

Board warns on expired stock

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia continues to receive notifications involving dispensing of expired medicines, with an update in the latest Board newsletter yesterday reiterating previous advice.

"The expiry date of every dispensed medicine must be checked to ensure that the medicine is in date for the expected duration of treatment," the Board said, urging pharmacists to review the *Guide to good dispensing* by Pharmaceutical Defence Limited.

The newsletter also included a reminder to expiry dates visible when labelling a dispensed medicine to ensure that patients and carers have access to the information if needed.

"To further minimise the risk of supplying an expired medicine, processes should be in place in the pharmacy for the periodic checking of expiry dates of stock, easy identification of near-outdated stock, and appropriate disposal of any expired stock," the Board said.

The new format email newsletter also includes a final Board Chair message from William Kelly, who is stepping down shortly after three years at the helm.

PBS reforms to save \$344m

NEXT Mon's latest round of changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is being estimated at saving Australian taxpayers more than \$344 million, with Health Minister Greg Hunt saying the changes will also provide ongoing support for the listing of more new medicines on the PBS.

Prices will be reduced on a total of 24 medicines, sold as a total of 226 brands, with Hunt highlighting changes for non-concessional patients such as pregabalin which will cost \$33.38 per script (a saving of up to \$6.12); valsartan with hydrochlorothiazide for \$23.96 (saving \$2.18); and dorzolamide for \$19.18 (a saving of \$3.02).

Yesterday the Health Department made public the 01 Oct 2018 Price Disclosure Confirmed Prices (see pbs.gov.au), which are the result of the "Fifth Remove Originator Cycle" of the ongoing PBS reform process.

Other items affected in this round include nicorandil, capecitabine, frusemide, adefovir, azacitidine, bleomycin, bosentan, entecavir, imatinib, infliximab, valganciclovir and oxycodone.

The Minister noted that almost \$10 billion worth of new medicines had been subsidised since the

government came into power, with the department currently making on average one new or amended PBS listing each day.

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

The government has estimated more than 800,000 Australians will benefit from Mon's price cuts.

No sweat for TGA

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) will no longer be responsible for antiperspirants and ear candles, after a new determination under section 7AA of the relevant legislation which excludes certain goods from the operation of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

The change is a partial implementation of the outcomes of a consultation on options for future regulation of low risk products.

The TGA said major industry groups had been informed of the outcome, with affected sponsors of antiperspirants and ear candles to be advised on the next steps for products previously captured by the operation of the Act.

Gumby Gumby alert

A FORMAL warning has been issued to the promoters of a product called Gumby Gumby capsules which has been claimed to be a cure for various cancers.

The TGA received a complaint about the product on 03 Aug after the advertising of Gumby Gumby on two Facebook pages and a Youtube Video.

The capsules were promoted for the use in the treatment of cancer and other serious conditions such as arthritis, emphysema, allergies, viral disorders, mild depression, fevers, chronic fatigue syndrome, blood pressure issues, autoimmune disease, skin diseases, high cholesterol, GI tract disorders, Meniere's disease and circulation disorders.

After investigations by the TGA the Youtube video and Facebook page have been removed, along with testimonials on an eBay store which also claimed that Gumby Gumby Australia director Ken Murray had been "granted an Australian Made Campaign licence to export Gumby Gumby (*pittosporum angustifolium*)".

The TGA ordered that any sale and advertising of Gumby Gumby cease as well as any claims relating efficacy against serious disease.

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Adverse events increase

THE total number of medicine and vaccine adverse event reports to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) rose by 1,882 from 2016-17, representing a 9.5% increase, according to the agency's annual performance report.

The mean number of reports received weekly rose from 380 to 416 and the proportion of reports received from each category of reporter broadly matched 2016-17.

Other elements of the TGA performance for the year 2017-18 include the work load around new and variation applications for biologicals, which the TGA says has stabilised back to "expected levels" following the prior period spike.

The number of new listed medicines on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) increased by 211 in 2017-18, partly attributable to the introduction of permitted indications in Mar 2018.

The number of post-market



compliance reviews completed decreased in 2017-18 "due to a large and complex targeted review project of listed sunscreens

having been undertaken over the course of the year".

Investigations, which arise from complaints from the public, industry referrals and adverse event reporting, decreased.

The number of new over-the-counter medicine applications received substantially increased over the prior year, largely due to compliance with the new labelling order, while approval times for "all new medicine application types were shorter than in 2016-17".

See the full analysis at tga.gov.au.

AMA rejects e-cigs



AMA national president Tony Bartone has reiterated the AMA position in relation to e-cigarettes, highlighting their gateway potential for young users to become addicted to nicotine.

Bartone said there is too much risk around that and more research data is needed to inform future decisions on the matter.

New EMA website

THE European Medicines Agency has launched a new corporate website with the platform providing a range of new features to improve the user experience including a responsive design, simpler URLs and improved search functionality - see ema.europa.eu.

