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Paracetamol to S3?

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has asked the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling (ACMS) to consider whether one form of paracetamol - modified release (MR) paracetamol - should become a 'Pharmacist Only' medicine.

The TGA said, following a review and EU decisions to suspend marketing of MR paracetamol products, a move to S3 would maintain access in pharmacies, but give pharmacists the opportunity to counsel patients.

Public comments are invited via this consultation - tga.gov.au.

New Medtronic pump

MEDTRONIC has been granted TGA approval for its MiniMed 670G insulin pump, described as "the latest innovation in the company's phased approach towards developing a fully automated, closed loop system".

The company is also working on a separate registration for a compatible sensor for continuous glucose monitoring (CGM).

A new access program is offering eligible patients six months of compatible GCM transitioning from the 640G to the new 670G pump.

FIP congress to Australia

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has confirmed it will hold the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Brisbane in three years' time (**PD** breaking news Sat).

Announced at the 78th FIP World Congress in Glasgow, Scotland over the weekend, the 2021 event is set to "provide a platform to drive innovative models of pharmacists' practice to full scope".

The successful Brisbane bid was undertaken by a consortium comprising the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia and the Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association.

Together the combined host organisations represent over 20,000 members across Australia in hospital and community pharmacy, academia and the pharmaceutical sciences.

The major international event will take place at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

PSA national president Shane Jackson said FIP Congress 2021 would provide a platform to showcase global innovation, including models that support pharmacists practising to their full

scope and the health outcomes these models have delivered in other countries worldwide.

"The FIP Congress 2021 is a landmark opportunity to continue to ensure roles, recognition and remuneration for pharmacists in Australia are optimised and comparable with other countries around the world," he said.

SHPA ceo Kristin Michaels said "the congress continues a long tradition of Australian pharmacists participating in the international scientific community - including representation on the FIP Bureau, Board of Pharmaceutical Practice Sections, Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Committees".

The bid was also strongly supported by the Pharmaceutical Society of NZ and the NZ Hospital Pharmacists Association.

SafeScript awareness

THE Victorian Government has launched a public awareness campaign for the new SafeScript prescription monitoring system which will start to roll out from the start of next month.

The \$29.5m software project also includes support for health practitioners and TV advertising which kicked off on the weekend.

Vic Health Minister Jill Hennessy also highlighted the state's dedicated pharmaceuticals hotline offering "free, expert and confidential advice and support" for people concerned about their use of high-risk medicines.

Anthony Tassone, Guild Vic branch president, said SafeScript would help doctors and pharmacists make more informed decisions, and urged other states and territories to implement real-time monitoring as soon as possible.



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Dispensary Corner

A NORTH Carolina sheriff's office thought it made a huge drug bust, seizing 5.9 kilograms of fentanyl worth US\$2 million on the street.

The powder was found in a home along with other drugs and paraphernalia and a field test indicated it was the powerful opioid, justifying a host of charges against three suspects.

Unfortunately for the conscientious officers, a state lab test revealed the powder was not fentanyl.

Further tests at a private lab revealed the powder included no illicit ingredients, and was merely "a combination of simple and complex carbohydrates."

That is, it was sugar, worth about \$8 at Woolies - sweet!



POLICE in Mexico have successfully recovered a hearse - and the body it was carrying - after the vehicle was stolen by a misguided car thief.

According to a Facebook post by the Tlaquepaque Police Department in the country's central region, the undertaker's vehicle was ready to take the body of a deceased 80-year-old man from a hospital in Guadalajara to a funeral home.

A 40-year-old man has admitted to spotting the keys in the ignition and absconding with the hearse.

After a brief highway chase officers managed to stop the vehicle and detain the suspect, with the hearse and body recovered without damage.

Pharmacist thief banned

A WEST Australian pharmacist has been disqualified from applying for registration for six months after being found guilty of stealing money and goods from his employer.

According to the Pharmacy Board of Australia, Junliang Gary Goh worked part time at a Fremantle pharmacy in 2015, with the thefts discovered by the pharmacy's manager who conducted an investigation after reviewing pharmacy stock levels and reasons for adjustments recorded on the in-house software platform.

The probe, including a review of CCTV footage, found Goh had dispensed medication to customers and subsequently deleted the script from the pharmacy's dispensing software; sold OTC medication and either processed a return of sale or did not process the sale in the cash register; and also took money from the cash registers and change tin.

The thefts were reported to



the WA police and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency was also notified.

Goh repaid the pharmacy \$6,500 shortly after the thefts were discovered.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia referred Goh to the State Administrative Tribunal (WA) which, after a mediated outcome, ordered a reprimand, the six month disqualification from applying for registration, and the payment of \$4,000 towards costs.

TB vax from flu vax

RESEARCHERS from the Centenary Institute in Sydney have demonstrated how an influenza A-based vaccine can be used to activate immune cells in the lungs, and in turn, help protect against tuberculosis (TB).

Australia is seen as a prime target for total eradication of the disease.

Published in *Mucosal Immunology*, the study is found at nature.com.



Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Margo Asimus**, Director, Skin & Wound Care Consultancy.



Evidence-based wound care – from pharmacy

WOUNDS cost our health system about \$3 billion every year. Given the high foot traffic for prescriptions and the first stop for first aid, pharmacy is ideally placed to help address this growing problem.

Two important groups at the centre of complex wounds are people with delayed wound healing and those at higher risk of infection. People suffering from chronic diseases such as cardiovascular, diabetes, respiratory disease, immobility and increasing age are more likely to have complications in wound closure. Importantly these groups require contemporary, evidence-based wound care that has proven to be essential in facilitating wound healing in high-risk people.

These modern products can aid healing by reducing the microbial load in the wound with none of the traditional cytotoxicity which can cause pain and respond poorly. Many of the innovative wound products have been restricted to the hospital setting until recently. Microdacyn Wound Care is an effective product that is now available nationwide. Whereas traditional products such as those containing hydrogen peroxide are no longer recommended for wound care due to their known cytotoxic action with a risk of tissue damage, pain and subsequently delayed healing. To help address the growing burden of wound management nationally, pharmacy needs to recommend best practice by offering modern, evidence-based wound products.

Win with John Plunkett

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and John Plunkett are giving away a Superfade Accelerator and Superfade UV Day Shield SPF30+ with each prize pack valued at over \$47.

Superfade Accelerator can be used on its own to lighten superficial pigmentation as well as with Superfade Face Cream to help shorten treatment time. Superfade Accelerator is a blend of AHAs and BHAs for effective exfoliation and also includes Ferulic Acid Cytovectors which have been shown to lighten surface discolouration immediately.

Visit: www.Superfade.com.au for more.

To win, be the first from NSW or ACT to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.



Give an example of a type of pigmentation that Superfade can help fade?

Check back tomorrow for today's winner!