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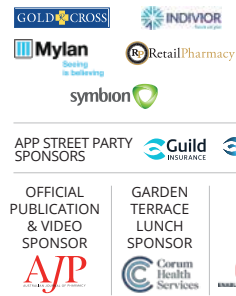
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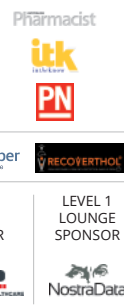
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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a front cover wrap from APP 2018.

April PBS listings

DIABETES, cancer and HIV patients will be strongly supported by new Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme listings of products effective 01 Apr.

Approximately 120,000 Australians may benefit from AstraZeneca's type 2 diabetes oral tablets Forxiga (dapagliflozin) and Xigduo XR (dapagliflozin/metformin) being extended to include a new triple oral therapy.

Sanofi's new form of insulin glargine (Toujeo), a longer lasting, higher strength insulin, which provides more options to better manage treatment through the day and night, reducing night time hypoglycaemia for more than 178,000 patients, will also be listed.

A number of other presently listed diabetes drugs are gaining extended listings.

Australian adults at high risk of acquiring HIV will have subsidised access to Gilead Sciences' Truvada (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate with emtricitabine) for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

New listings also include a strong lineup of new cancer drugs which will save many sufferers many thousands of dollars, such as Tecentriq (atezolizumab) which will support around 2,000 patients who would otherwise have to pay \$99,104 per course.

See the full list at the Health Department site - health.gov.au.

TGA defends codeine stance

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has strongly affirmed its advice to Health Minister Greg Hunt about the number of deaths attributed to OTC codeine, rebutting claims to the contrary in an ABC 'Fact Check' article last week (**PD** yesterday).

The claim of 100 deaths annually has been the subject of significant criticism from PSA NSW president Peter Carroll and NSW Guild president David Heffernan, but the TGA insists it has used the "best available evidence to estimate this number" - and in fact regards it as an underestimate.

The agency took into consideration research by Roxburgh et al published in Oct 2015, as well as "noting other articles that clearly highlight that everywhere OTC codeine is available worldwide, harm and misuse have steadily increased".

The rate of all codeine related deaths between 2000 and 2009 increased by 0.5 deaths per million persons per year, to 8.7 per million in 2009.

In 59.9% of cases there was no information about whether the codeine consumed before death was prescribed or obtained over the counter, but where the name or specific details were available the most common item was Panadeine forte, recorded in 60% of cases, while OTC codeine products were recorded in the remaining.

"In noting the increased rate of deaths of 0.5 per million persons

per year we calculated that in 2017 (eight years later) this rate would be 12.7 per million persons a year. taking the Australian population at 24.45 million in 2017 an estimate of 310.5 deaths due to codeine (both prescription and OTC) was calculated," the TGA said.



Based on the research findings the TGA then took 40% of that figure to conclude that OTC codeine contributed to 124.2 deaths annually - taking a conservative approach by then revising this figure down to 100 deaths that could be attributed to codeine containing products.

The TGA defended the decision to reschedule OTC products, saying access to the medicines will now be based on the medical assessment of a prescriber.

"Rescheduling codeine to prescription only will save lives," the TGA concluded - tga.gov.au.

CGM training module

THE pharmacist's role and professional responsibilities involved in providing continuous blood glucose monitoring (CGM) services in pharmacy is the subject of a new online course from Guild Learning and Development.

The Guild has collaborated with the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) and Diabetes Australia to develop the course which also covers the management of Type 1 diabetes in young children and the associated cognitive, behavioural and social developmental issues.

The topic explains how achieving glycaemic targets in young children often falls to the parent or carer, which can compound stress on those already strained by non-diabetes related childhood challenges.

CGM monitors glucose levels in interstitial fluid offering insight into trends and can reduce the number of fingerprick blood glucose tests required.

The module is at myCPD.org.au.

Health Services Hub

Invite customers for a **flu shot** and build a healthier community



Over 30,000 customers already invited

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The red eye diagnosis is sometimes hidden

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Arrow targets DAA market

ARROW Pharmaceuticals has set its sights firmly on the Dose Administration Aid (DAA) market in Australia, announcing the formation of a new joint venture with NZ firm Douglas Pharmaceuticals called MyPak Solutions (**PD** breaking news).

