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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus our weekly Guild Update.

## Energast launch

**SCIGEN'S** new Energast (PD 19 Jul) was formally launched yesterday, with the food supplement delivering sustained release of sodium butyrate along the entire small & large intestine.

Energast may assist in the management of Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, diverticulitis and diarrhoea - more info on 1800 676 833.

## New health master's

A NEW master's degree in healthcare decision-making has been launched by London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in collaboration with NICE.

It is aimed at professionals from a wide range of healthscience-related backgrounds, including pharmaceuticals.

The two-year MSc will offer skills in health services research, health economics, outcomes research, and health policy - see [nice.org.uk](http://nice.org.uk).

## Merck drops prices

**DRUGMAKER** Merck & Co has announced the adoption of a 'responsible' pricing policy and will cut the prices of certain products, while committing to increasing the average price of its drugs by no more than the annual inflation rate.

Zepatier treatment for Hepatitis C will drop by 60%, and other prices by 10%, the company explained.

## CW slams ownership rules

**CHEMIST** Warehouse has blasted the "heavy-handed" regulation of pharmacy in Australia, particularly the ownership and location rules, saying the sector needs a "free hand to encourage a competitive approach to pharmacy, in line with consumer demand and other retail industries".

The pharmacy giant has made a submission into the current Qld

inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and transfer of pharmacy ownership (PD yesterday), including an estimate that the Pharmacy Guild currently represents proprietors of less than half of the pharmacies in Australia.

"It is farcical to suggest that pharmacist only ownership results in a better calibre of owner...it is equally farcical to suggest that corporate or non-pharmacist individuals who may choose to own a pharmacy would be of a lesser moral character," the CW submission states.

"Overseas examples have demonstrated that once market limiting regulations are removed, outcomes are improved for industry participants but more importantly for consumers," the company said.

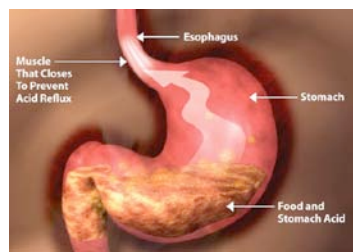
The submission acknowledges that ensuring access to medicines at affordable prices, particularly for disadvantaged consumers, is an important matter of public policy.

"However, the present policy settings not only fail to serve this end, but are preventing competitive market conduct that would be more effective in delivering more medicines at lower prices to more consumers."

The submission cites a range of overseas examples which demonstrate that deregulation of "draconian" ownership and location rules which interfere with consumer-benefiting commercial behaviour distort the market and "represent a serious risk to the stability of the industry long term".

View it at [parliament.qld.gov.au](http://parliament.qld.gov.au).

## NPS reviews reflux



**NPS** Medicinewise has released two new free resources relating to gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD), suitable for a pharmacist's CPD plan studies.

"Reviewing treatment for gastro-oesophageal reflux disease" delivers an online case study that will give instant feedback on your responses and includes expert commentary provided by Prof Geoff Hebbard, the Director of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

The second module 'Stepping the appropriate path with GORD medicines' specifically develops appropriate use of proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), referencing a program called 'Bye-Bye, PPI'.

Access at [nps.org.au](http://nps.org.au).

## Cannabis endorsed



**UK CHIEF** medical officer Dame Sally Davies has announced she has reached the

conclusion that there is evidence for therapeutic benefits of cannabis-based medicinal products for certain conditions.

As a result these products will be moved out of Schedule 1 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 in England.

A further review by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs will potentially ratify the decision.

Davies summarised the recent evidence specifically for medicinal use of cannabis on prescription, and not recreational use, in a report which is part of a series of measures looking at the scheduling of cannabis, announced by the Home Secretary Sajid Javid 19 Jun.

"Moving these drugs out of Schedule 1 would allow them to be prescribed under controlled conditions by registered practitioners for medical benefit," Davies wrote.

## New malaria drug

A NEW drug to treat malaria, the first such therapy to get approval in 60 years, has been given the green light by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

The medicine, tafenoquine, is specifically for the recurring form of malaria, which makes 8.5 million people ill each year and can remain dormant in the liver for years before reawakening many times.

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## Dispensary Corner

**A STIFLING** summer heatwave in Austria this week has led public transport authorities to take some extreme measures.

Riders on the “notoriously stuffy” U6 line in the capital Vienna were offered free deodorants, with the entire stock of 14,000 underarm products distributed in a single day.

