on the surface of cells in a variety of haematological malignancies, including multiple myeloma tumour cells. Darzalex is indicated: in combination with lenalidomide and dexamethasone, or bortezomib and dexamethasone, for the treatment of patients with multiple myeloma who have received at least one prior therapy; as monotherapy, for the treatment of patients with multiple myeloma who have received at least three prior lines of therapy including a proteasome inhibitor (PI) and an immunomodulatory agent or who are refractory to both a PI and an immunomodulatory agent. Darzalex is available in single vials containing 100 mg and 400 mg.
- **Fluad (inactivated influenza vaccine (surface antigen), trivalent)** contains influenza virus surface antigens representative of the influenza virus types expected to circulate in the Southern Hemisphere 2018 winter season. Fluad is indicated for active immunisation against influenza in the elderly (65 years of age and older), especially for those with an increased risk of associated complications (i.e. patients affected by underlying chronic diseases including diabetes, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases). Fluad is contraindicated in anyone who has had an anaphylactoid reaction to previous influenza vaccination. Fluad (haemagglutinin 45 mcg) is available in a 0.5 mL prefilled syringe in a pack of 10.
- **Gardasil 9 (human papillomavirus 9-valent vaccine)** is a noninfectious recombinant 9-valent vaccine prepared from the purified virus-like particles (VLPs) of the major capsid (L1) protein of human papillomavirus (HPV) types 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58. Gardasil 9 is indicated in females aged 9 to 45 years for the prevention of cervical, vulvar, vaginal and anal cancer, precancerous or dysplastic lesions, genital warts, and infection caused by HPV types contained in the vaccine. Gardasil 9 is also indicated in males 9 to 26 years of age for the prevention of anal cancer, precancerous or dysplastic lesions, external genital lesions and infection caused by HPV types contained in the vaccine. Individuals who develop symptoms indicative of hypersensitivity after receiving a dose of Gardasil 9 or Gardasil should not receive further doses of Gardasil 9. Gardasil 9 (HPV L1 protein 270 mcg) is available in a 0.5 mL prefilled syringe in a pack of 1 and 10.
- **Glyxambi (empagliflozin/linagliptin)** contains two oral antihyperglycaemic drugs used in the management of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM): empagliflozin (a SGLT2 inhibitor) and linagliptin (a DPP-4 inhibitor). Empagliflozin and linagliptin act by separate and complementary mechanisms to treat T2DM. Glyxambi is indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycaemic control in adults with T2DM when treatment with both empagliflozin and linagliptin is appropriate. Glyxambi is contraindicated with eGFR persistently < 45 mL/min/1.73 m² or CrCl persistently < 45 mL/min (CKD stage 3B), as the efficacy of empagliflozin is dependent on renal function. Glyxambi 10 mg/5 mg and 25 mg/5 mg tablets are available in packs of 30.
- **Olumiant (baricitinib)** is a selective and reversible inhibitor of Janus kinases (JAK) 1 and 2, reducing the phosphorylation and activation of signal transducers and activators of transcription (STATs). Olumiant is indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe active rheumatoid arthritis in adults who have responded inadequately, or who are intolerant, to one or more DMARDs. Olumiant can be taken as monotherapy or in combination with cDMARDs, including methotrexate. Olumiant must not be used in combination with bDMARDs. Olumiant 4 mg tablets are available in packs of 28.
- **Qtern (saxagliptin/dapagliflozin)** combines saxagliptin and dapagliflozin with distinct and complementary mechanisms of action to improve glycaemic control. Saxagliptin, through the selective inhibition of DPP-4, enhances glucose mediated insulin secretion (incretin effect). Dapagliflozin, a selective inhibitor of SGLT2, inhibits renal glucose reabsorption independently of insulin. Qtern is indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise, in combination with metformin, to improve glycaemic control in adults with T2DM when treatment with both saxagliptin and dapagliflozin is appropriate. Qtern is contraindicated with hypersensitivity (including anaphylaxis or angioedema) following exposure to any DPP-4 inhibitor. Qtern should not be used in patients with CrCl persistently < 60 mL/min or eGFR persistently < 60 mL/min/1.73 m², as the efficacy of dapagliflozin is dependent on renal function. Qtern 5 mg/10 mg fixed dose combination tablets are available in packs of 28.

New contraindications

- **Concerta Extended-Release Tablets (methylphenidate hydrochloride)** are now contraindicated with poorly controlled open angle or angle closure glaucoma.
- **Relenza (zanamivir)** is now contraindicated in patients with severe milk protein allergy.
- **Viekira Pak (paritaprevir/ritonavir/ombitasvir/dasabuvir)** and **Viekira Pak-RBV (paritaprevir/ritonavir/ombitasvir/dasabuvir/ribavirin)** are now contraindicated with disopyramide, due to potential for serious or life threatening cardiac arrhythmias.