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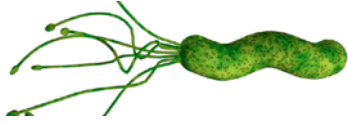
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ThinOPTICS prize

THIS week ThinOPTICS has partnered with **Pharmacy Daily** to give away daily prizes of the company's new "take everywhere" reading glasses which are also available for pharmacies to stock.

The convenient product solves the perennial problem of "where are my glasses?" - for more information see the competition box on **page 3** or go to eyelogic.com.au.

H.Pylori ups bleed risk



THE presence of common stomach bacterium *helicobacter pylori* (pictured) can more than double the risk of upper gastrointestinal (UGI) bleeding in patients taking daily low-dose aspirin, according to a meta-analysis published online by the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

Both the bacterium and aspirin are risk factors for UGI bleeding but this study for the first time clarifies their risk interaction, say Dr Justin Ng from Peninsula Health in Victoria and Emeritus Professor Neville Yeomans, from the University of Melbourne.

New Teva program goes live

COMMUNITY pharmacies are being invited to participate in a new Teva Wake Patient Program conducted in partnership with PharmaPrograms, providing opportunities for additional professional services income.

The initiative relates to Modafinil and Nuvigil (armodafinil) and consists of two distinct elements.

The new Modafinil Patient Screening Program involves the pharmacist undertaking a short patient interview including the completion of a tailored Screening Questionnaire which reviews medication compliance.

This part of the program is a one-off service with a professional fee paid to the community pharmacy.

Under the Nuvigil Patient Program, the pharmacist is required to complete a tailored Patient Information Leaflet containing key QUM issues which are to be discussed with the patient.

The community pharmacy will be paid a continued professional service fee at each dispensing under the Nuvigil scheme.

The medications are indicated to improve wakefulness in people with excessive daytime sleepiness.

The new Teva program is the 14th PharmaPrograms initiative through community pharmacy, in partnership with 11 manufacturers.

For more details call 1300 721 225 or see pharmaprograms.com.au.

Ilumya approval

MUMBAI-BASED Sun Pharmaceutical Industries has welcomed approval by the Therapeutic Goods Administration of its Ilumya (tildrakizumab) for the treatment of adults with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy.

The company has confirmed it will launch a patient-support program for people prescribed with Ilumya, offering self-injection training, dose reminders, injection consumables and a support help line.

Homeopathic NET loss

ALL aqueous-based homeopathic products supplied by NET Remedies are being withdrawn due to possible microbial contamination.

The TGA said a fault in the water filtration system at the US manufacturer (**PD 28 Aug**) has resulted in four batches being contaminated by *Pseudomonas spp.*

Cloud 9 up in smoke

WEST Australian pharmacist Hoang Nam Nguyen, 35, the owner of the Cloud 9 smoke-shop chain, has pleaded guilty to nearly two dozen charges of illegally supplying synthetic cannabis through his group of rainbow-coloured outlets.

Charges levelled against Nguyen's 17 staff relating to crimes under the Misuse of Drugs Amendment (Psycho-active Substances) Act were dropped by prosecutors, according to a report by the *West Australian* and *Seven Media*.

The three main components of the substances involved, according to the charges, were 5F-AMB, AB-CHMINACA and FUB-AMB, which have all been cited in alarming cases in Japan, Louisiana and New York in recent years.

They were sold under various names such as Mr Nice, Dark Phantom, Wild Joker and Illuminate Pineapple Extreme in Rockingham, Armadale, Highgate and others.

The products, many of which were synthetic cannabinoids, have been implicated in severe seizures, heat stroke and death.

Nguyen will be sentenced this month and also faces professional misconduct allegations brought by the Pharmacy Board of Australia, around his illegal activities.



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Seremind is indicated for Adults 18+. Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist consult your healthcare professional. References. 1. Seremind Consumer Leaflet 2018. A. Menarini Australia Pty Ltd. Level 8, 67 Albert Ave Chatswood NSW 2067. PHONE: 1800 644 542. SER-AU-0932. © Registered Trademark.



Hunt flags Guild anniversary



HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt has helped mark the 90th anniversary of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, by giving the organisation the Australian flag which was displayed in the House of Representatives on 20 Aug 2018 - exactly 90 years since

the first ever meeting of the Guild's National Council in 1928.

Hunt presented the flag along with a commemorative certificate to Guild national president, George Tambassis and Queensland branch president Trent Twomey.

Consumers pro Amazon Rx

MORE than 70% of Amazon customers in the United States would be willing to purchase prescription drugs through the online retailer, according to the results of a new survey carried out by German investment bank Deutsche Bank.

The strong response included a significant cohort of older customers, with 52% of respondents aged 65 years and older in favour of the Amazon pharmacy option.

The survey of consumers aged 18–65 years asked questions on current purchasing habits and preferences, their age, and health insurance type.

The study found that being a member of Amazon Prime — a paid subscription service offered by Amazon that gives users access to free two-day delivery, streaming music and video, and other benefits for a monthly or yearly fee — drove interest.

More than 85% of Amazon Prime members who have health insurance said they would be willing to purchase prescription drugs through Amazon, although non-Prime members were less inclined.

Amazon acquired online US pharmacy PillPack, which operates



across 49 US states, earlier this year (**PD** 03 Jul) signalling its potential disruptive role in the industry.

