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MM2018 registrations

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has this morning opened earlybird registrations for Medicines Management 2018, the 44th SHPA National Conference.

MM2018 will take place at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from 22-25 Nov, and is themed around "it's time" with six streams - time-critical care, digital health, lifespan, technicians, workforce & wellbeing and leadership.

SHPA ceo Kristin Michaels said the conference agenda would "reflect the present and future of practice and innovation in Australian pharmacy, all in the context of 'time' as a truly precious commodity in healthcare".

More than 1,000 delegates are expected to attend the event which will also feature pre-conference workshops, networking opportunities and a gala dinner.

Details of the MM2018 program of national and international speakers will be revealed in the coming weeks.

A newly released video showcasing the event is online at pharmacydaily.com.au/videos, with registrations available at mm2018shpa.com.

Antihistamine RASML

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is seeking comments on proposed additional Required Advisory Statements for Medicine Labels (RASML) for sedating antihistamines.

The proposal aims to ensure health professionals, parents and carers are adequately cautioned against the use of first-generation sedating antihistamines in children, particularly those aged under two.

The TGA is also proposing editorial changes in order to harmonise the entries for each of these medicines as far as possible.

Interested parties should respond by Thu 21 Jun 2018 - tga.gov.au.

A separate consultation is also in place for RASML relating to miconazole and fluconazole medications, with a proposed warning about warfarin - tga.gov.au.

PSA honours Sansom for APF24

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has paid tribute to Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO for his longstanding contribution to the *Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and Handbook*, with the 24th edition (APF24) released yesterday.

Sansom is Chair of the PF Editorial Board, and worked alongside other board members, Cautionary Advisory Labels Working Group members, expert contributors and PSA staff to update the essential handbook.

"APF has been the everyday guide to pharmacy practice for over a century, and contains information to support pharmacists to provide counselling on medicines, identify drug-related issues, make clinical judgements and prepare or modify formulations," said PSA National Board director Grant Kardachi.

APF24 was officially launched in a ceremony at the South Australian Health & Medical Research Institute in Adelaide.

Kardachi said the content had been thoroughly reviewed and updated to produce the new edition, which now includes chapters on *Medicines and diet*, *Digital health* and *Guidance for provision of a Pharmacist Only*

FDA benzocaine alert

THE U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning consumers that over-the-counter (OTC) teething products containing benzocaine pose a serious risk to infants and children, saying they should no longer be marketed and asking companies to stop selling the products for such use due to increasing evidence about benzocaine's association with deadly methemoglobinemia.

The products are sold as gels, sprays, ointments and solutions under brand names such as Baby Orajel, Cepacol, Anbesol, Topex, Orabase, Chloraseptic & more, as well as store brands and generics.

See fda.gov for details.



medicine: naloxone.

As well as the print version, APF24 is also available in a new digital format with enhanced search capabilities.

"Users can source health information faster and bookmark information for quick future access," Kardachi said, with the digital APF24 also mobile and tablet-friendly making it easy to access from any device.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia requires all pharmacists to have ready access to APF24 during clinical assessment, reviewing, dispensing and counselling.

APF24 can be ordered online now at psa.org.au with discounts for PSA members and students.

Kardachi is pictured presenting a certificate of appreciation to Sansom during the launch event.

\$1m for Fiji vaccines

THE Federal Government has announced it is responding to a recent meningococcal outbreak in Fiji by providing \$1 million to purchase around 75,000 doses of meningococcal vaccine.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop



said that on 14 May 2018, Fijian officials began the first phase of their vaccination program, targeting around 125,000 children from high-risk groups to contain the outbreak.

The second phase of the vaccination rollout will take place over the next three months, targeting 200,000 Fijians aged between one and 19 years old.

Around 350,000 Australians visited Fiji last year, Bishop said.

Hypnotic poison alert

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a Safety Advisory relating to a product labelled Hypnotic poison capsules saying they contain the undeclared substances sibutramine and phenolphthalein and pose a risk to health.

Sibutramine, which was the active ingredient in Reductil, was withdrawn in Oct 2010 after a study showed an increased risk of major cardiac events.





