

## Sigma \$500m finance

**SIGMA** Healthcare Limited yesterday announced a new \$500m "Receivables Purchase Agreement" with Westpac, saying the facility would provide the company with significant additional funding options to continue its investment program and pursue future growth opportunities.

The new three-year financing deal is split into three tranches - a cash advance of \$115m which expires 30 Nov 2019; an overdraft facility of \$135m which expires 30 May 2020; and a cash advance tranche of \$250m which expires 30 Nov 2021.

The facility will amortise in line with Sigma's expected return of working capital from the exit of its Chemist Warehouse contract.

Sigma CFO Iona MacPherson said the line of credit provided Sigma with a strong funding platform for the next stage of its corporate transformation, giving it flexibility to meet major investments in distribution centres and IT.

## TWC health checks for AIA

**A MAJOR** new partnership between TerryWhite Chemmart and life insurer AIA Australia will see free health checks provided to thousands of Australians.

Under the pact, eligible members of the "AIA Vitality" science-based health and wellbeing program will be able to receive a free check per membership year at participating TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) pharmacies across the country.

The health check assesses a range of measures including BMI, blood pressure, total cholesterol and random blood glucose, with AIA Australia/NZ CEO Damien Mu welcoming TWC as the company's new pharmacy partner.

"As there is a wide network of participating pharmacies across Australia, it's easy and convenient for members to complete the Health Check, earn points and get rewarded for their healthy efforts," Mu said.

TWC CEO Anthony White said hundreds of health checks had already been booked in the first

few weeks of the partnership.

"Our customers' health is our number one priority and this new partnership will help us continue our work towards providing the community with expert health information and advice," he said.

AIA is one of the largest life insurers in Australia - for more info see [aiavitality.com.au](http://aiavitality.com.au).

## High-risk meds JPPR

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has released its latest *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research* (JPPR), with the Dec edition tackling the "knowns and unknowns" of high-risk medicines.

Editor-in-chief Chris Alderman is encouraging more contemplation of issues which arise from these new medicines, likening them to a venomous snake entering a hospital.

He also contrasts such risks with attitudes by hospital administrators in regard to pharmacy staff levels. See [shpa.org.au/jppr](http://shpa.org.au/jppr).

## Pill consultation

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has opened a consultation on the proposed remaking of Therapeutic Goods Order No 78 - Standard for Tablets and Capsules, which includes the reintroduction of pills into the remade order.

The document is set to be revised to specify the physical and chemical requirements for items supplied in Australia, to create efficiency through international harmonisation - see [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## Dispensary Corner

**A FACIAL** mask promising to enrich skin with mineral water from a sacred Korean mountain might ordinarily have a place on pharmacy shelves, but in the case of a mask showing the image of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, stores have given a wide berth.

The *NY Times* says a product marketed as "unification nuclear bomb" facial masks has been pulled from South Korean stores, despite sales of over 25,000.

The manufacturer says the masks celebrate peace talks between the two Koreas, but others aren't impressed at the healing powers afforded to a nuke-wielding dictator.

## Win with SkinB5

This week *Pharmacy Daily* & *SkinB5* are giving away each day the NEW SkinB5's Clear Skin Superfood Booster valued at \$63.90.

Clear Skin Superfood Booster is an innovative nutritional approach to skin wellness for blemish and acne prone skin, using specially selected ingredients to supply the body with key vitamins, minerals, essential fatty acids, amino acids, digestive enzymes, probiotics & prebiotics. Available from Sigma PDE CODE PD301911. Watch the YouTube video [here](#) for more.

To win, be the first person from QLD to send the correct answer to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**What type of collagen does Clear Skin Superfood Booster contain?**

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Fiona Lamb.*

## Guild Update

### Holiday hours

**TO HELP** community pharmacies and their customers over the Christmas holiday period, the Guild has created a personalised trading hours poster for use in pharmacies.

Pharmacies can let customers know when the pharmacy is open this holiday period by downloading the editable PDF template available at [www.guild.org.au/resources/ask-your-pharmacist](http://www.guild.org.au/resources/ask-your-pharmacist).

To download the poster, pharmacists need to be logged into their myGuild account. While there, they should also update their seasonal trading hours through the [myGuild portal](#), which feeds into *FindaPharmacy*.

*FindaPharmacy* allows customers to find pharmacies online and access up-to-date information such as opening hours, services provided and languages spoken.