

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus the latest MIMS Monthly Update.

Pharmacist opinion trusted on apps

MOST consumers say they would trust a health app recommended by their pharmacist or GP, the latest Consumers Health Forum (CHF) survey has revealed.

Using Australia's Health Panel, CHF surveyed consumers around the issue of smartphones and tablet health and wellness apps, with almost 90% of respondents believing there is a role for the government in regulating them.

Almost 60% of respondents said that the government should review and rate health apps, while 31% said that the government should fund a separate organisation to perform the role.

The CSIRO's recent Future of Health report states that there were approximately 318,000 mobile health apps as at last year.

Advertising Code ASMI/TGAC Seminar

THE Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) is hosting a seminar focusing on the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code (TGAC).

Presenters are ASMI Advertising Services Manager Sarah-Jane Leon and TGA Director of the Advertising Compliance Unit, Leann McCauley.

The event is being held in both Sydney and Melbourne on 29 and 30 Oct respectively - [CLICK HERE](#).

Pharmacy schools ranked

THE annual Good Universities Guide has ranked the pharmacy course at James Cook University as the best in Australia, with JCU topping student feedback in terms of educational experience, learner engagement, student support and teaching quality.

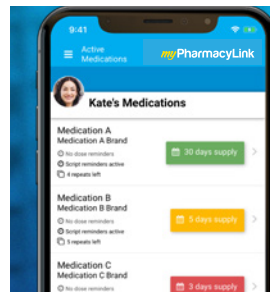
Other institutions which rated highly in the "five star" system representing the top 20% of results for each measure in undergraduate pharmacy degrees included Curtin University, QUT, Queensland University, Newcastle University, the University of Tasmania, Monash, the University of New England, Charles Sturt University and Griffith University.

"Magnet therapy" wins Shonky Award

THE annual Shonky Awards collated by consumer group CHOICE were released yesterday, highlighting a number of dubious therapeutic claims on some products sold in pharmacies.

One of the "winners" was a range of so-called magnetic therapy devices such as bedding underlays and muscle wraps, along with "ear orbs" claimed to transform earrings into "natural drug free magnetic therapy products".

CHOICE also slammed the "brazen trickery" of over-the-counter homeopathic melatonin products which are "packaged like medication and sold in a pharmacy" backed up with "murky claims that are not supported with evidence".



New Meds Reminder Service
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GuildCare **NG**

TGA lists new drugs and extended uses

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has listed on its website an extensive list of new and extended uses and new combinations of registered medicines, generics, biosimilars as well as new chemical entities.

The lists including those approved earlier in the year are at tga.gov.au.

Pholcodine assurance

THE Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) has published reassurance for Australians around the safety of cough and cold medicines containing pholcodine.

ASMI was responding to a Channel 9 report which renewed calls for restrictions on pholcodine due to potential risks of anaphylaxis in a small patient group when using neuromuscular blocking agents during surgery (**PD** 07 May 2013).

ASMI said pholcodine-containing medicines had a long history of use and a well-established, favourable safety profile.

"In Australia, cough and cold medicines are regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Association (TGA) and products containing pholcodine have been used by Australians for more than 30 years."

Reports of an association between pholcodine and anaphylactic reactions to neuromuscular blocking agents during surgery are hypothetical, with inconsistencies, uncertainties and no causative effect demonstrated, ASMI says.

The TV story cited the TGA saying it continued to monitor the issue.

New PBS arthritis Rx

THE Federal Government has announced the funding on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of the first treatment for the autoimmune disease active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis. Simponi (golimumab) from Janssen counters inflammation from the debilitating spinal arthritis which affects more than 30,000 Australians aged in their 20s or 30s.

The once-a-month treatment blocks a specific protein responsible for painful inflammation triggered by the body's immune system and will be listed from 01 Dec for patients who have had an inadequate response or are intolerant to NSAIDs.

