

Today's issue of PD

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

Education ordered

WESTERN Australia's State Administrative Tribunal has suspended the registration of a pharmacist for two months and ordered him to undertake education in ethics and dispensing, after he was found to have engaged in professional misconduct.

According to the Pharmacy Board of Australia, evidence was presented at a hearing in relation to pharmacist Michael Man Ho Tse, alleging that between Sep and Oct 2016 he dispensed fentanyl patches to a patient without a valid prescription or verbal authority from a medical practitioner.

In addition Tse did not make any record of dispensing fentanyl to the patient, and altered the dates of several scripts to reconcile the supply of patches for which he did not have a valid prescription.

The pharmacist admitted engaging in professional misconduct, including his failure to make contact with a medical practitioner when he was aware the prescribing doctor was away. "With no prior history of misconduct, Mr Tse was remorseful and cooperated early with the Pharmacy Board of Australia and the WA Department of Health," the board noted, with the pharmacist also required to be mentored monthly over a six month period.

Drug shortages law passed

A **NEW** mandatory reporting scheme for medicines shortages has now become legislation, forcing pharmaceutical companies to report shortages of important medicines within two working days.

The new national system for managing medicines supply will come into effect on 01 Jan 2019 after the Therapeutic Goods Amendment (2018 Measures no. 1) Bill 2018 passed through the Federal Senate on Mon night.

Mandatory reporting will apply to all prescription medicines as well as other vital medicines such as EpiPens and inhalers.

A critical medicine will be deemed to be in shortage if there is not enough, or likely will not be enough, for all Australian patients who take it or may need to take it, at any time in the next six months.

In addition, if a critical drug is being removed from the market, the department must be notified at least 12 months in advance, or "as soon as possible".

Non-critical drug shortages will need to be reported within 10 working days.

Tough penalties will apply to companies that do not comply with these new laws, including fines of up to \$210,000 for each infringement and the possibility of further court action.

Health Minister Greg Hunt said he made "no apologies" for taking a hard-line approach to ensuring patients aren't kept in the dark



about potential shortages.

Earlier this year, Australia was one of several countries hit by a shortage of EpiPens (PD 09 Mar), and

without early notification to the Therapeutic Goods Administration, patients and doctors were not alerted in time for them to make alternative arrangements, Hunt said.

Hunt thanked industry bodies including Medicines Australia, the AMA, SHPA, the Pharmacy Guild, ASMI, NPSA, PSA and the GBMA for their involvement in the consultation and design of the new approach.

Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia ceo Kristin Michaels said introduction of the new protocol was a big win that would "make a huge impact on the effectiveness of hospital pharmacists in Australia, liberating their time to spend on crucial face-to-face cognitive pharmacy services on the ward, maximising their input into multidisciplinary medical teams".

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia also welcomed the new legislation, saying "too many times in the past community pharmacists have been affected by shortages with no warning or readily available information.

"This legislation will significantly reduce the likelihood of sub-standard patient care arising from unforeseen and un-notified medicine shortages," the Guild said.

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Woolcock courses

THE Woolcock Institute of Medical Research is conducting two new educational events.

The institute is hosting a Breathlessness Evening Seminar on Wed 17 Oct and a Nicotine Addiction and Smoking Cessation 3-day course, 23-25 Oct.

The evening seminar will run from 6.00pm to 8.00 pm and costs \$20 plus GST - eventbrite.com.au.

The 3-day course costs \$1,870 incl GST and catering, and provides in-depth knowledge and skills enabling health professionals to work as a tobacco treatment and smoking cessation specialist - more information and registration at eventbrite.com.au.

New Rx drugs

NPS MedicineWise has summarised three new drugs that may cross your pharmacy store counter this month: benralizumab for asthma, dulaglutide for type 2 diabetes and trifluridine/tipiracil for colorectal cancer.

The summaries are published in the *NPS Australian Prescriber*.

Fasenra (benralizumab) by AstraZeneca is a humanised IgG1 monoclonal antibody that presents in a pre-filled syringe.

Trulicity (dulaglutide) from Eli Lilly is a genetically engineered protein and is marketed in pre-filled pens and syringes, while **Lonsurf** (trifluridine/tipiracil) by Servier is a fixed-dose combination tablet therapy and is indicated for people with metastatic colorectal cancer under specific conditions.

See more details at nps.org.au.



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AMH
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The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne
Paediatric Injectable Guidelines

Twomey team testimony

QUEENSLAND Pharmacy Guild branch president Trent Twomey and his pharmacist proprietor wife Georgina have both spoken this week before the Qld Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into the establishment of a Pharmacy Council and transfer of pharmacy ownership.

The state president said he believed the Guild had had an opportunity to put its case to the committee over the course of its public hearings, along with a



substantial written submission.

He told the panel the inquiry "should be about ensuring that medicines are provided in a safe and efficacious way to all Queenslanders regardless of where they live," noting that there is a "big gap in terms of the standards for community pharmacies in Queensland because of the absence of a Pharmacy Council".

Twomey also urged the removal of all impediments to pharmacists practising to their full scope, and cited testimony by Pharmacy Board chair Bill Kelly who said it would be desirable to establish a "premises regulator" in Queensland in order to ensure minimum standards and as a step towards national harmonisation.

Georgina Twomey (pictured) also spoke in support of the need for a Pharmacy Council in Queensland, to provide certainty for both pharmacy owners and patients.

"As a pharmacist who has complied with the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act, I want to be able to be confident that other pharmacy businesses have also complied - a level playing field is fair, and in the interests of consumers," she said.

With the hearings over, the Committee will now draft a report to the state Government, which is due to be submitted by 30 Sep.