The JV partners noted that the government had "recognised the important role of DAAs in community health care by providing funding of \$100 million in the 2017/18 financial year to enable community pharmacists to provide DAA services".

MyPak Solutions has purchased Practicare and taken over Medico Pak from Arrow, and also holds the Australian distribution rights to the Japanese-made Alpaca Blister



Pack Dispensing Robot.

Arrow Pharmaceuticals chairman Dennis Bastas said the combined businesses would enable MyPak Solutions to provide its customers with a "complete solution in the DAA market in Australia".

Douglas Pharmaceuticals md Jeff Douglas said as

leaders in the DAA market in New Zealand "we will be bringing our learnings to this joint venture with Arrow for the Australian market".

Arrow Pharmaceuticals acquired the Australian retail pharmacy business of Amneal Pharmaceuticals last year (**PD** 01 Sep 2017), with the deal including Amneal's Medico Pak dose administration aid operations which are now part of the newly formed joint venture.

Of standards & chaperones

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia, in conjunction with other Boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, has started a new process to consider accreditation arrangements from mid-2019.

The National Scheme covers a range of functions including developing accreditation standards, accrediting programs of study against those standards, and assessing overseas qualified practitioners in various professions. The last review occurred in 2012.

AHPRA said timeframes for the review are tight, with public consultation expected to start next month for around four weeks and

further information on the process to be published shortly.

MEANWHILE the Medical Board of Australia has implemented the final recommendations of the Chaperone Review and added to details published on the national online Register of practitioners.

Professor Ron Paterson led an independent review of the use of chaperone conditions as a regulatory tool to manage allegations of sexual misconduct and has recommended reforms including the introduction of a national committee backed by specialist investigators to handle all sexual misconduct allegations, changing the Board's policy on the use of chaperones, and auditing all cases where chaperone conditions have been previously applied.

CMA hails research

COMPLEMENTARY Medicines Australia has applauded Blackmores and Bioceuticals for their \$1.5 million in funding support for two new research fellowships at the University of Technology Sydney (**PD** yesterday).

The manufacturers, alongside the Jacka Foundation of Natural Therapies, are funding a "scientific research program which will focus on better understanding consumer use of traditional, complementary and integrative healthcare," according to CMA ceo Carl Gibson.

He said that given the potential benefits of complementary medicine as a tool towards health promotion and disease prevention, it was a priority area for research.

"In the context of maximising the health outcomes of the Australian population, the importance of funding support for complementary medicines research cannot be stressed enough," he added.

Another 14.5% PBS cut

THE Health Department has confirmed that it will shortly release guidance material on amendments to the National Health Act 1953 relating to newly legislated statutory Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme price reductions which are due to occur on 01 Jun.

The "catch-up" anniversary price cuts were signed into law last month, with the department saying the new arrangements will be "subject to ministerial discretion".

The process for applying for discretion will be published as soon as possible, with the department expecting a short turn around due to the data processing time required for a new listing.

The "10th anniversary" cuts include a 10% drop in the price for all single brand pharmaceutical items that have been on the PBS for 10 or more but less than 15 years, and 14.5% on single brand F1 items on the PBS for over 15 years.

WA phcy vax uptake

IN RESPONSE to trenchant criticism from the AMA around pharmacy promotions of vaccination services encouraging early appointments, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's WA Branch has taken the high ground and focussed on maximising uptake.

Rather than defending the promotions, the Guild has reaffirmed its commitment to the State Department of Health's guidelines around flu vaccination including the need to maximise the uptake of flu vaccinations among all age groups, particularly the vulnerable and those most at risk.

With more than 750 of Australia's 9,000 laboratory-confirmed flu cases reported in Western Australia, the Guild has emphasised its endorsement of the department's guidelines and said that it always encouraged its members to follow the clinical guidance of regulatory authorities.

Approximately 85,000 immunisations were conducted in community pharmacies across Australia last year and official figures "already point to a potentially severe upcoming flu season," the Guild said.



