

New blood glucose monitoring system

ASCENSIA Diabetes Care yesterday announced the Australian launch of its Contour Next One blood glucose monitoring platform.

The Contour Next One smart meter



(pictured) seamlessly connects via Bluetooth to a smartphone app, making "capturing highly accurate blood glucose readings effortless for people with diabetes," the company said.

The app intelligently analyses readings to deliver meaningful feedback aimed at improving diabetes self-management.

Users can also record meals, exercise and medications to provide context around readings and help them to understand how everyday activities impact management.

Patients can also share detailed reports of their blood glucose readings and patterns with their healthcare professional, either in advance or on the day of their appointment, to help create more informed decisions.

The meter includes the "smartLIGHT" feature that gives instant feedback on blood glucose readings, and "Second-Chance Sampling" which prompts reapplication of blood if there is not enough used the first time.

For more information visit contournextone.com.au.

Record earnings for EBOS

EBOS Group this morning announced a net profit after tax of NZ\$149.6 million for the twelve months to 30 Jun, with the result reflecting "a year of strong organic growth combined with the added benefit of a number of strategic acquisitions".

Overall revenue was stable at \$7.6 billion, with net profit after tax up 12.2% and ceo John Cullity reporting a "consistent positive momentum" across the business.

The company's Australian revenues declined 4.4%, driven mainly by a \$364 million drop in hepatitis C medicine sales.

Excluding this impact, sales revenue rose 2.1% or \$104 million, with earnings growth boosted by a full year contribution of HPS, which is "performing solidly and in line with expectations".

In the community pharmacy business, revenue growth was 1.4% excluding hepatitis C medicines and acquisitions, moderated by the ongoing impact of PBS reforms.

Sales in the OTC channel were marginally above the prior year, reflecting the ongoing challenging retail environment.

"EBOS maintained its market

Three TGA warnings

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration yesterday issued warnings about three non-approved products, all of which contain undeclared prescription-only substances.

The affected items include Liangzern Dietary Supplements (pictured above) which contain sildenafil.

Sildenafil is also an undeclared ingredient in Germany Nubian



Tablets (left) as well as Rhino 8 Platinum 8000 capsules (below).

The TGA says the supply of all three

products is illegal in Australia.

None of them have been "assessed

by the TGA for quality, safety or efficacy as required under Australian legislation, and the place of manufacture is not approved by the TGA".

Investigations have shown that a number of people in Australia may have bought the products online.

Consumers are being advised to stop taking the products and return any remaining capsules or tablets to their local pharmacy for disposal.



World Skin Health Day

THE Australasian College of Dermatologists is celebrating World Skin Health Day on 29 Aug with an online social media campaign named "Understand."

The campaign aims to promote unique experiences of patient support groups and help build a connection between dermatologists and patients as they grow to understand the physical, social and emotional challenges faced by patients with dermatological conditions.

Find support at dermcoll.edu.au.

New migraine drug

AIMOVIG (erenumab) has been registered in Australia as the first and only treatment targeting the calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) receptor for the prophylaxis of migraine in adults, providing a new and specifically targeted preventive approach.



Rural health support

THE Federal Government has announced additional training, support and professional services through a \$13.7 million grant to CRANaplus, the peak professional body for the remote and isolated health workforce of Australia.

The three-year funding will help the organisation to "continue its work addressing the barriers to recruiting and retaining health professionals in remote and isolated parts of Australia," said Minister for Rural Health, Senator Bridget McKenzie.

CRANaplus ceo Christopher Cliffe said people living in remote parts of the country had less access to the source of health services most Australians take for granted.

"Thanks to this grant we will be able to continue supporting health professionals such as Remote Area Nurses to ensure they are available where and when people in remote parts of the country need them most," Cliffe said.

CRANaplus activities include a support hotline on 1800 805 391.

Targeting obesity

A NEW drug developed as part of a study undertaken by the Centenary Institute and UNSW Sydney is being claimed as a potential way to target high rates of obesity in Australia.

The medication targets a specific Ceramide Synthase enzyme in metabolic disease, with is linked to insulin resistance.