*IRI MarketEdge, Hand products, unit sales - Chemist Warehouse, MAT 28/1/18

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Dispensary Corner

PEOPLE are generally told off for pushing their greens around the plate, but an event in Germany might have just found the perfect get-out clause for playing with your vegetables.

The Krewelshofer Lake's annual pumpkin race encourages its competitors to paddle against each other atop giant home-grown pumpkins for a cash prize.

The giant vegies weigh in at a hefty 250kg, a requirement to prevent any possible capsizing.

One of the competitors, Mailin Matuschek, said it wasn't as difficult as he had expected.

"It was hard fighting against the wind to get anywhere, but when you are in the groove it works".

And what happens when the race is over you ask? Well, the largest Halloween and pumpkin soup festival ever of course!



THE rise of workplace drug tests has reportedly led to a massive increase in "human urine sales".

British media are reporting on a number of online vendors selling frozen urine, synthetic urine and even fresh stuff from obliging non-drug-taking donors.

And it's not just the actual wee that is on sale - the trade also includes a host of companion items such as heat pouches to warm the liquid up prior to tests, as well as synthetic penises which form part of so-called "delivery systems" sold on sites such as urinetheclear.com.

New Guild education portal

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced the release of its new education portal, *GuildEd*.

The new site offers pharmacy owners, pharmacists, intern pharmacists, dispensary assistants and pharmacy assistants access to a "contemporary, innovative and engaging online learning platform".

The Guild said that since launching, more than 50,000 pharmacy staff have registered to its myCPD and myLearning platforms, and in the last CPD year alone, over 100,000 assessments have been completed.

GuildEd replaces the myCPD and myLearning sites with a single, streamlined platform.

The site has undergone significant changes which include a fresh look, intuitive navigation and a range of new CPD tools.

Future plans are intended to allow individual staff, pharmacy teams and entire pharmacies to access, manage and administer their training and education needs.

GuildEd



Current users of myCPD and myLearning will receive an email advising them on how to access the new site. Those pharmacy staff who have never registered with Guild Learning and Development can find the new portal at guided.guild.org.au or access via the Guild website.

Cannabis ups teen risk

TEENAGERS using cannabis are causing long-lasting damage to their developing brains, says a new Canadian study, published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.

The study tracked and tested 3,800 teenagers from 31 different Canadian schools over four years, looking at drug and drinking habits.

Their brain skills were also tested every year in school using computer-based cognitive tests.

Cannabis users had more impairment on working memory, reasoning and their ability to control their behaviour than alcohol users, authors said.

APP speakers named

THE Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference & Trade Exhibition (APP2019) has named key speakers for next year's event, to be held on the Gold Coast from 07-10 Mar.

They include Canadian Pharmacists Association Chair Christine Hrudka, US National Community Pharmacists Association CEO Doug Hoey and World Pharmacy Council Secretary General Sue Sharpe.

Others include tech entrepreneur Steve Baxter, health futurist Shara Evans and author Cindy Pan.

For full details [CLICK HERE](#).



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.

16 - 19 Oct: Pharmacy Alliance Members' Forum; Hamilton Island; register now: pamembersforum.com.au

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

28 Oct - 02 Nov: Pharmeducation Annual Conference; Byron Bay; register at: pharmeducationbyron.com.au

22 - 25 Nov: SHPA Medicines Management 2018; Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre; early bird regos close 21 Sep 2018; details on: www.mm2018shpa.com

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Central Coast, NSW (Job# 200031000)
Fabulous place to live + fabulous package on offer!
- **Dispensary Technician** - Eastern Melbourne, VIC (Job# 200031248)
Monday to Friday roster with occasional weekends & \$\$\$
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Central Coast, QLD (Job# 200031004)
Professional Service focus; with a long weekend every week!

Share your career vision with us and we'll help get you there!

