

Vit C not so benign

COMPLEMENTARY medicines such as vitamins are often considered generally safe, but a new report published in the latest edition of the *MJA* has reported on a high vitamin C dose with almost fatal consequences.

Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency is an enzymatic disorder of red blood cells most common in people of Mediterranean, African and Asian descent and can experience episodic haemolytic anaemia and even death following exposure to infection, drugs or chemicals.

In the *MJA* reported case, the patient concerned survived "but required prolonged hospitalisation and intensive haematological and dialysis support, resulting in substantial costs to health and significant distress to the patient and his family" - mja.com.au.

Tas stroke attack

TASMANIAN Minister for Health Michael Ferguson officially launched Tasmania's 'Better plan for stroke' at a National Stroke Week celebration in Hobart last week, promising a \$440,000 boost over two years to increase stroke awareness, treatment and support in the state.

Stroke Foundation ceo Sharon McGowan said Tasmania had the highest incidence of stroke per capita in the country and thanked the State Government for committing to preventing, treating and beating stroke.

Details of prevention programs are at strokefoundation.org.au.

Guild takes Ramsay to court

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has launched legal action against Ramsay Health Care Limited, with the case centring on the compliance of Ramsay Pharmacy franchises with pharmacy ownership rules.

Listings for the NSW Supreme Court indicate the case set down for a hearing at 9.30am on 02 Oct 2018, in the court's civil equity division presided over by Registrar L. Walton.

A Guild spokesperson confirmed the action this morning, saying three of its pharmacist members were also part of the case, seeking a ruling on whether Ramsay Health Care has a financial interest in certain Ramsay-branded pharmacies in NSW.

The case wishes to "test the application of the pharmacy ownership section of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW) in relation to certain recent pharmacy ownership transactions.

"The purpose is to test whether these transactions comply with the law in NSW, in particular, provisions in relation to who may have a

Deprescribing module

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is promoting its CPD accredited course "Deprescribing in the elderly" which equips pharmacists with an understanding of risks associated with polypharmacy and deprescribing tools, along with strategies to cease inappropriate medicines.

Access at psa.org.au.

financial interest in a pharmacy," the Guild said.

"Governments around Australia have made it clear that they support a policy of pharmacists owning and controlling community pharmacies... pharmacist-only pharmacy ownership is fundamental to the community pharmacy model."

The Guild said it was committed "in the public interest" to taking appropriate action to ensure that pharmacy ownership rules in all States and Territories are maintained and enforced.

"Anything that undermines it is not in the public interest."

Ramsay Health Care wasn't able to comment on the matter before *Pharmacy Daily's* deadline today, while the Guild said it would not make further comment while the matter is before the court.

Business name alert

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has advised that from 31 Oct 2018 businesses will no longer be allowed to trade using unregistered "trading names" other than the name of their legal entity.

The National Business Name Register was introduced in May 2012, along with a transition period of more than five years to allow businesses to decide whether to register their names or not.

However to continue using a different "trading name" after the end of Oct 2018, businesses have to register them, the Guild said, with further information available at business.gov.au.

Consultation closing

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is reminding interested parties that its consultation on 'Advertising to the public' released for public comment in Aug (*PD* 10 Aug) is concluding at close of business on Thu 04 Oct.

The TGA warns that it will not be able to grant any extensions for submissions relating to the revised version of the guidance to support the draft Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code 2018.

The final guidance is planned for publication in Nov 2018 - see more at tga.gov.au.

Biosimilars explained



THE European Medicines Agency has published new information on its website in an effort to improve understanding of biosimilars among countries across the European Union.

The new material includes collateral for health professionals as well as an animated video for patients that explains key facts on biosimilar medicines.

The information is available in eight languages, some of which may be useful in counselling expatriate patients in Australia around the intricacies of biosimilar issues - see ema.europa.eu.

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UK vaping hits 3 mill

THE number of people in Great Britain using electronic cigarettes has topped three million for the first time - four times the number in 2012, according to a survey by Action on Smoking and Health.

The survey also showed most use the devices because they have quit smoking, while 40% are smokers who are trying to give up.

The estimations are based on a survey of 12,000 British adults but a "worrying" belief that vaping is as bad as smoking still exists, a King's College London analysis found.

Earlier this year, Public Health England said e-cigarettes should be available on prescription because of how successful they were in helping people give up smoking, and given there is little sign of non-smokers taking up vaping.

Alison Cook, director of policy at the British Lung Foundation, said doctors and pharmacists "should be very clear with people that there is a range of products available and that they can try vaping as a way to stop smoking".

Valsartan updates

BOTH the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have issued updates on their evaluation of angiotensin-II-receptor antagonist valsartan products subsequent to the product recalls in Jul (**PD 11** and 16 Jul) due to the presence of possibly carcinogenic impurities NDEA and NDMA.

The FDA has found additional potential carcinogenic impurities in three lots of Torren Pharmaceuticals recalled valsartan products.

Inspections of the supplier manufacturing facilities have generated new means of detecting impurities which manufacturers and regulatory agencies can use.

