

New cough guidance

BRITAIN'S National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has issued new draft guidance on treatment of coughs, with antibiotics no longer recommended as the first line of treatment.

Instead, honey and over-the-counter remedies containing substances such as pelargonium, guaifenesin or dextromethorphan should be used, with patients recommended to speak to their GP if the cough persists for more than three weeks.

"In most cases acute coughs are caused by a cold or flu virus, or bronchitis...clinicians are advised in most cases not to offer antibiotics as they make little difference to a person's systems," NICE stated.

The document says it is important the reasons for not giving an antibiotic are clearly explained by the healthcare professional, and that advice is given to the patient on appropriate self-care.

The draft guideline is part of a suite of antimicrobial prescribing guidance developed to help manage common infections and prevent antimicrobial resistance.

A consultation on the recommendations is now open, with input sought by 20 Sep 2018.

Tassone slams AMA hypocrisy

PHARMACY Guild Victorian branch president Anthony Tassone says a renewed call by doctors' groups to open up pharmacy ownership to non-pharmacists "beggars belief," in the light of the medical profession's own experiences with corporatisation.

He has particularly criticised a submission by the Queensland branch of the Australian Medical Association, which asserted that current ownership restrictions "prevent the development of healthcare models that could benefit patient care".

That's despite an AMA paper on General Practice Corporatisation which warns that "a corporation's needs to generate profits for third parties has the potential to distort normal professional patterns and lead to less than optimal outcomes for the consumer in terms of costs, convenience and health outcomes".

Tassone said the AMA and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners "seem fixated with pharmacy regulation," accusing the doctors' groups of jealousy, wanting to impose on pharmacy the same corporate ownership structures



which have seen their members lose control over the terms and conditions of general practice.

The Guild Vic president also highlighted a Federal Department of Health report on *The State of Corporatisation* in general practice, which found that "at its worst, a GP working for a corporate body may not act as an agent of their patient, but of a corporation whose main concern is profits".

Tassone said "while it would be hard to 'wind back the clock' on ownership regulation of medical centres, inflicting poor policy on others is not the answer and is downright flawed logic".

Hunt back in the health saddle

NEWLY elected Prime Minister Scott Morrison has chosen to favour continuity in his ministry, yesterday confirming that Greg Hunt would continue in the role of Federal Minister for Health.

Hunt resigned from the role during last week's tumultuous machinations in Canberra (**PD** Fri), saying he believed the Liberal Party must seek a change of leadership.

The Morrison ministry also sees Ken Wyatt continue as Minister for Aged Care and Indigenous Health, while Bridget McKenzie also stays on as Minister for Rural Health, Sport and Regional Communications.

PDL practice alert

PHARMACEUTICAL Defence Limited has issued a practice update on Look Alike, Sound Alike (LASA) medication errors, and the practice of Tall Man lettering to help distinguish similar-sounding drugs from each other.

Repeat offenders, as highlighted in reports to PDL, include confusion between aTROpt and AZopt, arATAC and arOPAX, laMICTAI and laRGACTil, & novoMIX and novoRAPID, the organisation said.

The prevalence of medication errors involving milligramms and millilitres is another strong case for adopting the letter sizing system.

PDL's practice update highlights several case scenarios dealing with medications incl Prednisolone, Methadone liquid ml/mg errors and Saxenda - see pdl.org.au.

VPA consultation

THE Victorian Pharmacy Authority is inviting stakeholders to provide feedback on a draft version of new guidelines which include changes relating to codeine, immunisation and required documentation.

Comments are sought by 28 Sep - see pharmacy.vic.gov.au.

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Pharmacy Daily

New pharmacy marketplace

PHARMABASKET, a new peer-to-peer online marketplace for pharmacists and suppliers will formally launch next month, with the aim of helping deal with unwanted S3 and S4 stock items.

Founded by pharmacist Nicholas Balfour,



PharmaBasket allows the listing of excess, near-expiry, slow moving and end-of-line stock, with a fully integrated e-commerce platform allowing transactions to be settled within 48 hours of a sale's confirmation.

Balfour said PharmaBasket was "dedicated to improving efficiency in dispensaries, middle-of-shop and warehouses by reducing stock loss". He said the platform uses dynamic pricing to automatically devalue

stock dependent on shelf-life to give a recommended listing price.

Stock is currently being listed on the site by pharmacies and suppliers in the lead-up to the site going live on 01 Sep 2018.

Apotex has been confirmed as a foundation generic pharmaceutical supplier, which will be listing stock when the site becomes active.

Pharmacies and suppliers can register on the site prior to an authentication process taking up to seven business days, and thereafter can begin to list items on the site.

Initially any schedule 4 medications will be able to be listed, but at this stage no delivery option is available via the PharmaBasket marketplace, with sellers required to arrange cold chain supply.

No S8 medicines can be listed on the site, but in the near future there will be an option to list front-of-stock as a "classified listing".

There is no fee for listing stock or for registering on the site, with a 6% commission applied to each transaction (ex GST) with a minimum fee of \$3 per transaction.

A "platform" fee is also charged to the buyer by PharmaBasket, ranging from 30c to \$1.80 depending on the transaction value.

Balfour said the platform "creates a network of pharmacies and suppliers with the same values and goals to eliminate stock loss...as this network grows, the marketplace grows with it and becomes more valuable to all users".

For more information email support@pharmabasket.com.au.

