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Podcast focuses on pharmacy business

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has developed a new series of “Pharmacy Business & Career Network” podcasts designed for pharmacy owners.

Currently there are seven episodes available, with topics covered include leasing, community engagement, business management, diversifying pharmacy income and buying & selling pharmacies.

The library will be further expanded and updated with more insights from a range of industry professionals, the Guild said.

See guild.org.au.

HCCC 18-month ban

THE NSW Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) has successfully brought before the Civil and Administrative Tribunal of New South Wales a case against a pharmacist resulting in an 18-month ban from being registered as a health practitioner.

Dubbo pharmacist Samuel Green was found guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct.

First registered as a pharmacist in 2012, Green was Pharmacist in Charge at Chemist Outlet Dubbo between 2013 and 2016, and had taken it upon himself to jury-rig a methadone (Biodone) dispenser to facilitate its dispensing.

The method of dispensing breached a number of regulatory standards with storage conditions and records not kept at the required level - caselaw.nsw.gov.au.

High visibility for Pain MedsCheck



LANG Lang Pharmacy east of Melbourne became the centre of attention yesterday when Health Minister Greg Hunt dropped by to discuss the Pain MedsCheck trial with pharmacy owner Tian Low.

Hunt was sporting a day-glo vest because he was passing by doing part of a 500km Walk for Autism through his electorate of Flinders.

Hunt used the occasion to highlight the commencement of the Chronic Pain MedsCheck Trial being conducted at more than 1,600 pharmacies across Australia.

Pharmacy Guild National President George Tambassis noted GuildLink’s new Chronic Pain MedsCheck Trial Software which will be used to record trial services at participating community pharmacies which have completed the required training.

Through the service, pharmacists will give advice around chronic pain management and evaluate patients’ medicine regimen, he said, creating an action plan involving education, self-management and follow-up.

Guild Vic Branch President Anthony Tassone was also in attendance, and said the trial would be another opportunity for community pharmacy to demonstrate its ever-important role in primary care.

“Community pharmacists as medicines experts are perfectly placed to help patients improve their understanding of medications used in pain management and help patients form realistic expectations of the benefits that analgesics can provide, as well as refer to other healthcare professionals where appropriate,” Tassone said.

During the Minister’s visit to the pharmacy other topics of discussion included other primary health care initiatives such as the My Health Record and Real Time Prescription Monitoring.

Pictured above from left are Lang Lang Pharmacy owner Tian Low, Guild Vic President Anthony Tassone, Health Minister Greg Hunt and Guild National President George Tambassis.

Home pall care help

THE Australian Government has funded a project called caring@home aiming to improve the quality of palliative care service delivery by developing a range of resources for community service providers.

These include health care professionals such as nurses, pharmacists and doctors as well as carers that support people to be cared for and to die at home, if that is their choice.

As a part of the project, NPS MedicineWise has collaborated with caring@home to develop medicines guidelines and a smartphone app called palliMEDS to be used by prescribers to support carers helping to manage breakthrough symptoms safely using subcutaneous medicines.

The palliMEDS app is available to prescribers and pharmacists to familiarise them with eight palliative care medicines endorsed by the Australian



& New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine (ANZSPM), for management of common emergent terminal symptoms using the subcutaneous route.

The ANZSPM-endorsed medicines can be used to manage common conditions in home-based palliative care patients in the last few weeks of life, when people often have problems swallowing.

See caringathomeproject.com.au to gain access to the new “Medicine handling guidelines” for healthcare professionals.

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Dispensary Corner

WANT to ramp up the calories and tooth decay this Christmas? McDonald's has the answer, introducing a brand new Christmas drink.

The fast food giant has revealed its new addition, the Millionaire's Latte and it's on sale next week.

The cholesterol-bumping type 2 diabetes-challenging new drink contains a large shot of espresso blended with steamed milk and a caramel biscuit flavour syrup.

It's then topped with a swirl of chocolate cream and a rich caramel drizzle.

McDonald's has also revealed its new Christmas cups (**pictured**), described as "Instagram-friendly".



MICROBIAL carbonate precipitation is always something you've longed for, right?

Maybe not but if you are in Africa with limited resources and want to build a house, it might just be the answer you are looking for.

Researchers at Cape Town University have come up with an ingenious and inexpensive way to make extremely strong bricks, using ... human urine.

The precipitation process is the secret - it combines sand and urine with a bacterium that produces the enzyme urease, triggering a chemical reaction in the human waste to create rock-hard building bricks of any shape.

Chemist Discount Centre up 60%



DISCOUNT pharmacy group Chemist Discount Centre (CDC) has announced 60% growth in its business along with plans for a national footprint expansion and an "aggressive three-year growth strategy" as it opens three new stores in Western Australia this month.

A further 24 locations across Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales are set to join the group following a successful promotional campaign at the Australian Pharmacy Professional conference (APP) on the Gold Coast in May this year.

The national brand is part of the

Advantage Group which now has a network of more than 230 retail pharmacies.

Advantage CEO Steven Kastrinakis said the growth in the business was due to "the current macro-economic environment and the strength of the brand's value proposition which includes market leading proprietary technology".

CDC also provides "a completely managed business solution with a bespoke and integrated IT system, Buy-It-Right, setting it apart from competitors", Kastrinakis added.

Pictured above from left are CDC Directors Steven Kastrinakis, Michael Gray and John Kardis.

Win with Skin Doctors

This week **Pharmacy Daily & Skin Doctors** are giving away each day Skin Doctors beetox 50ml valued at \$59.95.

Skin Doctors beetox instantly helps to activate your skin cells to reduce the appearance of wrinkles, smooth fine lines and lift sagging skin.

Visit www.skindoctors.com.au for more.

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



What is the recommended usage for Skin Doctors beetox?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Raelene Maybury.

Guild Update

Chronic Pain MedsChecks

THE Chronic pain MedsCheck Trial is getting underway across Australia from this week.

Participating community pharmacies that have completed the required training will start recording trial services using the Chronic Pain MedsCheck Trial Software from GuildLink.

The trial is being conducted at more than 1,600 pharmacies across Australia with community pharmacists being encouraged to build relationships with other health professionals who provide support for patients with chronic pain.

The role of community pharmacies in the trial includes:

- Supported self-management of patients taking medication who are dealing with chronic pain for more than three months through pharmacist advice;
- Pharmacy-based evaluation of patients' medicine;
- Provision of an action plan which incorporates education, self-management and referral to other health professionals where additional support is required; and
- Three-month follow up after the initial service.

For more information see the website at 6cpa.com.au.