New Products

- **Erenumab (rch) (Aimovig)** is a human monoclonal antibody antagonist against the calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) type 1 receptor. Erenumab lacks agonist activity at the CGRP receptor, and has no significant pharmacological activity at adrenomedullin, calcitonin and amylin receptors. CGRP is a neuropeptide that modulates nociceptive signaling and a vasodilator that has been associated with migraine pathophysiology. CGRP receptor is located at sites that are relevant to migraine pathophysiology. Aimovig is indicated for prophylaxis of migraine in adults. Aimovig should be initiated under the guidance of a neurologist or specialist in the management of migraine. Aimovig prefilled pen contains erenumab 70 mg/mL (1 mL) and is available in a pack of 1.
- **Midostaurin (Rydapt)** inhibits multiple receptor tyrosine kinases including FLT3, KIT, PDGFR and VEGFR2, and serine/threonine kinases such as PKC isoforms. Midostaurin inhibits FLT3 receptor signaling and induces cell cycle arrest and apoptosis in leukaemic cells expressing ITD and TKD mutant receptors or overexpressing wild type receptors. Midostaurin inhibits both wild type and D816V mutant KIT, leading to interference with aberrant KIT signaling and inhibits mast cell proliferation and survival, and histamine release. Rydapt is indicated in combination with standard anthracycline and cytarabine induction and cytarabine consolidation chemotherapy, followed in patients with complete response by single agent maintenance therapy for adults with newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia (AML) who are FLT3 mutation positive; for the treatment of adults with aggressive systemic mastocytosis (ASM), systemic mastocytosis with associated haematological neoplasms (SM-AHN), or mast cell leukaemia (MCL). Rydapt capsules contain midostaurin 25 mg and is available in packs of 56 and 112.

New Indications

- **Abiraterone acetate (Zytiga)** is now indicated in combination with prednisone or prednisolone for the treatment of newly diagnosed high risk metastatic hormone sensitive prostate cancer in combination with androgen deprivation therapy.
- **Evolocumab (rch) (Repatha)** is now indicated in adults with non-familial hypercholesterolaemia to reduce low density lipoprotein cholesterol; in adults with established cardiovascular disease (in combination with an optimally dosed statin and/or other lipid lowering therapies) to reduce the risk of cardiovascular events (myocardial infarction, stroke and coronary revascularisation).
- **Lacosamide (Vimpat, Vimpat Injection)** is now indicated as monotherapy in the treatment of partial seizures with or without secondary generalisation in patients with epilepsy aged 16 years and older, and as add-on therapy in patients with epilepsy aged 4 years and older.
- **Lumacaftor/ivacaftor (Orkambi)** is now indicated for the treatment of cystic fibrosis in patients aged 6 years and older who are homozygous for the *F508del* mutation in the *CFTR* gene.

New Contraindications

- **Acitretin (Neotigason)** is contraindicated in women of childbearing potential unless all of the conditions of the Pregnancy Prevention Programme are met; Acitretin is strictly contraindicated in pregnant women.
- **Adapalene (Differin Topical Cream, Differin Topical Gel)** is now contraindicated in pregnancy and women planning a pregnancy.
- **Celecoxib (Celebrex)** is now contraindicated in patients with documented myocardial infarction or stroke within 3 months.
- **Clozapine (Clozaril)** is now contraindicated in patients unable to undergo regular blood tests.
- **Darunavir (Prezista)** and cobicistat (Prezista/cobicistat) should not be coadministered with medicinal products that are highly dependent on CYP3A for clearance and for which increased plasma concentrations are associated with serious and/or life threatening events (narrow therapeutic index). In addition, carbamazepine, phenobarbital and phenytoin are also contraindicated for use with Prezista/cobicistat.
- **Factor VIII inhibitor bypassing fraction (Feiba NF)** must not be used in patients with hypersensitivity to the product if therapeutic alternatives to Feiba NF are available.
- **Sodium aurothiomalate (Myocrisin)** is now contraindicated with a history of systemic lupus erythematosus.

*This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month.
Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.*