The Deutsche Bank report said the Amazon entry was a matter of “when and where - not if”.

Shares of Walgreens Boots Alliance fell by more than 9% on the news and healthcare company McKesson Corporation which owns LloydsPharmacy in the UK, dropped by more than 7%.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia executive director David Quilty has previously said of the possible Amazon invasion, “no online provider can compete with the convenience of community pharmacy while the Federal Government sets the patient co-payment for PBS subsidised medicines” (**PD** 12 Jul).

EMA sartan review

THE European Medicines Agency has extended its review of impurities in valsartan medicines, after discovering very low levels of N-nitrosodiethylamine (NDEA) in another active substance, losartan, made by India's Hetero Labs.

The precautionary review will now include losartan, olmesartan, candesartan and irbesartan.

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Dispensary Corner

A GENEROUS Irish fundraiser has launched an intriguing bid to help support a teenager with cancer by hitchhiking across Scotland - while carrying a microwave oven.

Diarmuid McCleary said he hopes to raise £2,000 to help 14-year-old Robyn Smyth, who is suffering from neuroblastoma.

McCleary (pictured) is running a GoFundMe campaign seeking support for the stunt under the simple title "Microwave Across Scotland," saying the trip will "be a long trek across the land relying on the kindness of strangers".

He said he was inspired to carry the appliance after hearing about the 1990s feat of a man who travelled around Ireland with a refrigerator.



FRUIT delivered to a prison in Houston, USA last week came with some extra not-so-goodness, after authorities found almost \$18m worth of cocaine hidden inside the boxes.

A Facebook post by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice confirms the drugs were found in two pallets of bananas which had been donated because they were too ripe to sell through retailers.

A corrections officer found a "white powdery substance" under the pallets, with customs workers eventually uncovering 540 packages of cocaine in the fruit.

Amcal springs into hay fever action

MORE than 20% of hay fever sufferers admit the condition forces them to disengage from participating in social activities with their loved ones, according to the results of a recent nationwide survey conducted by Amcal Pharmacy.

Some 30% cited embarrassment and "social isolation" from their persistent symptoms with spring now in full bloom.

Amcal senior pharmacist James Nevile is urging health professionals to be acutely aware of the emotional toll hay fever may bring to those whose lives are being impacted severely, especially with social isolation, the sense of feeling unattractive (35%) and severe sneezing even causing car accidents or near misses (13%).

Nevile suggests that with a high proportion of sufferers still not being served, there is an opportunity for pharmacies to engage sufferers who feel at a loss and are unable to find treatment that works for them.

PPA advice on MHR

WITH the deadline for opting out of the My Health Record digital health record system set at this stage for 15 Nov, union group Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA) has provided some guidance for employee pharmacists around issues associated with being in the system.

National industrial officer and lawyer Deepa Travers highlights the opportunities to restrict access to personal records, the methods of control including disclosure of health data in the record.

There is also a section on recourse when a perceived breach of confidentiality has occurred - see professionalpharmacists.com.au.

US opioid training

A NEW ruling by the US Food and Drug Administration has mandated that training available through its Opioid Analgesic Risk Evaluation and Management Strategy (REMS) be available to pharmacists.

The now-approved final version of REMS has been expanded to include immediate-release opioid analgesics intended for use in outpatient settings, as well as extended-release and long-acting opioids which have been subject to a REMS since 2012.

The new REMS requires that education for pharmacists, nurses & prescribers cover broader details of appropriate pain management including alternatives to opioids.



Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Associate Professor Geoff Sussman OAM.**



Wound management update: Where are we going with wounds and bacteria?

IN GENERAL, the principle of Moist Wound Care is accepted by most clinicians, however there is still considerable resistance by some to adapt to modern management.

The argument offered is that there is little evidence to support the use of modern treatments and that they are expensive: both of these arguments are incorrect.

The prevention of bacteria in wounds is an important aspect of wound management.

Some antiseptics in use for many years are no longer considered appropriate, many are cytotoxic and this outweighs their antibacterial activity.

The negative effects include toxicity to fibroblasts, occlusion of microcirculation, retardation of collagen deposition, oxygen embolus risk (peroxides), localised oedema, hypernatraemia, hyperthermia, burns (hypochochites).

Examples of outdated antiseptics include peroxides, hypochlorites, phenolics, mercurochrome and potassium permanganate.

It is also important to note that some are feeble antiseptics.

There are a number of newer antiseptics that are very effective and have little or no toxicity.

Despite the use of many other, older antiseptics in a wide range of situations, evidence supporting their efficacy in the treatment of wound infection is limited.

Clinicians will use newer products; however, it is important that good clinical research is undertaken and published to validate their use in wound management.

Win with ThinOptics

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and ThinOptics are giving away a pair of their take everywhere reading glasses valued at \$34.95.

The first reading glasses that are ALWAYS WITH YOU. ThinOptics solve the problem of "Where are my glasses?" With ThinOptics your glasses are always with you when you need them, right on the back of your mobile phone or on your keychain. They are incredibly easy and comfortable to wear and come with a lifetime guarantee! Available in 4 powers and 2 colour options for frames, shatterproof lenses and lightweight these glasses are a must have for anyone who needs reading glasses. Visit: www.eyelogic.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.



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