Local cannabis sale

WA-BASED Little Green Pharma has announced the availability of what it says is the first Australian-grown and manufactured medicinal cannabis products.

Items available for prescription include a variety of medical cannabis oil preparations, taken orally and absorbed through the gut - info at lgpharma.com.au.

NSW PATY finalist named

PHARMACY assistant Alice Vanderpol from Moama Village Pharmacy (pictured right) has been chosen to represent NSW at the National Finals of the 2018 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year award.

A state workshop last week also saw Fiona Martin from Miller's Pharmacy Yass (below) chosen as the NSW winner of the Glucojel Super Star Award for outstanding customer service skills.

Both will be in the running for national titles at the 2018 Pharmacy Assistant National Conference which takes place



at Sea World on the Gold Coast in late Oct this year.

Conference speakers will include customer service expert Amanda Stevens; Monash Health addiction medicine specialist Dr David Jacka; Paul de Gelder, navy diver, shark attack survivor and motivational speaker; and Stephanie Lynch, the 2017 winner of the Pharmacy Assistant of the Year award.

Pharmacies that register two or more assistants to attend the conference will receive a free registration to APP2019, valued at \$940.

More information available at pharmacyassistants.com.

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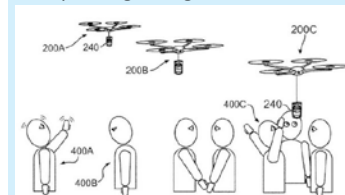
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Dispensary Corner

TECHNOLOGY giant IBM has patented a drone which can detect when office workers are tired and automatically deliver them a cup of coffee.

The documentation lodged with the US Patent Office (**pictured below**) describes a flying device which can identify the "cognitive state" of personnel - by detecting blood pressure and pupil dilation - to see if they're drowsy - and lower the hot beverage on an "unspooling string".



THE split between Britain and the European Union looks set to have significant implications for childbirth rates in the UK, after concerns about foreign sperm donations in the event of a "no-deal" Brexit.

Officials have highlighted a major trade imbalance - namely that Danish semen is a key contributor to British fertility clinics, with some 3,000 samples imported last year.

If a deal cannot be reached with the EU, a technical paper relating to Brexit warns of potential shortages due to additional red tape requiring new formal agreements between individual establishments.

The paper notes that an independent UK national sperm bank was established in 2014, but attracted just nine donors in its first year of operation before subsequently being closed down.

Heinz fined over health claims

FOOD giant H.J. Heinz Company Australia Limited has been ordered to pay \$2.25 million in penalties for making a misleading health claim.

The Federal Court of Australia made the direction following a prosecution by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission over claims that Heinz's Little Kids Shredz products were beneficial for young children.

In Mar the court found that Heinz had breached the Australian Consumer Law by making the claims, saying the company's nutritionists ought to have known that a representation that a product containing approximately two-thirds sugar was beneficial to children was misleading.

The ACCC had sought a penalty of \$10 million in the case, with chair Rod Sims saying "we will continue to advocate for stronger penalties to deter large companies from engaging in serious contraventions of Australia's consumer laws".

Intern exam regos

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has today opened registrations for the upcoming Australian Intern Written exam.

Candidates can register from 27 Aug through to 10 Sep 2018, with the examination taking place on 07 Oct 2018.

The APC delivers the exam on behalf of the Pharmacy Board of Australia, with interns able to register to undertake it if they have completed or will complete the required amount of Board-approved supervised practice hours by the date of the exam.

The Australian Intern Written Exam online fee is \$660, which is payable for each exam attempt.

FDA eyes have it

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved the first drug for the treatment of neurotrophic keratitis, a rare disease affecting the cornea.

Oxervate (cenegermin) is a topical eye drop which was granted priority review designation as well as being listed as an orphan drug.

FDA spokesman Wiley Chambers said while the prevalence of the condition was low, the impact for an individual could be devastating.

"Today's approval provides a novel topical treatment and a major advance that offers complete corneal healing for many patients."



Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Amit Saha, Pharmacist and Group Technical Manager at Little Bodies.**



Guidelines of care for the management of atopic dermatitis

ATOPIC dermatitis (AD) is a chronic inflammatory condition with periods when it will flare. A large number of children are affected by this condition and its treatment generally causes significant anxiety for parents.

Pharmacists, as primary care providers, are in a prime position to support both parents and physicians as trusted and easily accessible members of the health care team in the management of AD with pharmacist-led educational sessions being beneficial for parents.

Eczema treatments fall into two categories, preventative and relieving. Preventative treatments are every day treatments and lifestyle changes including the avoidance of triggers. Regardless of the presence or absence of eczema, preventative treatments are ongoing. Relieving treatments should be started as soon as there is a flare, such as increasing erythema and itch, and stopped when the symptoms are controlled. In severe cases, the flaring treatment may include the use of a topical steroid.

Some tips to share with parents:

- Effective emollient regimens are the mainstay of atopic dermatitis management.
- Emollients with soothing properties are the preferred option.
- Effective and regular use of emollients has been found to decrease the need for topical corticosteroids.
- Adequate rehydration preserves the stratum corneum barrier, minimising the direct effects of irritants and allergens on the skin and maximising the effect of topically applied therapies.

The Little Bodies Eczema management range includes a preventer, a reliever and a wash and shampoo.

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Check here tomorrow for today's winner