

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news including our weekly **Health & Beauty** feature plus a full page from **Pharmacy 4 Less**.

Walgreens fightback

THE CEO of US pharmacy giant Walgreens says he believes it will be easier for his company to expand its operations online than it will be for Amazon to move into physical retailing.

In a *Bloomberg* interview in New York Stefano Pessina cited reports that Amazon is considering establishing up to 3,000 cashier-less "AmazonGo" convenience stores across the USA as evidence that the internet behemoth has "understood that you cannot just be online...the customer of the future will not be happy to sit at home to talk to an Alexa".

Pessina predicted patients will still want to interact with other humans in-store, or "have the reassurance of a pharmacist to answer questions about a prescription".

Qld committee reports

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild have both welcomed recommendations made by the Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and pharmacy ownership policy (**PD** breaking news), including key elements which would expand opportunities for pharmacy practice.

The PSA said the report was a "move in the right direction for pharmacists practising to their full scope, and for maintaining the strong pharmacy ownership structure that has served the Queensland public well".

PSA Queensland Acting President, Chris Campbell, particularly hailed a recommendation to lower the minimum patient age for pharmacy vaccinations to 16, with the Queensland Pharmacist Immunisation Pilot leading to pharmacists being able to vaccinate across Australia, which has seen significant community health benefits.

Campbell also welcomed the recommendation for pharmacists to dispense emergency and repeat prescriptions, as well as a proposed pharmacy advisory council to provide expert advice to the Department of Health.

Trent Twomey, Queensland Pharmacy Guild Branch President, said the findings of the inquiry would "pave the way for pharmacists to operate to the full extent of their training" and take pressure off the health system.

"An expanded role for community pharmacists would deliver nationwide savings in hospital costs, aged care and GP costs and see workforce productivity rise.

"It will make it easier for Queenslanders to get treatment by allowing pharmacists to use their full potential to administer vaccinations, to treat minor conditions and continue to dispense medicines already prescribed," Twomey said.

Current ownership restrictions were supported, but the inquiry did not recommend the establishment of a Pharmacy Council to oversee ownership requirements and pharmacy premises standards.

The committee said there was no evidence that other Australian states with such bodies had better community outcomes, and no evidence that the existing premises regulation was resulting in unsafe conditions in Qld pharmacies.

The Government will consider the report and publish a response in the coming months.

The full report is available online at parliament.qld.gov.au.

Care extends Asthma Council partnership

CARE Pharmaceuticals and the National Asthma Council Australia have recently renewed their "Sensitive Choice" partnership for the FESS range of products.

The arrangement has been in place since 2012, with the latest extension seeing the "strong and productive relationship" extended through until 2021.

Sensitive Choice is an "independent and credible community service program" created by the National Asthma Council Australia, designed to help Australians identify asthma and allergy-aware products.

A voluntary, independent Sensitive Choice Product Advisory Panel including a pharmacist, chemist, engineer, GP, allergist and respiratory physician assesses each product to determine its suitability to carry the Sensitive Choice logo.

The program was developed in 2006 with partners, including FESS/Care Pharmaceuticals, helping provide funds for all the work and education led by the National Asthma Council to reduce the health, social and economic impacts of asthma and allergies.

Sunscreen guidance

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued new guidance for sunscreen manufacturers who must comply with Good Manufacturing Practice.

Many sunscreens in Australia are regulated as therapeutic goods because of their "important role in addressing public health issues" - more info at tga.gov.au.

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Chemist Warehouse billions for EBOS

EBOS says its new distribution deal with Chemist Warehouse (PD 02 Jul) is estimated to generate about \$1 billion in sales revenue for the wholesaler in the first year of operations.

At yesterday's EBOS annual general meeting, the company's CEO

John Cullity noted EBOS' successful tender to act as the exclusive third party distributor of pharmaceutical products to more than 400 Chemist Warehouse and My Chemist stores in Australia for five years.

EBOS will take over the distribution from Sigma on 01 Jul 2019, with Cullity also highlighting a potential three year contract extension which would see the pact continue until 2027.

The EBOS CEO also cited last month's acquisition of Warner & Webster, a medical and surgical supplies wholesaler with operations in Vic and SA.

