

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**.

APC portal down

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has advised that its Candidate Portal will be down for maintenance from 3pm AEST today until 10am tomorrow.

PBS streamlining

THE Health Department is collaborating with Medicines Australia to host information forums in Sydney and Melbourne about the work done to date to streamline the listing processes for PBS medicines.

Two forums will be held in each venue, one targeted at the industry and the other at clinicians.

The Melbourne event will take place next Tue 25 Sep at Mantra Tullamarine, while sessions will take place at the Rydges Sydney Airport hotel on Wed 26 Sep - pbs.gov.au.

Pharma tax "scam"

FOUR pharmaceutical giants are being accused of avoiding \$215m a year in Australian tax, according to an Oxfam report.

The four companies implicated - Pfizer, J&J, MSD and Abbott - say they operated within the law.

They posted a combined 7% loss in Australia while averaging 31% profit in tax havens like Belgium, Ireland and the Netherlands.

Ramsay not backing off

EXCLUSIVE

RAMSAY Health Care says it is committed to progressing the development of its pharmacy franchise network, despite concerted opposition from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

The Guild along with three of its pharmacist members launched legal action in the NSW Supreme Court this month (PD 17 Sep), seeking 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".

Ramsay ceo Peter Giannopoulos said "The Ramsay Pharmacy Group, in its capacity as a retail pharmacy franchisor and in conjunction with its franchisees, has worked openly and collaboratively with regulators across Queensland, NSW and Victoria, to establish a consumer-focused and successful community health network.

"We will vigorously defend any action brought by the Guild."

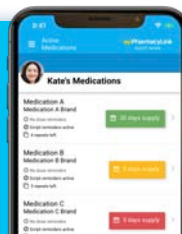
Giannopoulos said Ramsay Health Care had been delivering clinical pharmacy services via its pharmacy departments and hospital dispensaries for more than ten years, and is now seeking to provide further support to patients in an integrated system.

"Just as we have done with hospitals in Australia for over 50 years, we are together with our franchisees creating a community

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health franchise network that is focused on people - our consumers and all Ramsay Pharmacy staff - and ensuring that cost-effective medication and superior consumer outcomes are delivered," he said.

Giannopoulos noted that Ramsay Pharmacy franchisees also have the benefit of calling on the extensive resources of the Ramsay Health Care network including training and career development, clinical governance, risk management and research.

He said the company and its franchisees would continue to work in a collaborative manner with all regulators, "so that the Ramsay Pharmacy Franchise Network, which currently consists of 54 franchise community pharmacies, may continue to expand for the benefit of communities, patients and pharmacists across Australia".

Benzocaine consult

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is seeking comments on a proposal to add the additional advisory statement *Do not give to children under two years of age* for non-prescription medicines containing benzocaine for topical oral use.

The warning is proposed due to concerns about the risk of developing methaemoglobinaemia in young children.

Input is sought by 16 Oct, with the consultation paper at tga.gov.au.

Atropine alert

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised health professionals to exercise "extreme caution" if considering off-label prescribing of atropine eye drops to treat hypersalivation.

The issue is detailed in the latest edition of the TGA's Medicines Safety Update, with the warning following the 2014 death of an adult patient which has been attributed to accidental oral ingestion of a toxic quantity of atropine eye drops which had been prescribed off-label for sublingual administration.

A coronial inquest heard evidence that the plastic dispenser bottle was very easy to empty, and that the deceased took at least 6-8ml of the solution leading to an overdose.

Other items addressed in the update include new warning statements which are being implemented for neuromuscular blocking agent containing medicines (NMBAs), which are used to cause paralysis during anaesthesia.

Administration errors involving these medicines can be caused by look-alike selection errors, with the *Therapeutic Goods Order No 91 - Standards for prescription and related medicines* updated to require the statement "WARNING: Paralyzing agent" prominently on the outer carton and ampoule of the medications.

Affected medicines are currently specified as S3 and include suxamethonium, pancuronium, vecuronium, atracurium, rocuronium, mivacurium and cistacurium - details at tga.gov.au.

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Pharmako snags two awards



AUSTRALIAN company Pharmako Biotechnologies won two categories in the NutraIngredient Awards, which were held in Singapore last week in conjunction with Vitafoods Asia.

Sydney-based Pharmako took out the Start Up Company of the Year award, as well as Botanical Product of the Year for its HydroCurc

bioavailable curcumin formulation.

HydroCurc uses Pharmako's new LipiSpense technology, which was also a finalist in the Innovation of the Year category, making it the world's most bioavailable curcumin in a single dose.

In total, ten awards were presented at the event in Singapore (pictured), with other winners including the Blackmores Institute for its pharmacist education program (PD yesterday) and Du Pont for Probiotic Ingredient of the Year (PD 13 Sep).

Cancer drugs on PBS

HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt this week announced a \$48 million investment in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, with the listing of new treatments for lymphoma and multiple myeloma.

From 01 Oct about 700 patients with untreated advanced follicular lymphoma - a form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma - will no longer need to pay \$104,000 annually to use the medication Gazyva, which helps a patient's own immune system destroy cancer cells.