A spokesperson for the Wiener Linien operator said the deodorants were “literally torn out of our hands” on the train, where temperatures of up to 35 degrees Celsius were recorded.

The company said the move was “primarily intended as a consolation,” noting that Viennese commuters are no smellier than those in any other cities.

“High temperatures can also make one more aware of odours,” the spokesman added.

**BRITISH** supermarket chain Morrisons has come up with a creative innovation to help autistic shoppers.

All of its 439 stores across the UK will dim their lights, turn off in-store music and mute the beeps of check-outs each Sat from 9am in what’s believed to be the first nationwide “quieter hour”.

There will also be no announcements on in-store public address systems during the period, which aims to help shoppers who struggle with music and loud noises.

Britain’s National Autistic Society has hailed the move as a “step in the right direction” although some campaigners have noted that an hour is not enough, and also urged other retailers to consider a similar initiative.

## 6CPA claim correction

**THE** Health Department’s Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA) team has issued a statement urging pharmacies to ensure they are using the correct template when submitting claims on the 6CPA portal.

Recently a number of incorrect or modified claim templates have been used, resulting in claims being declined.

“Claim templates are designed to capture the data required for approval of claims; often this will be a fixed response from a drop-down menu,” according to an update on [6cpa.com.au](http://6cpa.com.au).

“Entering any other data in these fields will result in the claim not matching the data required and will result in your claim being declined,” the update continued.

Claim templates for each 6CPA program can be found within the *Medication Adherence* and *Medication Management* sections of the site.

In addition, if pharmacies are using templates generated by dispensary software they are advised to check with vendors that it is consistent with the specified template - 1300 555 262.

## P&G acquires FAB

**PROCTER** and Gamble has announced it has acquired prestige skincare brand First Aid Beauty (FAB) for an estimated \$250 million.

Although terms and numbers were not disclosed, FAB is said to have about \$50 million in net sales.

FAB founder Lilli Gordon will remain in charge as chief executive officer and will report to Markus Strobel, president of P&G’s global skin and personal care.

FAB currently relies on third parties for formulas, but once acquired by P&G, it will be able to explore new means of product development, she said.

P&G Global Skin & Personal Care president Markus Strobel said the deal would give the company greater access to specialty retail channels, with FAB selling at outlets such as Sephora.

## Business plan finalists

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia’s National Student Business Plan competition has announced the 2018 semi-finalists.

Six teams from five universities have made the cut – University of Sydney, Auckland University, University of Tasmania, University of Technology Sydney and the University of Otago.

The semi-final round opens today and closes on 10 Aug, with the top three teams progressing to the finals at the Pharmacy Connect Conference, Sydney 07-08 Sep.

Major sponsors are Sanofi Consumer Healthcare and EBOS.



## Pharmacy WA Forum

**THE PHARMACY WA FORUM 2018**, being held on 9-10 August at Crown Perth, is the leading event in the WA community pharmacy calendar and attracts strong support from across the pharmacy community.

### Why attend?

- Access your exclusive Member-only update; want to know what the Guild does ‘behind the scenes’?
- Hear the latest on ownership, immunisation, direct supply, industrial relations, and political advocacy.
- Rebalance the landlord tenant equation; help the industry develop a comprehensive rental and leasing strategy.
- Have your say on the 7CPA - In the next 18 months we can expect a Federal election and commencement of negotiations for a new CPA.
- Feed directly into the Guild strategy.
- Expand your role as a pharmacist immuniser; the forum will bring members, consumer advocates and Guild leaders together to push for expanded immunisation scope.
- Motivate your staff and prepare your team for the unexpected, gain practical tips from merchandising, business and leadership experts - **CLICK HERE**.

## Win with HANDSOME

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Handsome are giving away a **Handsome Men’s Skincare Shower Pack** valued at \$29.95. This bespoke HANDSOME Shower Pack contains the popular 2-in-1 Shampoo and Body Wash. Presented in a smart custom gift box, it makes a perfect gift for any handsome man. The package contains:

- a cleverly formulated 2-in-1 shampoo that gently cleans and also lightly conditions, leaving hair soft and silky.

- a body wash that is a uniquely Australian blend of invigorating botanicals in a handy pump pack.

Visit: [ha.ndso.me](http://ha.ndso.me)

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

What colour is the Handsome Logo?

*Congratulations to yesterday’s winner, Rebecca Segrott from The Pharmacy Guild.*