Cullity said Warner & Webster focuses on servicing GP clinics and aged care facilities "and is an excellent addition to our EBOS Healthcare business in Australia".

MEANWHILE during his speech Cullity also confirmed EBOS' support for the Community Service Obligation's role in distribution of PBS medicines.

"We are firmly of the view that the wholesale model serves the community exceptionally well, delivering medicines when and where required, but the model today is under threat from the issues of exclusive direct distribution and the current government funding not adequately addressing falling PBS prices."

Cullity said he was encouraged by engagement with Health Minister Greg Hunt, but "we do require successful resolution of these issues for the benefit of all stakeholders including, most importantly, the population who are dependent on timely and full access to medicines".



Pharmacists indicted

A GROUP of Florida pharmacy owners has been charged for their parts in a massive alleged US\$1 billion health care fraud scheme.

Synergy Pharmacy Services and Precision Pharmacy Management, two compounding pharmacies based in the Tampa Bay Area, were named in an indictment claiming conspiracy to commit health fraud, mail fraud and "introducing misbranded drugs into interstate commerce".

Court documents indicate that from 01 Jun 2015 until Apr this year the pharmacy's owners conspired to deceive more than 100 doctors across the USA and tens of thousands of patients.

The "elaborate telemedicine scheme" claims doctors approved prescriptions for pain creams without knowing the prices were massively marked up, with the defendants billing the costs to private insurance carriers.

The case alleges the pharmacy owners submitted US\$931 million in fraudulent claims for payment, according to the *Palm Harbor Patch*.

EU fights AMR

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) has released a report revealing that sales of veterinary antimicrobials across Europe have decreased by more than 20% between 2011 and 2016.

This continues the downward trend seen over the last few years, the agency said, and "confirms that European Union (EU) guidance and national campaigns promoting prudent use of antibiotics in animals to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) are having a positive effect".

Visit ema.europa.eu for the report.

Apotex QCPP training

APOTEX has launched five new QCPP-approved Refresher Training modules on the Pharmacy Club portal, with the aim of helping retail pharmacy staff build an understanding of conditions that commonly present in pharmacy. See pharmacyclub.com.au.

Compounding call

THE British National Health Service is facing "considerable challenges" in supplying enough aseptically prepared injectable medicines, according to a briefing document from NHS England's Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS).

The recently published document revealed the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) had taken regulatory actions against some commercial aseptic compounders and limited their aseptic compounding activity, the *Pharmaceutical Journal* reports.

This has created downward pressures on aseptic suppliers' ability to accept new business, causing extended supply lead times in some cases.

Chief pharmacists in each region are being held responsible for ensuring adequate contingency plans are in place, such as prioritising capacity for short shelf-life items, minimising the use of bespoke products, and ensuring effective communication between medical, pharmacy and nursing staff to ensure that the wider healthcare team is aware that the "aseptic compounding capacity available to the NHS is a finite resource".

The MHRA confirmed that in order to comply with good manufacturing practice some suppliers had reduced their manufacturing output.

Free diabetes webinar

NPS MedicineWise in partnership with the Australian Diabetes Society is offering free access to a webinar focusing on cardiovascular risk in patients with type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.



Titled "Getting to the heart of diabetes", the multidisciplinary discussion with an expert panel will be held tomorrow Thu 18 Oct, 7:00 – 8:00pm AEDT.

Register at nps.org.au.

Autism guideline

AUSTRALIA'S first national guideline for the clinical assessment and diagnosis of autism was published yesterday, with the aim of creating greater consistency in practices across the country.

The new guideline has been developed through a comprehensive research process and in close consultation with the clinical, autistic and broader autism communities, according to Professor Andrew Whitehouse, Chief Research Officer of the Autism Cooperative Research Centre.

The recommendations of the guideline have been approved by the National Health and Medical Research Council, with copies available for download online from autismcrc.com.au.

Win with SkinB5

This week **Pharmacy Daily & SkinB5** are giving away each day the NEW SkinB5's Clear Skin Superfood Booster valued at \$63.90.

Skin wellness starts from the inside with skinb5's clear skin superfood booster. Your body responds to the goodness you put into it, and so does your skin. With the power of 63 premium nutritional ingredients, our uniquely formulated superfood booster is the all-natural supplement your skin will thank you for.