Gazyva will also be subsidised for lymphoma patients who do not respond to rituximab treatment.

Hunt also announced the listing of Pomalyst for relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma, for patients who have a severe intolerance to other medications used to treat the condition.

Patients would normally pay around \$58,500 a year to access Pomalyst, the minister said.

"Our commitment to the PBS is rock solid...together with Medicare it is a foundation of our world class health system," he said.

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.

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

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(Full content requires the purchase of a subscription)

Tassie vax clinics

THE Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services has announced a series of public meningococcal vaccination clinics in Launceston, Devonport and Burnie, providing free meningococcal ACWY vaccine to people aged between six weeks and 21 years.

The department noted that "while the public clinics are a great chance to get a meningococcal ACWY vaccine, eligible Tasmanians should continue to get the free vaccine from a GP or pharmacist, and not wait for the clinics".

Since 2016, the per capita rate of meningococcal W disease in Tasmania has been higher than most other parts of Australia.

Tasmanian pharmacists are currently able to administer the vaccine to people aged 10-21 years.

MHR opt-out just 3%

ABOUT 900,000 people have opted out of the My Health Record system so far, according to Australian Digital Health Agency ceo Tim Kelsey.

Speaking to a Senate inquiry on Mon, Kelsey said that as of 12 Sep the opt-out rate has been about 3% which was in line with expectations.

He said the estimate was not comprehensive as it did not include opt-outs via paper submissions.

Interestingly, the publicity around the MHR system has also seen more than 180,000 Australians formally sign up for a My Health Record since the beginning of the opt-out period.

Those who don't opt out by 15 Nov will automatically get a MHR.

Bell rings support



FORMER president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association John Bell (pictured) lent his support to sentiments expressed in a microbial resistance seminar at the International Pharmaceutical Federation's (FIP) 2018 Congress in Glasgow this month (PD yesterday).

The premise of the presentation was that pharmacists as counsellors can reduce patients' expectations and perceptions of need for antibiotic therapy.

Bell told FIP delegates that pharmacists should give patients realistic expectations about the severity and duration of symptoms, and recommend evidence-based products for self-care.

Omega-3 lowers BP?

BLACKMORES Institute says that evidence is growing for the role of omega-3 in lowering blood pressure (BP) with new work published in the *Journal of Hypertension* showing an inverse association of omega-3 with systolic and diastolic blood pressure in healthy individuals aged 25-41 years.

In a study involving more than 2000 individuals, BP indices decreased linearly, demonstrating a clinically relevant drop - **CLICK HERE**.

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Dispensary Corner

ARE you online?

I mean - are you really online?
If so, be aware your movements are also online and can be hacked by the police department

Ohio man Ross Compton, 59, was indicted on felony charges of aggravated arson and insurance fraud for allegedly starting a fire on 19 Sep at his Court Donegal house, causing around \$400,000 damage.

The evidence? His movements were on record because he had a cardiac pacemaker which logged his every action, proving his guilt.

Police obtained a search warrant for all electronic data stored in Compton's cardiac pacing device to clinch the charge.

Now, about that Opal-card chip implant ...



GIGGLING aloud allowed: a small town in Missouri, US, is called Uranus and has successfully stolen headlines and tweets from around the globe by ditching the name of its local paper the *Daily Guide* in favour of the *Uranus Examiner*.

Mayor of nearby Waynesville, where the *Daily Guide* was based, says she thinks the "innuendo" surrounding the new publication's name will bring "public ridicule".

Her name? Luge Hardman - seriously.

But wait - there's more - the whole fiasco was reported on the local TV channel KYTV - now you can laugh out loud!

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

Eczema Moisturising Lotion

Little Bodies Eczema Moisturising Lotion is steroid free and contains 2% colloidal oatmeal in a highly moisturising base to help to manage minor skin irritations during eczema flare-ups and alleviate discomfort by restoring the natural moisture balance of the skin. This lotion was found to increase skin hydration by 35% over a period of 7 days and to provide 24 hour hydration from a single application. The lotion has been specifically formulated to be used on babies and children. It's gentle enough to be used on the face and can be used in conjunction with a prescribed steroid product to moisturise and hydrate the skin.

Stockist: Pharmabroker

RRP: \$14.99

Website: www.littlebodies.com.au



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Stockist: 1800 640 043 (Clear Sales Australia)

RRP: \$29.95

Website: www.scarmed.com.au

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Stockist: 02 9371 8884

RRP: \$34.95

Website: www.eyelogic.com.au

Hamilton SPF50+ Everyday Face



Pamper your face every day while giving maximum protection from the harsh rays of UV radiation from the sun with Hamilton **SPF50+ Everyday Face**. Protecting from both UVA and UVB, this broad spectrum coverage is suitable for all types of skin and backs up its protection with moisturising action. Hamilton SPF50+ Everyday Face is free from fragrance, PABA and lanolin. This everyday cream is suitable for both the neck and face, containing a sheer tint for a light matt finish that provides invisible coverage. Regular use may help to reduce the risk of some skin cancers.

Stockist: Major wholesalers

RRP: \$12.95 for 75g

Website: www.hamiltonsunandskin.com.au



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