

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news including our weekly **Travel Specials** feature.

Chemists' Own launch

ARROW Pharmaceuticals' Chemists' Own has released Cystitis Relief, a generic medicine that delivers relief from the painful burning symptoms of urinary tract



infections. Active ingredients include sodium bicarbonate 1.75g, tartaric acid

890mg, citric acid anhydrous 720 mg and sodium citrate anhydrous 630 mg (per 4g sachet).

To access stock, contact 1300 9ARROW (927769) or visit chemistsown.com.au.

EMA Brexit scale back

WITH the exit of Britain from the European Union, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) is set to move its headquarters to the Netherlands (PD 21 Nov 2017) but in the process, looks to lose more staff than anticipated.

The move is planned for Mar 2019 but an expected loss of around 30% of staff is reducing the capacity of the agency to the point where it has had to announce "temporary cuts in activities".

Not only did more staff than anticipated choose not to relocate, but employment rules in Amsterdam complicate the issue by disallowing 135 short-term contract staff from working for the EMA.

In a statement, the EMA said, "In the short- to mid-term, EMA will have to reprioritise its resources to fully maintain its core activities related to the evaluation and supervision of medicines to the level of quality and within the timelines expected".

Activities that may be affected include some international collaboration efforts, guideline revisions, some non-product working parties and more. Visit ema.europa.eu for details.

MHR move widely backed

THERE has been broad support for the My Health Record (MHR) changes announced by Health Minister Greg Hunt to strengthen the privacy provisions of the platform (PD yesterday).

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) and the Consumers Health Forum (CHF) are among the many voices supporting the adaptations to the MHR.

The changes announced by the minister will see an amendment to the MHR legislation to require a court order before any record can be released for any purpose to police or government agencies.

In addition, the government will also amend the legislation to ensure if someone wishes to cancel their MHR they will be able to do so permanently, with their record deleted from the system.

The minister also foreshadowed a one month extension of the opt-out period.

Pharmacy Guild national president

Guilty pharmacist

THE NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal has found that a locum pharmacist working at Broken Hill Hospital in 2014 misappropriated morphine and Codapane Forte.

The hearing heard allegations that Lauren Murray created a false entry in the pharmacy registers in relation to the Codapane, and in a separate incident took two partly used bottles of morphine which had been collected for destruction.

The tribunal found that the pharmacist's behaviour amounted to "unsatisfactory professional conduct" with a second hearing to be held to determine whether she should retain her registration as a pharmacist.

AusCann reaps reward

MEDICINAL cannabis AusCann Group says it has completed its second harvest at Chilean joint venture DayaCann, appointed a master grower for oversight of its operation in Tasmania and entered a research agreement with Jade Cannabis re its cultivation system.

George Tambassis said these measures would allay concerns that had arisen in the community.

SHPA noted that the system would reduce the risk associated with knowledge gaps as patients transition between care centres.

CHF said it would conduct a series of webinars on MHR for consumers.

More than 3,000 Australian community pharmacies, or nearly 60%, are registered with MHR.

The Guild says pharmacists should encourage patients to use the MHR to better understand their health and take greater personal responsibility for health needs.

Pain plan endorsed

PAINAUSTRALIA has endorsed the National Pain Strategy as 'fit for purpose' to reduce Australia's current pain burden, following a Jun gathering of consumer and health experts in Canberra who agreed that it sets out a clear framework for supporting best practice pain management.

The Roundtable agreed that the Strategy should guide the development of the National Strategic Action Plan on Pain Management, which is being funded by the Federal Government.

"The key goals of consumer empowerment, expanding access to interdisciplinary care and understanding pain through research remain critical," Painaustralia said in a communiqué.

Feedback on action plan priorities is sought from interested parties prior to 17 Aug - **CLICK HERE**.

Biosimilar awareness

THE Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) will launch a national biosimilars awareness week in the first quarter of 2019, in order to "ignite public interest and bring biosimilars into the spotlight".

The program would raise understanding of the impact of biosimilars on the nation's health system and will "encourage more healthcare professionals and consumers to add their voice to the conversation and help draw attention to this important component of Australia's healthcare framework".

The advocacy organisation's education arm, GBMA Education, has received \$5 million in funding over three years to promote the appropriate prescribing, dispensing and use of biosimilar medicines.

