

Friday 09 Nov 2018

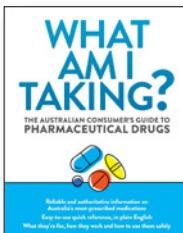
New medicines guide

WRITTEN in lay terms for consumers, a new publication suitable for sale in community pharmacy aims to reduce avoidable medication errors by informing patients about their medicines.

Journalist and former CEO of the pharmaceutical industry "bible", Australian Medicines Handbook (AMH), Peter Farrell, has teamed up with accredited pharmacist Juliet Richards to produce the book.

What Am I Taking? covers all aspects of medication safety and includes concise profiles of 100 of Australia's most-prescribed drugs, describing what they are used for, how they work, their precautions, side effects, interactions & dosing.

It is written in simple, easy-to-understand language and, according to editor Farrell, it fills an important gap in community pharmacy - whatamitaking.com.au.



Diabetes screening finds 1%

ABOUT one in every 100 patients tested under the Pharmacy Diabetes Screening Trial was found to have the condition, according to a draft report on the project currently being circulated among stakeholders.

The trial was conducted through 340 participating pharmacies, with *Australian Doctor* reporting the final document is expected to show that just under 140 cases of type 2 diabetes were identified among the 14,100 customers who were screened.

The 6th Community Pharmacy Agreement included \$50 million for the Pharmacy Trial Program, with the diabetes screening project one of the first initiatives to be funded.

The trial was launched two years ago by former Health Minister Sussan Ley (*PD* 14 Nov 2016), and saw patients aged 35-74 years without diabetes of impaired blood sugar control tested using a variety of methodologies.

Some pharmacies used the Australian type 2 diabetes risk



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APP2019 program out

THE program for next year's Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference & Trade Exhibition (APP2019) was released yesterday, with a line-up of over 100 presenters including international speakers from the US, Canada, Italy, the UK, Ireland and New Zealand.

More than 70 sessions will feature during the conference taking place on the Gold Coast 07-10 Mar, with the full program available for download at appconference.com.

Adverse events update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has published details of its new Adverse Event Management System (AEMS) which allows health professionals to log issues via an online portal.

Frequent reporters can register a personal account which also allows them to track reports via a dashboard, with AEMS replacing the former Adverse Drug Reaction System (ADRS) which is still accessible in a read-only format.

See tga.gov.au for instructions.



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Dispensary Corner

BEAUTY advisors had better watch out - they may soon be replaced by robots.

An exhibitor at this week's China International Import Expo in Shanghai has been wowing the crowds with a mechanised make-up system.

The gadget is able to apply mascara, lip gloss, foundation and blush, with a demonstration system (**pictured**) making up a female mannequin.



BRITISH academics have come up with another explanation for the UK obesity crisis - and it's all about the internet.

More specifically, memes are being blamed for "doing harm to teenagers on a significant scale," according to a *CNN* report.

Researchers from Loughborough University told a parliamentary committee that "a substantial number of individuals on Twitter share health-related internet memes, with both positive and negative messages".

They included the picture **below** as an example of a meme they considered to be dangerous.



PSA lobbies for wider scope

WITH the Victorian state election imminent, the local branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is lobbying for broader responsibilities for pharmacists, especially in relation to Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Dependence (MATOD) services.

PSA Victorian President Benjamin Marchant said pharmacists were the most frequently contacted health professionals in Victoria, yet their skills were not being put to full use.

"The upcoming Victorian state election is the ideal time to commit to new reforms for a healthier Victoria, and PSA urges Victorian political parties to take full advantage of the highly trained pharmacist workforce by committing to provide \$2.2 million in seed funding for a pilot of the shared care model for MATOD services in Victoria."

MATOD services include two key elements in the battle against licit and illicit drug abuse and misuse, Marchant explained: prescribing

doctors or nurse practitioners, and pharmacists who dispense the medications and monitor treatment progress on a daily basis.

"The referral pathway to support and manage addiction is at breaking point and MATOD services are under enormous pressure," Marchant argued.

"There is a severe shortage of MATOD prescribers despite the Victorian Government's repeated efforts over many years to recruit doctors and nurse practitioners.

"With the implementation of Victoria's real-time prescription monitoring system, SafeScript, over the next 18 months, the demand for MATOD services is likely to increase significantly, putting additional pressure on the already strained prescriber pool," the PSA Branch President added.

PSA is also calling for the appointment of a Chief Pharmacist in Victoria to make better use of pharmacist resources, with the role seen as fostering more interdisciplinary collaboration.

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Five FIP webinars

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has announced its next series of free seminars for pharmacists.

They cover *clostridium difficile* infection; medications and the elderly; managing change; how FIP can help your organisation; and the Tupaia Project, a health systems mapping scheme - see fip.org.



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.

22 - 25 Nov: SHPA Medicines Management 2018; Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre; register here: www.mm2018shpa.com

27-30 Nov: ASCEPT 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting; Adelaide Convention Centre; for details visit: www.aseptasm.com

22 - 28 Jan: NAPSA Congress; University of South Australia, Adelaide; for more info see: [www.napsacongressadelaide19.com](http://napsacongressadelaide19.com)

7 - 10 Mar: APP 2019; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; early bird registration now open: www.appconference.com

21 - 24 Mar: NSW/ACT Annual Therapeutic Update 2019; Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley; early bird tickets available from 3 Dec: www.psa.org.au/atu

Win with Cetaphil

This week *Pharmacy Daily* & Cetaphil are giving away each day the Cetaphil Sun SPF50+ Ultra-Light Lotion and Cetaphil Sun SPF50+ Kids Liposomal Lotion valued at \$35.

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



What does Liposomal mean in Cetaphil Sun Kids?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

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