A paper on the research has been published in the *Nature Communications* journal.

New SHPA director

JACINTA Johnson has been appointed to fill a casual vacancy on the board of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia.

Johnson, who is a lecturer in pharmacy at the University of South Australia as well as the Senior Medication Safety Pharmacist within the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network, takes the place vacated by Steve Morris earlier this month, and will hold the role until the next SHPA agm in Nov.

ACT assistant finalist

PHARMACY assistant Rebecca Porter (pictured right) from Capital Chemist Calwell has been chosen to represent the ACT at the National Finals of the 2018 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY).

Porter was selected from eight other state finalists at the ACT workshop earlier this week, while Jessica Lind from Cooleman Court Pharmacy (below) was



named as the ACT winner of the Glucojel Super Star Award for outstanding customer service skills.

Now in its 12th year, PATY is the premier award for Australian pharmacy assistants, recognising and celebrating the 'best of the best' in community pharmacy.

The pair will now proceed to the national awards, with the winners announced at the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference in Oct.



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Dispensary Corner

A BRITISH gardener got a lot more than vitamin A with her carrots last week, after finding a long-lost gold ring while harvesting her vegetables.

69-year-old Lin Keitch from Somerset noticed the sparkler while she was washing her carrots, and remembered it had disappeared 12 years ago.

In a "chance in a million" discovery, the carrot seems to have grown right through the amethyst ring which had been a 40th birthday present from husband Dave.



EXCELLENT lung capacity combined with extraordinary dexterity has seen an 18-year-old student set a new Guinness World Record this week.

Vako Marchelashvili from Tbilisi in the former Soviet republic of Georgia, managed to solve six Rubik's cubes under water in a single breath.

The feat saw him submerged in a giant glass tank for one minute and 44 seconds as he solved the puzzles in front of a large crowd at an aquarium.

He said he had been preparing for the challenge for six months.

"I trained a lot planning to break a record - and to ensure my safety, because even a small mistake could be dangerous and life-altering," he said afterwards.

He beat the previous underwater record of five cubes, set by Anthony Brooks in the USA in 2014.

Guild urges rural support

THE current "one-size-fits-all" system of pharmacy remuneration does not recognise additional costs faced by rural pharmacies, according to Pharmacy Guild executive director David Quilty.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Writing in the fortnightly *Forefront* update yesterday, Quilty highlighted the fact that there are more than 1,000 community pharmacies across regional Australia, including over 400 in one-pharmacy towns.

"Many are struggling to cope with a range of business challenges that need to be addressed to prevent a further deterioration in access to vital health services," he said.

In particular, rural pharmacies consistently report that they cannot attract pharmacists, despite offering higher salaries than in capital cities along with assistance with rental costs.

"Federal and State Government financial support to assist with rural pharmacy workforce issues is minimal compared with other health professions, including GPs.

"While there is no magic solution, a community pharmacy regional workforce strategy is urgently needed which should focus on the policy changes and financial incentives required to attract and retain pharmacists in rural areas," Quilty said.

He said the current regulatory and funding environment does not take into account the broader health role of rural pharmacies "which effectively are local community health hubs given the lack of access to other health services".

Quilty said arguments against expanding pharmacist scope of practice put forward by "organisations representing the interests of big-city doctors" hold no weight in rural communities where there are no accessible alternatives for vaccinations, health screening, the timely treatment of minor ailments and obtaining continuing medicines without a prescription.

"The Guild is advocating to have these important issues addressed," the executive director concluded.



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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Win with Natural Instinct

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Natural Instinct are giving away a anti-dandruff shower pack valued at over \$40.

Did you know that many anti-dandruff products contain harsh synthetic ingredients that can irritate the skin? Thankfully, there's a natural solution...

Natural Instinct Shampoo & Conditioner contains sulphate-free cleansers, Tea Tree Oil, Thyme, Soybean Biolipid Complex and a 100% natural eco-cert ingredient with antimicrobial properties to help reduce & control dandruff. Visit naturalinstinct.com.au for details.

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