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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from Pharmacy 4 Less.

Harvey red-faced on hangover remedy

KEN Harvey has asked that *Pharmacy Daily* print a correction, after he lodged a complaint with the Therapeutic Goods Administration about a hangover product which did not actually contain the ingredient he was concerned about (**PD** yesterday).

Harvey, who is an Associate Professor at Monash University, raised issues around kudzu root (*pueraria lobata*) which is contained in Hangover Relief (ARTG 304293) and Rejoove (ARTG 296905).

However the product originally cited, Phoenix Pharmaceuticals' Rapid Recovery (ARTG 262916) does not contain the ingredient.

We apologise for publishing the information incorrectly supplied.

Dementia carer plight

NEW international research from Advance Care Planning Australia (ACPA) reveals that dementia carers need more support and guidance from health professionals to navigate end-of-life care for their loved one.

Emotional elements override the decision-making process when loved ones are involved creating severe pressures for carers, the study showed.

Access at journals.sagepub.com. Health professional resources are at advancedcareplanning.org.au.

Zepatier Dec price slash

MSD Australia will next month significantly reduce the price of its Zepatier (elbasivir/grazoprevir) medication for Hepatitis C.

The \$12,600 difference in price will see MSD honour claims for pharmacy stock on hand, but affected pharmacies must submit claims to their wholesalers by 07 Dec 2018 to be eligible.

According to an update from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, credits will be issued for unopened packets of Zepatier as of 30 Nov.

Pharmacies must provide a screen shot/print screen of their in-house

inventory systems confirming the quantities of affected products.

The screen shot must include the date it is taken (30 Nov 2018), the product/product description and the quantity in stock.

Claims should be sent to wholesalers by email with the subject "MSD SOH Claim - <pharmacy name>", and once approved, a credit for the claimed quantities will be applied through the wholesaler.

API, Sigma, Symbion, CHS and CH2 have all been briefed on the procedures and are ready to pass on claims to MSD once they are received early next month.

Pharmacist pleads guilty over Gardasil

PHARMACIST Katherine Gong yesterday pleaded guilty to three counts of prohibition on wholesale supply of certain substances.

The 34-year-old Gong was charged last month (**PD** 18 Oct) over the alleged illicit export of more than \$500,000 worth of Gardasil 9 injections to Hong Kong under a false declaration in partnership with a male associate.

Her co-accused has been charged with nine counts of the same charge, with the move following a joint agency investigation into importation and supply of prohibited drugs.

Gong is the owner of the Harmony Pharmacy and Wellness Clinic in the northern Sydney suburb of Mosman.

A sentencing hearing will take place next week.

Health Care Homes can discard MHR

DESPITE the initial requirement for patients participating in the Health Care Homes (HCH) trial to have a My Health Record (MHR), the Department of Health has eased the condition, according to a report in *Pulse+IT*.

The obligation around the MHR was first announced in 2016 as a key component of the trial, allowing treating health professionals to easily access the medical history of participants.

The department has told participating practices that feedback suggested the requirement had caused a small number of potential HCH patients to withdraw their interest, and it may prove a barrier to other patients wanting to participate.

Healthcare via super-market or pharmacy?

PERCEIVED competence, benevolence and provision of accurate information have been shown to be the decision drivers in a consumer's choice of complementary medicine purchase supplier, according to new Australian research.

Supermarkets and pharmacies were pitted against each other in the battle for consumer affections with the ultimate factor essentially boiling down to elements of a very simple but by no means universal trait - trust in the vendor.

Business schools in Queensland (QUT), Armidale (UNE) and Hobart (University of Tasmania) collaborated in a study surveying 402 supermarket shoppers and 310 community pharmacy shoppers.

While pharmacies clearly won the confidence of purchasers on the perceived level of competence, benevolence and provision of accurate information parameters, supermarkets did well if the consumer perceived the retailer was competent in providing access to safe non-prescription medicines, i.e. it had the range, and had the ability to handle transactions.

The recommendations to pharmacy revolve principally around training of first-customer-facing staff, namely shop assistants.

Price did not raise its head as a big factor with large supermarket and warehouse-styled pharmacy groups now in play.

The study was published in this month's *International Journal of Pharmacy Practice* - **CLICK HERE**.

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Barcode scanning concern

A BRISBANE community pharmacist has raised concerns about the barcode scan rates recorded in a widely used community pharmacy dispensing software, urging the Pharmacy Board of Australia to act to improve medication safety.

Mike Kaluschke from Red Hill Day and Night Pharmacy in Brisbane has written to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, the Pharmacy Guild and the PSA about the issue, highlighting his worry about the platform.

He said the scanning feature provided by the software in question “does not go far enough in protecting health outcomes for my patients,” because it does not provide the ability to track the activity of individual dispensers.

While the system allows a pharmacist to match a scanned barcode printed on the prescription label of a dispensed medication with the barcode on the product itself, Kaluschke said there was no way to ensure pharmacists and interns were actually using the scanning process all the time.

“There is no reporting function to provide the percentage of prescriptions scanned by the

individual user, be it pharmacist, intern or pharmacy student.

“If I have a newly employed intern I would like to know that all prescriptions are indeed scanned by that person,” he wrote.

With the particular software he’s concerned about, the scan rate can only be provided for all users combined, not individually, and to further confuse the issue it is possible to have a scan rate of more than 100%, as every pack is scanned for prescriptions of multiple packs (up to six) with a single dispensing recorded.

Kaluschke noted that an alternative software platform that he uses in another pharmacy allows him to see exactly who is scanning all the time and who is not, allowing the proprietor to encourage those who are slipping behind in scanning rates to improve their performance.