Clinical pharmacist value highlighted

NEW research published in the *Journal for Healthcare Quality* has demonstrated the positive value of the clinical pharmacist in the Patient Care Medical Home Model (PCMH) - a multidisciplinary, team-based approach to healthcare that focuses on actively involving the patient in clinical decision making.

The US Veterans Health Administration, while aiming to deliver primary care services, used the principles of the PCMH model to design its patient-aligned care team (PACT) and sought to evaluate the role of the clinical pharmacist when injected into this model.

This single-centre cross-sectional study was conducted at an integrated Veterans Health Administration system and electronically surveyed PACT staff practising in the Tennessee Valley Health Care System in Oct 2016.

Of the 91 complete responses received, most perceptions were positive, with 79% rated as either a moderate or major contribution.

Authors concluded the injection of the clinical pharmacist into the model was beneficial - **CLICK HERE**.

Medlab cannabis export approval

LISTED Australian medical life sciences company, Medlab Clinical Ltd has announced it has received a Licence to Export Cannabis from the Office of Drug Control in Canberra, specifically relating to its first two cannabis-based medicines, NanaBis and NanaBidal.

NanaBis is a whole plant 1:1 extract of CBD and THC, whilst NanaBidal is a whole plant extract of CBD and THC (predominantly CBD).

Both products utilise Medlab's patented NanoCelle delivery platform which allows the delivery of nano particles of the active pharmaceutical ingredients into the side of the cheek (buccal delivery).

Medlab announced earlier this month the preliminary results received from the University of Sydney's Nano Institute, School of Pharmacy validating the science behind the NanoCelle delivery platform.

According to Medlab ceo Dr Sean Hall, the Export Licence, which is renewable annually, allows



Medlab to undertake more formal overseas trade conversations with confidence in the knowledge that the company can supply legally overseas.

"This licence is a welcome addition to our other approvals, allowing Medlab to research, manufacture, conduct research trials, supply within Australia, and now, pending the right partner, foreign markets," Hall said.

New discoveries push

THE University of Sydney has launched a new Drug Discovery Initiative, aiming to "unite researchers, clinicians and industry to develop promising drugs and delivery methods to improve human health".

The program will focus on early stages of the drug discovery pipeline - infectious diseases, cancer therapies, inflammation, neurodegenerative and central nervous system disorders, and metabolic diseases - sydney.edu.au.



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Dispensary Corner

THE unborn child of a football-loving American couple is apparently showing a distinct lack of loyalty, according to an ultrasound image showing the foetus supporting a rival team.

The pair are graduates of Texas A&M University, but were surprised during a recent prenatal scan when the technician asked if they were University of Texas (UT) Longhorn fans.

That's because the image (**below**) showed the unborn child flashing a "Hook 'em Horns" sign used by UT supporters.

The new parents said they plan to take the baby to a game as soon as it is born to "start the brainwashing early".



DON'T try this at home.

That's the advice that should have been taken by a US woman who has been badly injured after accidentally lighting a stick of dynamite in her house.

According to officials in the city of Bridgeport, Connecticut, she thought she was holding a candle, but unfortunately it turned out to be high explosive.

After the blast she was rushed to hospital, with surrounding homes evacuated while bomb squad detectives searched for other sticks of dynamite.

Unfortunately the 30-year-old female received significant injuries to her face and hands, and may lose several fingers.

Health, Beauty and New Products

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

Sugar Plum Moisturising Lip Balm

Carmex Unicorn Sugar Plum Moisturising Lip Balm is a limited-edition lip balm with a sugar plum flavour and is formulated with SPF 15 to fully protect those precious lips from harsh UV radiation. It features sparkly shimmering packaging and the pink lid is designed by UK designer Skinny Dip. Carmex Unicorn Sugar Plum Moisturising Lip Balm goes that one step further with its level of hydration resulting in a silky smooth finish that is not only moisturised but designed to retain the moisture while protecting from outside drying influences. This product came to counters in Mar this year.



Stockist: 07 5470 2708

RRP: \$6.49

Website: www.mycarmex.com

Blackmores B12 Rapi-Melt 1000mcg



Blackmores **B12 Rapi-Melt 1000 mcg** provides a dose of 'body ready vitamin B12' for on-the-go immediate use. This great tasting melt provides a boost to vitamin B12 intake in a convenient one-a-day dose and supports daily energy production. Vitamin B12 may help contribute to the reduction of tiredness and fatigue.

This Blackmores product contains a metabolically active form of vitamin B12 (co-methylcobalamin). Always read the label. Use only as directed. Vitamin supplements should not replace a balanced diet. If symptoms persist, see your healthcare professional.

Stockist: 1800 803 760

RRP: \$19.99

Website: www.blackmores.com.au

Be Curly Co-Wash by Aveda

Aveda **Be Curly Co-Wash** is a co-wash that combines the benefits of a shampoo and conditioner in one. It moisturises curly to coily hair, cleanses the scalp and helps to minimise frizz. The 97% naturally-derived sulfate-free, low lather formula conditions and removes build-up from the hair while cleansing the scalp. It helps to moisturise hair for up to three days and improve the look of curls. The formula contains certified organic babassu and baobab oils and cassava.



Stockist: 1800 292 069

RRP: \$34.00

Website: www.aveda.com.au

Baby's Calming Massage Oil



Jurlique **Baby's Calming Massage Oil** is a lightweight and non-greasy massage oil with botanical oils to deeply hydrate, while its soothing natural scent helps prepare baby for a blissful bedtime.

The essential oil blend

- comprised of lavender, cedar bark, grapefruit, bergamot, spearmint, geranium and ylang ylang - imparts a naturally clean and fresh aroma that leaves skin smelling naturally soft and fresh, and has a calming and comforting effect on baby. This product came to counters just last month.

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