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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Mid North Coast, NSW (Job# 200015737)
Ready to lead a professional team and take this business to the next level?
- **Pharmacist Operations Manager** - Toowoomba, QLD (Job# 200015599)
Excellent salary; working only Monday to Friday; and leading a great team.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - High Country, VIC (Job# 200015344)
Looking for \$45 - \$60/h; Flexible working hours; and an Experienced team?

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Dispensary Corner

THERE'S been a tragic spate of mushroom-related illnesses and even deaths in Iran this month, with more than 800 people made sick from eating poisonous fungi.

At least 11 people have died, according to the country's *Tasnim* news agency, while two more have received liver transplants.

Citizens of 10 provinces in the west of Iran have been told not to buy loose mushrooms or gather them in the wild, but rather only buy the packaged product in supermarkets or grocery stores.

It's believed that an unusually high level of rainfall over the last month has led to a growth surge in wild mushrooms, with the *BBC* reporting it's likely some are the poisonous "death cap" or *Amanita Phalloides* (pictured).



LOOKS like it's safer to lie inside on the couch and watch TV.

A public holiday in the UK this weekend has led doctors to issue an official warning about gardening and DIY accidents.

Figures released by the Royal College of Surgeons indicate more than 25,000 injuries from such activities between 2014 and 2017, including severed fingers and broken bones caused by hand tools and lawnmowers.

More than 90% of the incidents involved men, the College noted.

Drug-related admissions

ABOUT one in every 500 hospital admissions in Australia in 2016-17 related to hospital-acquired medication complications, according to a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

The study included data from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, which found about 2.2% of admissions in total related to hospital-acquired complications - or 186,000.

Of those, the majority (1.2% of the total) related to infections acquired in hospital, while

medication complications accounted for 0.2% or about 18,000.

It's the first time medication-related complications have been separately identified in the report.

The 2016-17 figures also indicated admissions to public hospitals were also rising faster than those for private hospitals.

See the full report at aihw.gov.au.

RACGP blasts Qld pharmacy scripts

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has expressed concerns about proposals to allow pharmacist prescribing in Qld (*PD* yesterday), warning it would 'fragment patients' healthcare and put them at serious risk.

RACGP Qld chair Bruce Willet said providing patients with health advice or screening in a retail pharmacy meant they could miss out on "important preventative healthcare services".

He described as "ludicrous" suggestions that pharmacists issuing low-risk medications would reduce pressure on GPs and hospitals.

Priceline satisfies

PRICELINE Pharmacy has come out on top in the Apr 2018 Customer Satisfaction Awards for retail pharmacy published by Roy Morgan Research.

The monthly figures, collated from a moving sample of 9,186 Australians between May 2017 and Apr 2018, saw My Chemist in second place for the month followed by Discount Drug Stores, Chemist Warehouse and Amcal.

WIN WITH EMTRIX

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Emtrix Nail are giving away the Emtrix Nail 10ml tube, valued at \$44.95 RRP.

Emtrix Nail is an easy to apply topical treatment, that is clinically proven to restore healthy appearance, normalise thickness and reduce discolouration of nails affected by onychomycosis (nail fungus) and psoriasis.

For more visit www.emtrix.com.au. Always read the label, use only as directed, if symptoms persist speak to your health care professional.

To win, be the first person from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

When do Emtrix Nail users see the first signs of improvements?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



2018 Choosing Wisely rego closing today

NPS MedicineWise reminds interested parties that registrations for the 2018 Choosing Wisely Australia National Meeting will close at 5pm today.

The event is being held at the National Convention Centre, Canberra, next Wed 30 May 2018. Visit choosingwisely.org.au.



Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

30 May - 1 Jun: National Medicines Symposium (NMS) 2018; National Convention Centre, Canberra; registrations now open: www.nps.org.au

15 - 17 Jun: ConPharm 2018; Sofitel Brisbane Central Hotel; for details and to register see: www.aacp.com.au

27 - 29 Jul: PSA18; The Hyatt Regency Sydney; register now: go to www.psa18.com

12 - 15 Aug: Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2018; Mt Buller, Victoria; register your interest here: www.medici.com.au

7 - 8 Sep: Pharmacy Connect; Hilton Hotel Sydney; register at: www.pharmacy-connect.com.au

25 - 27 Oct: Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; Sea World Resort, Gold Coast; for details see: www.pharmacyassistants.com