Pharmacies For Sale

The Voluntary Administrators invite offers for the purchase of pharmacies operated by the Country Wellness Group in Melbourne, Brisbane and Darwin.

PBS approvals, aged care and government contracts, NDSS access point, lice clinics Australia, methadone and webster packs. Quality care accredited.

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BRI Ferrier

New Priceline direction



PRICELINE Pharmacy has unveiled its new brand proposition with a television commercial recently launching to declare to Australians "There's no place like Priceline".

With 475 stores including 334 pharmacies across the country, the retailer is highlighting its broad accessibility and with its wide range of products, branding as the "one-stop-shop for everything a customer needs and wants in health and beauty".

Priceline general manager Tamalin Morton said, "There is no other retailer in the country offering our extensive product range and personalised services so we are amplifying our point of difference as the destination for everything in health and beauty for any age or any stage of life."

"We stay ahead of the market to deliver unrivalled product ranges and we invest in training our Pharmacists and Beauty Advisors to provide tailored advice to

customers," Morton said.

The brand direction was recently announced to the company's franchise partners, and is now being rolled out across media advertising and in stores.

The company also reinforced its health and beauty leadership last week by showcasing its "big range of new and cult products" to more than 200 social media influencers and media representatives at its latest *The Beauty Prescription* event in Sydney.

Items on display included 22 exclusive brands and ranges such as Andalou Natural, Barry M, b.tan, Franck Provost, Yes To and more.

Attendees (pictured) included Priceline Pharmacy makeup director, Sarah Laidlaw; hair director Kenneth Stoddart; Priceline Sister Ita Buttrose; API ceo and managing director, Richard Vincent; and Priceline general manager Tamalin Morton.

The new TVC can be viewed at pharmacydaily.com.au/videos.



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- **Aged Care Pharmacist** - Melbourne, VIC (Job# 200014323)
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Dispensary Corner

VIGOROUS cardiovascular exercise is great for your heart, but how far would you go to make sure you really pushed through the burn?

A US mother of two recently found out her limit after she was chased by a ravenous dog while training for a marathon.

Despite the angry canine causing the woman to up her workout tempo, Amanda Parker claims the incident did little to improve her fitness routine.

"Before I saw the dog I heard barking - not playful barking, but angry barking," she said.

She was also particularly unlucky to be training for a marathon and not a sprint, because the vicious dog managed to catch up with her and sink its teeth into her upper thigh (pictured).



SOME teenage smash and grab thieves may be a bit disappointed after breaking into a marijuana dispensary in Colorado Springs in the US this week.

The miscreants drove a stolen vehicle into the shop and got away with some of the herb on display in the store - but are likely to be somewhat disappointed to find out it is literally a herb.

The owner of the Native Roots store said he doesn't put real marijuana in the display cases, adding "there's a good chance these guys are trying to smoke oregano right now".

Life Pharmacy drives the green



LIFE Pharmacy Group celebrated 60 years of trading when it held its annual managers conference in Forbes NSW where the founding pharmacy in the group, Flannery's Pharmacy, originally commenced.

The group, which is headed up by Forbes-bred pharmacist, Michael Flannery, includes pharmacies throughout central western NSW, the ACT and Victoria.

Representatives from all the pharmacies met at the Forbes Golf Club (pictured) for a three-day planning and education session.

"The energy & focus of the group was remarkable," said Flannery.

This year's Life Pharmacy Group

store of the year award was hotly contested, but ultimately won by Orana Mall Pharmacy in Dubbo.

With around 40 participants representing the 12 stores within the group, pharmacists in charge and retail managers came together to share ideas and learn from leading figures within the industry.

With the mantra to "put the community back into community pharmacy", all of the Life Pharmacy Group stores are members of the Pharmacy Catalyst group which provides professional, retail and buying support to like-minded independent pharmacies.

See pharmacycatalyst.com.au.

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 VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

How many power options are available?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Song Huan Eow.



Flo social promo

FLO Family Health is running a social media engagement competition targeting customers who find the company's offering has helped them through the hayfever season.

A \$100 cinema voucher is up for grabs each week, along with two \$500 Coles Myer gift cards at the end of the hayfever season.

The company is encouraging posts of short videos (10 seconds or less) on Instagram or Facebook with the #showshowyouFlo hashtag.

Weekly winners and overall results will be announced on the Flo Family Health Facebook page.



Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

16 - 19 Oct: Pharmacy Alliance Members' Forum; Hamilton Island; register now: pamembersforum.com.au

25 - 27 Oct: Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; Sea World Resort, Gold Coast; for details see: pharmacyassistants.com

28 Oct - 02 Nov: Pharmeducation Annual Conference; Byron Bay; register at: pharmeducationbyron.com.au

22 - 25 Nov: SHPA Medicines Management 2018; Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre; early bird regos close 21 Sep 2018; details on: www.mm2018shpa.com