PD TIPPING WINNERS



NRL ROUND 3

GARRY ANDERSON

from Sproutlife Pharmaceuticals

AFL AFL ROUND 1

MARGARET JOHNSON

from Greenbrook Pharmacy

Pharmacy Daily



Dispensary Corner

THE quest for hipsters across the globe to eat as many diverse "good fats" as possible has taken a drastic turn, with their holy grail, the avocado, being replaced by the often polarising pineapple.

According to UK supermarket Tesco, demand for pineapple is at an all-time high, with sales increasing by around 15% in the last year, while demand for avocados is starting to plateau.

While the nutritional content of the pineapple is said to pale into insignificance when compared with an avo, we're pretty sure this won't stop trendy cafes from convincing the Australian populace it needs to start smashing up some pineapple and smearing it on a slice of paleo chia seed wafer.



US SUPREME Court Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who made headlines last week in a *Wall Street Journal* interview about her favourite hair accessories (**PD** Fri) has done it again, issuing a formal ruling that hot dogs are in fact sandwiches.

The octogenarian was appearing on TV's *The Late Show* with Stephen Colbert, and weighed into the fraught debate with her controversial decision - based on the fact that the "bun" is still two pieces of bread.

The TV host was impressed at Ginsburg's acumen, saying "not only can the justice last another five years on the bench, I believe she could have killed Tupac".

50% flu shot uptake fear

THE Pharmacy Guild has launched a concerted push to raise awareness of influenza vaccination via pharmacy, with the release of new research indicating one in two Australian adults don't plan to vaccinate against flu this year.

That's despite last year's record flu season which saw more than 249,000 reported infections and approximately 3,000 deaths.

Guild national president, George Tambassis said Australian adults were generally misinformed about the seriousness, and unaware of some infectious aspects of the flu.

"Most Australians don't realise how infectious the flu is, with 77% of respondents unaware the flu virus can remain active when airborne for 45 minutes or more.

"Our research showed more than half (57%) of Australian adults mistakenly consider themselves to be at low risk of contracting the flu," Tambassis said.

The Guild president emphasised that even the fit and healthy could be seriously affected by the flu virus and the best defence was

vaccination.

"Flu vaccinations promote community immunity, whereby if enough people are vaccinated against the infection, they can help protect those unable to be vaccinated, including immunocompromised/sick, or very young infants," said Tambassis.

More than one million Australians received their flu vaccine in a pharmacy in 2017, but 57% of the population perceived themselves at low risk and failed to be vaccinated.

"In Australia, 95% of capital city-based residents, and 72 per cent of those based in regional areas live within 2.5 kilometres of a pharmacy," Tambassis added.

Epilepsy research

THE Federal Government yesterday announced a \$2m investment in new medical research to help find a cure for rare genetic epilepsy disorders.

In 2016-17 PBS expenditure on epilepsy medicines amounted to more than \$71 million.



Guild Update

Catherine King at APP

THE Shadow Minister for Health and Medicare, the Hon. Catherine King MP, will address delegates at APP2018, the pharmacy profession's leading conference and exhibition, on Friday May 4, 2018.

The National President of the Pharmacy Guild, George Tambassis, said that it was important to hear from all major political parties in the lead-up to the next Community Pharmacy Agreement.

"It is great news that the APP conference will again hear from the ALP Shadow Minister for Health and Medicare, Catherine King," he said.

"Catherine King has a comprehensive knowledge of the health portfolio and a genuine understanding of the important role of community pharmacy in the health system.

"I know that Catherine has a vision for the next Community Pharmacy Agreement and I am pleased to say the Guild has an open dialogue with her and her office.

APP is being held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre from 3 - 6 May 2018.

For more information or to register, visit www.appconference.com.

Win with Evodia

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and EVODIA are giving away a Life's Little Pleasures gift set valued at \$41.90RRP.

Just in time for Mother's Day, Evodia limited-edition Life's Little Pleasures gift sets capture two of our most cherished fragrance collections in miniature favourites. They're a lovely gesture to show you care, or a little luxury treat for yourself. www.evodia.com.au

To win, be the first from QLD to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

The Evodia Lavender range is inspired by which Australian state?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Tony Soffer from Priceline Pharmacy Neutral Bay.

