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PETE TZIMOS
Eden Rise Pharnasave Pharmacy
& Berwick Pharmacy



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from Homyped.

ACSS NCE approval

THE TGA has used the Australia-Canada-Singapore-Switzerland (ACSS) Consortium's New Chemical Entities (NCE) Work Sharing Initiative to grant marketing approval of Verzenio (abemaciclib) for breast cancer, the second drug to be registered via this mechanism.

Pharmacy Daily's 2019

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Guild urges GPs to get on board

DOCTORS need to stop debating when is the ideal time to get vaccinated, and start promoting opportunistic influenza vaccination programs, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone believes.

Responding to grim warnings from leading medics that “at least” 4,000 Australians will die as a result of the flu this year, Tassone took to Twitter to urge his peers in the medical profession to stop criticising pharmacist vaccination campaigns.

“Rather than arguing the toss of when is the absolute ideal time to get vaccinated - let’s encourage opportunistic influenza vaccination,” he said.

Data from the Immunisation Coalition revealed more than 10,000 Australians were diagnosed with the flu in Mar alone, with close to 27,000 being struck down

WA review envisions Advanced Pharmacists

THE Western Australian Government has endorsed the progressive introduction of new health workforce models supporting advanced skills, including Advanced Scope Community Pharmacists working in community interdisciplinary teams.

The proposal was part of the newly endorsed final report from the state’s Sustainable Health Review, which also called for an investment in the prioritised roll-out of electronic medical records across the WA health system.

The review panel was tasked to guide the direction of the WA health system to deliver “patient-first, innovative and financially sustainable care” - health.wa.gov.au.

with the virus in Q1 of 2019.

Immunisation Coalition Chair, Professor Robert Booy, warned the ABC that 2019 could be a record year for flu diagnosis.

“The data I have received shows that we are seeing three times as many cases this year as last year.

“This year, we expect the flu to kill at least 4,000 people which is the same number as deaths from suicide and the road toll combined.

“I encourage healthy people to get the flu shot as it protects you from getting and from spreading it to more vulnerable groups like the elderly,” the doctor said.

Booy added that while elderly patients and pregnant women should go to their GP, it was “fine” to go to a pharmacy for other healthy adults.

With the flu season set to spike between Jun to Sep, the Federal Government’s Chief Medical Officer urged Australians to get vaccinated in mid-Apr to boost immunity in time for the traditional peak in diagnoses.

AHI boost “handout”

PROFESSIONAL Pharmacists Australia wants to see the benefits of increased Federal funding for pharmacy to trickle down to employees.

The union group was commenting on last week’s Federal Budget (PD 05 Apr) and in particular the \$215 million increase to the Administration and Handling Fee (AHI) over three years from 2020/21.

Other budget wins for pharmacy included \$15m for expanded Dose Administration Aids and MedsCheck programs, as well as new PBS listings.

“While overall this seems like a solid outcome for pharmacists... little has been done to ensure that funding makes its way down to pharmacists themselves,” PPA said.

“Improvements to the AHI are great, but unless pharmacists are seeing the benefit, then it ultimately becomes another handout to pharmacy owners.”

The union added that the growth of discount pharmacy chains had led owners to “focus on profits at the expense of pharmacist wages”.

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Dispensary Corner

COULD dubstep kill the mozzie repellent industry? Research in the journal, *Acta Tropica*, suggests that may be the case.

A study by researchers from across Asia found that the electronic dance track 'Scary Monsters and Nice Sprites', by Grammy award-winning US artist, Skrillex, was particularly effective in quelling mosquito blood-lust.

The authors found the song's mix of high and low frequencies had a desirable impact on the bugs, reporting female adults appeared to be "entertained" by the track, and were less likely to bite nearby victims while entranced by the dubstep beats.

Another bonus was that the mozzies appeared to be less frisky when the music was being played - potentially sparing the world a generation or two of biting little nuisances.

AND while we're on the topic of biting... a British woman has one less tooth to chomp down on her bangers and mash, after a dental surgeon plucked the wrong tooth.

Michael Winston, a qualified dentist and doctor, has been barred from practising for eight months after he erroneously yanked the incorrect molar, then misled the patient into believing the right one had been pulled, before trying to influence a nurse's testimony to an investigation into the incident.

Winston worked as an oral surgeon at Blackpool Teaching Hospital, and Liverpool University Dental Hospital, with his scatter-gun approach to extractions perhaps explaining traditional views on British dental hygiene.

TGA "natural" guidance

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is developing a new policy on the use of the terms "natural" and "naturally derived" after a meeting of the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Consultative Committee (TGACC) last month.

TGACC members agreed that further guidance was necessary in providing clarity on the use of these terms, and assisting consumers to make informed decisions.

Other key matters discussed included the challenge of working in an increasingly digital environment.

"Of particular concerns are issues associated with internet advertising and the fast pace of social media," with the Committee urging the development of additional educational resources addressing the application of the Advertising Code to online testimonials and paid social media influencers.

The TGA said it would develop fact sheets to address the issues.

Other items on the agenda included discussions of the interface between cosmetic and therapeutic products; in particular items containing sunscreens.

TGACC members also discussed delays in advertising pre-approval processes and the transparency of information about complaint outcomes, with the meeting requesting some changes to case management such as a "stop clock" being applied to performance deadlines where court action or external advice is in progress.

Vitamin D overdose

A 54-YEAR-OLD Canadian man had to be rushed to a nephrology clinic by his GP after overdosing on vitamin D supplements.

Research published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* reported the man had been seeing a naturopathic specialist who had prescribed high doses of a specific brand of supplements, despite the patient not having a history of vitamin D deficiency.

The recommended brand contained 500IU per drop, however, the patient unknowingly purchased another product twice as strong.

The patient was never counselled about toxicity risks.

Win with Nutri-Synergy

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Nutri-Synergy are giving away the NS 21 Skin Repair Treatment and Sensitive Skin Cleanser valued at \$38.90.

NS 21 Skin Repair Treatment is a natural, cortisone-free cream which nourishes, relieves and repairs problem, irritable, damaged or chronic dry skin conditions. Use NS Sensitive Skin Cleanser together with NS 21 Skin Repair Treatment to maintain normal skin function and help prevent flare ups. Visit: www.NutriSynergy.com.au for more.

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P&O's Melbourne Comedy Festival LOLs

P&O Cruises will have guests in stitches with laughter when flagship *Pacific Explorer* departs on a first of its kind voyage to the Melbourne International Comedy Festival next year.

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