Follow www.facebook.com/skinb5pro for more.

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

Guess the fruit on SkinB5 Facebook Professional feed

Congratulations to yesterday's winner Lindsay Hilder .





Dispensary Corner

A CONTROVERSIAL ad campaign from organ transplant organisation "Dying to Live" (dyingtolive.com.au) has generated immense publicity for its cause.

In what could be described as a nod to the "Life of Brian" comedy spoof on the life of Jesus, the "What would Jesus do?" approach features two Roman guards approaching the Son of God on the cross to laughingly goad him into donating his organs.

The documentary and ad campaign was based on research which found 70% of Australians are willing to donate their organs and tissue, but only 36% are actually registered donors, reports marketing newsletter *Mumbrella*.

The guards made jokes about not all people being fortunate enough to be going to "eternal paradise" for donating their organs, to which Jesus responds "obviously, I would do it, I am Jesus" - see the production at pharmacydaily.com.au/videos.

THEY call it fast food for a reason.

Americans desperate for a top-up of cholesterol-clogging junk food should head to Burger King, after the publication of a study which found it was the quickest of all quick-service restaurants.

The report, which only covered national chains, found Burger King came out on top with an average 3 minute and 13 second wait time - up four seconds on last year.

Dunkin' Donuts was in second spot, followed by Wendy's, Taco Bell, Arby's, Carl's Jr, Hardee's and Chick-fil-A - with McDonald's limping home in ninth position.

Health, Beauty and New Products

Trimacorte Cream 15g by Novapharm



Now available in a Schedule 2 15g tube, **Trimacorte** from

Novapharm is a broad spectrum anti-fungal and anti-inflammatory cream for treating inflamed and itchy skin conditions including, tinea (athlete's foot, ringworm, jock itch), fungal skin rash, thrush infections for the skin and fungal infected eczema and psoriasis. Trimacorte contains clotrimazole 1% w/w and hydrocortisone acetate 1% w/w. Trimacorte is also available in a 30g (Schedule 3) tube, and is lanolin, fragrance and paraben free. Use only as directed and see your health professional if symptoms persist.

Stockist: Call Clear Sales Australia: 1800 640 043

RRP: \$6.49

Website: www.novapharm.com.au

Oh My Glow Highlight Kit by DB

Shine brighter than any star with this galactic highlighter kit from Designer Brands (DB) new collection. With six unique shades in a variety of metallic, iridescent and duo-chrome finishes, Designer Brands **Oh My Glow Highlight Kit** offers plenty of options. Wear each shade individually or mix together for a custom effect to suit any occasion, night or day. Create stunning contrasts or meld smoothly from one shade to the next and build highlights into the ultimate look-at-me profile.

Stockist: 03 8544 8000

RRP: \$14.99

Website: www.dbcosmetics.com.au



Moisturising SPF50+ by Cancer Council



Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy.

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

A new daily body moisturiser that provides broad-spectrum protection, **Moisturising SPF50+** is a great choice. It combines high sun protection with moisturising ingredients, aloe vera and vitamin E, to protect and hydrate the skin. It is also lightweight and four hours water-resistant, making it an ideal option for those who live a fast-paced, active lifestyle. Cancer Council's new Moisturising SPF50+ fills that niche when protection from those harsh UV rays is needed for already dehydrated skin - the moisturising effect adds to

the value of this daily-use product bringing a silky smooth feel when applied.

Stockist: Major wholesalers

RRP: \$13.95

Website: www.cancercouncil.com.au

Essential Collection Brush Set



Here's the perfect gift with which to surprise yourself this Spring - a magnificent set of seven make-up brushes from Nude by Nature - the **Essential Collection Brush Set** is a gift that will keep on giving. The seven-brush set covers every

possible need for the face, eyes and lips. All brushes feature exclusive Nude by Nature limited-edition rose gold ferrules. They are encased in an animal-friendly faux leather zip bag, which is perfect for home, for on-the-go touch ups and for travel, short or long term. It's time to surprise and spoil yourself.

Stockist: 1300 366 147

RRP: \$39.95

Website: www.nudebynature.com.au



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