With risks associated with taking the products considered extremely low, the agencies have advised patients to continue with their medication until advised otherwise by their health professional.

The TGA has confirmed that no local supplies of valsartan products were affected (**PD 09** Aug).

Blackmores medal performance



YESTERDAY about 50,000 people jogged, walked and sprinted across the Sydney Harbour Bridge as part of the 2018 Blackmores Sydney Running Festival.

One of the participants was none other than Blackmores ceo Richard Henfrey, who is **pictured** with his 10km Bridge Run medal.

Blackmores had a huge presence as the naming rights sponsor of the event, including a new partnership with Special Olympics Australia which saw several athletes take part as runners, fitness trainers, race ambassadors and hosts at the Blackmores Recovery Village.

The partnership aims to celebrate

diversity and inclusion, to help break down stigma in society and inspire Australians to get on board.

The Blackmores running squad also included former Bachelor Matty Johnson, while the day wrapped up with the inaugural *Blackmores Move the Nation Awards* which were presented at the VIP marquee by Henfrey along with TV presenter Peter Overton and Corene Strauss, Special Olympics Australia ceo.

The awards aimed to honour and acknowledge everyday Australians who had overcome challenges or adversity to get moving for this year's running festival.

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FDA migraine tick

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Teva's Ajovy (fremanezumab-vfrm) for the preventive treatment of migraine in adults - the second calcitonin gene-related peptide blocker approval after Aimovig, which was registered here last month (PD 23 Aug 2018).



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Matt Kerr, GM Australia Te Ara BioFarma.**



Consumers want faster wound healing

IT MAY seem obvious that people with wounds want them healed faster. However, research was conducted to confirm this to ensure that healthcare professional and consumer goals could align. Factors ensuring timely wound healing include preventing infection, reducing damage to our tissue and cells, and using products proven to be of benefit.

Infection: Chronic wounds, contaminated acute wounds and those on elderly or diabetic people are at higher risk of infection and delayed healing. Antimicrobial solutions and hydrogels are recommended to reduce this risk.

Damage from wound care products: A number of antimicrobial or antiseptic products function in a way that also kills our bodies cells. Newer technologies are non-damaging and therefore do not slow healing. An added benefit being that they don't sting.

Evidence: First aid and wound care is an evidence-based form of medicine. Significant differences can be achieved for consumers by using products proven to be of benefit in controlled clinical studies.

Clinically proven wound care Microdacyn®, now available from pharmacies, provides a link between what is used in hospitals and wound clinics with easy consumer availability. Supporting development in wound care and first aid categories is for the benefit of consumers and pharmacy alike.

Microdacyn is available from API and Symbion.

Dispensary Corner

TAKE advantage of those smoko breaks while you can, the people of Bristol, because by 2024 your city will be officially smoke free - at least that's the suggestion from a recent British study.

The research is based on a current smoking rate of 11.14%, with the number of smokers in the city falling by 9.95 percentage points between 2011 and 2017.

If the pattern holds, that notorious menthol aroma in the western UK city will be replaced with...well, fresh air we suppose.

So the next time you are travelling through Bristol and someone asks you for a light, be prepared to forage through your pockets for a torch.



WHEN experts warn people about the risks of contracting hepatitis A, rarely have they included in the prevention manual a note about avoiding a 16th century festival.

Despite the typical lack of risk associated with dressing up as William Shakespeare and insisting the play *Twelfth Night* is a funny read, festival organisers for the Michigan Renaissance Festival are recommending anybody who attended the event be vaccinated for the disease immediately.

The alert was issued after a person fell ill with the contagious hep A shortly after attending.

Angels knit up a warm storm



NOW in its 20th year, Guardian Pharmacy's Guardian Angels Knitting Program has donated more than 50,000 garments to St Vincent de Paul Society, in a bid to provide the 116,000 Australians experiencing homelessness and the three million in poverty with warm winter wear.

The initiative, which in its lifetime has provided over two million knitted garments, called on Australian knitting enthusiasts to lend a hand to those less fortunate by creating winter woollies including beanies, scarves, jumpers

and gloves.

Gorokan Guardian Pharmacist, Eric Ngo and his team (pictured) enjoyed another successful year of leading the local Guardian Angels, attributing the success to the passionate community volunteers in Gorokan.

"The Guardian Angel program is very close to my heart and our team loves working with the community to give a helping hand to the local Vinnies," Ngo said.

For more on the Guardian Angels knitting program visit guardianpharmacies.com.au.

Win with Dreambaby®

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Dreambaby® are giving readers the chance to win the latest from Dreambaby® valued at \$34.90.

Prize includes 'Herbert' the Turtle Room & Bath Thermometer - RRP: \$19.95. Made from BPA Free and Phthalate Safe durable waterproof material, Herbert gives fast and accurate temperature readings. You can also win Dreambaby®'s new non-slip super light-weight and simple-to-clean EZY-Potty - RRP\$24.95. www.dreambaby.com.au or call 02 9386 4000.

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