GBMA defines its plans for the government education grant (PD 23 Apr 2018) at gbma.com.au.

"Skin purifying" mask

ACNE brand Proactiv has announced the launch of the Proactiv Skin Purifying Mask into the Australian pharmacy market.

The mask is a weekly cleansing mask with 6% sulfur to help clear pores, blemishes and help prevent new breakouts, the company says.

It contains sulfur, kaolin clay, vitamin E, tea-tree oil and geranium and lemongrass.

Stockists so far include Chemist Warehouse and My Chemist, Priceline and Priceline Pharmacy stores as well as TerryWhite Chemmart stores nationwide.

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Dispensary Corner

YOU'VE heard of the return of unwanted medicines program - in Germany it's more like the return of the empty bottle scheme.

A heatwave in Europe has led to strong sales of beer and soft drink across Germany, where manufacturers have issued an urgent appeal for drinkers to return their empty containers.

The German Brewers Association says some suppliers only have limited supplies of bottles, with a spokesperson saying "it would be good if consumers brought their empties back to stores quickly".

In Germany consumers pay a small deposit on bottles and crates which is refunded when they are returned to suppliers.



GENETIC testing has really caused some problems for a police officer in Michigan in the USA, after an ancestry.com report showed he was partly black.

Cleon Brown said he was subjected to "racial taunts" over the test, which stated his race and national origin was "18 to 33 percent sub-Saharan African".

Various incidents of alleged bullying and intimidation led to a formal complaint that he was a victim of intentional infliction of emotional distress, with a mediated settlement to see him receive a US\$65,000 payout from the insurers of the city of Hastings, where he worked.

'Rainbow' baby book plan

AUSTRALIA'S states and territories have confirmed an agreement to move towards a nationally harmonised baby book system, so that immunisations and growth milestones for infants can be recorded in digital form consistently across all jurisdictions.

The move was unveiled this week in Sydney at the Health Informatics Conference by representatives from the National Children's Digital Health Collaborative, according to a report in *Pulse IT*.

The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network is part of the group, along with eHealth NSW ceo Zoran Bolevich, who noted that the current paper-based system was "ever so slightly different" in each state.

The subtle variations are more than just in the colours of the documents, with the NSW, Tas and SA book being blue, the Queensland one red, WA purple, NT yellow and green in Vic.

Bolevich was quoted as saying the inconsistencies were a barrier to a "compelling and effective digital solution".

The harmonised content will form the basis for a national electronic system that will in future be able to be connected to the My Health Record platform.

The next step is to create a specification for the data, with software vendors to work in collaboration with the project to ensure interoperability.

The collaborative, which is funded by the Australian Digital Health Agency, is also working on a digital pregnancy record.

UK barcode push

NEW European requirements will see every UK pharmacy required to scan barcodes on medicines to verify they are genuine, under the new Falsified Medicines Directive.

The regulations become effective from 09 Feb 2019 - before Britain formally exits the European Union.

Along with the scanning, the directive mandates a unique identifier and tamper-evident features which must be added to all packaging for prescription medicines.

WIN WITH MICRODACYN

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Microdacyn are giving away **Microdacyn Hydrogel 60ml** AND **Microdacyn Solution 120ml**, valued at over \$30.

Microdacyn is the next generation hospital grade wound care that promotes rapid healing, prevents infection and reduces inflammation, now available in pharmacies. Microdacyn hydrates wounds, creating a moist environment while improving oxygen supply. The no sting and no stain formula is in an easy, no touch spray. Microdacyn is recommended for higher risk wounds including post op wounds, diabetic ulcers, burns and slow healing wounds. For more info head to: www.microdacyn.com.au

To win, be the first person from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Is Microdacyn Hydrogel in a tube or a pump spray?

Check back tomorrow for today's winner!



Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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WEEKLY

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Book and deposit with Creative Cruising by 31 Aug - call the Creative team on 1300 362 599 or contact your travel agent.

Viking Cruises Upgrade

THREE of Viking Cruises' new Grand Voyages itineraries in 2019 offer upgrades from Verandah Stateroom to a Deluxe Verandah Stateroom when bookings are made by 31 Aug - saving up to \$7,200 per couple.

The special extends to Viking's 32-day Islands of the South Pacific cruise, the 29-day Southern Australia to South Africa cruise and the 57-day Sydney to London via Africa voyage.

For more info call 138 747.