Kaluschke highlighted the recent PDL Practice Alert (PD 05 Nov) which detailed the experience of a pharmacist in relation to an AHPRA notification after a dispensing issue that could have been avoided by more diligent scanning practice - particularly in relation to LASA (look alike sound-alike) medications.



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Hillary's success



HILLARY'S Community Pharmacy in WA (pictured) has been awarded Oct “Pharmacy of the Month” in the Reach China Slingshot program.

Brands included in the scheme include Koala Eco, Wattle Health and Arborvitae Health & Wellbeing Supplement.

The Slingshot Brand Incubation program is part of a partnership between Pharmacy Alliance and DaigouSales.com (PD 30 May), aiming to boost the credibility of Australian-made products in the Chinese market by increasing their brand awareness through Australian community pharmacy sales.

DaigouSales founder Matt McDougall said the organisation was appreciative of the fantastic efforts of the Hillarys team, saying “this recognition is well deserved”.

Potential diabetes screening tool

SKIN autofluorescence can predict type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and death according to new research published in *Diabetologia*, the journal of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes.

As a quick, non-invasive technique the process could be used as a suitable pharmacy screening tool, lead researcher from the University of Groningen, Netherlands, Professor Bruce Wolffenbuttel said.

Patients with type 2 diabetes have higher levels of chemicals called advanced glycation end-products which increase levels of skin “glow”.

The prospective study involved 72,880 participants.

TGA cup guidance

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has published new guidance on the regulation of menstrual cups in Australia.

Changes which became effective on 01 Jul 2018 have seen these products no longer required to be listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

They must still comply with Therapeutic Goods Order 99 before they can be supplied in Australia.

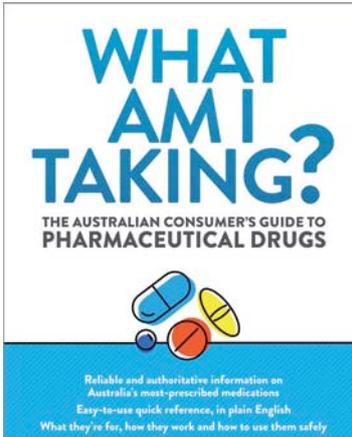


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Dispensary Corner

MCDONALD'S Happy Meals are not proving so happy for a Canadian man, who is suing the fast food giant for promoting junk food to children.

According to court documents filed in Quebec last week, Antonia Bramante's three young children insist he take them to McDonald's at least every two weeks.

He is seeking compensation from the outlet for the meals he has purchased over the last five years, under legislation which bans advertising to those aged less than 13 years.

Bramante is also objecting to toys offered as part of Happy Meals which are often part of a set, meaning he is forced to return again and again with his family to complete each collection.

It's an interesting case, but has he ever thought of just saying "no" to the pester power?

THERE'S a major stink over claims about flatulence being made by two players in last week's Grand Slam of Darts.

The professional tournament saw Scottish player Gary Anderson and rival Wesley Harms from the Netherlands blame each other for "rotten" farts during their clash.

Anderson won the match 10-2, allowing him to progress to the quarter finals.

However speaking to Dutch media after the game, Harms said his unimpressive performance was due to Anderson repeatedly breaking wind.

"It'll take me two nights to lose this smell from my nose," he said.

Anderson in turn blamed Harms, but said it could also have been someone in the audience.

Endometriosis talks

A NEW program teaching high school students about the chronic menstrual health disorder endometriosis is set to launch in South Australia.

The SA State and Federal Governments will each provide \$140,000 for the Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia to run the Periods, Pain, Endometriosis Program (PPEP) Talk in high schools across the state.

The program is supported by the National Action Plan for Endometriosis which was launched by Health Minister Greg Hunt earlier this year.

FDA approval

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Gamifant (emapalumab-izsg) for the treatment of pediatric and adult patients with rare immune system disorder primary hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) - the first drug specifically for the condition.

Mylan valsartan issue

THE European Medicines Agency has banned valsartan made by Mylan in India for use in EU medicines, after the discovery of N-nitrosodiethylamine (NDEA) in some batches of the ingredient made by Mylan Laboratories Limited in Hyderabad, India.

National authorities across Europe have started recalling affected batches of medicines containing Mylan's valsartan, and are conducting further tests to determine the extent of the contamination.

NDEA and the related compound N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), which have been seen in "sartans" from other manufacturers (**PD** 11 Jul, 16 Jul 2018) are classified as probable human carcinogens.

The presence of the impurities is thought to be linked to the synthesis of a specific ring structure (tetrazole) which is present in some sartan medicines, with the EMA also working with manufacturers to help eliminate them in future.



Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Travel & Cruise Weekly*.

Travel & Cruise Weekly

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Aranui discounts

TO CELEBRATE the launch of its 2020 program, French Polynesia cruise specialist Aranui Cruises has released a number of discounts across select cruises.

The deals apply to *Aranui 5's* first two voyages of the year which depart on 06 Feb and 22 Feb 2020, with oceanview staterooms starting from \$6,030 per person twin share and representing a saving of \$1,200 per couple.

Consult your travel agent and see aranuicruises.com.au.

See Egypt with Viking

VIKING Cruises has released a number of new departure dates for its 12-day Pharaohs & Pyramids Egypt river cruise.

The new trips sail between Aug and Dec 2020 on board *MS Antares*, with prices starting from \$7,595 per person for a French Balcony stateroom category.

Spots for the same package departing 2018 and 2019 have already sold out.

For more info call 138 747.

Win with Bellé Botanique

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Bellé Botanique are giving readers the chance to win a *L'elixir Skincare Cream* valued at \$64.50 each.

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To win, be the first person from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Bellé Botanique uses Echinacea and a Chinese herb/root to strengthen immune properties of the skin. What is the name of the Chinese herb?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Emma Gardner





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