

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news including our weekly Health & Beauty feature.

Bronchi-Cough recall



THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced a recall of Bronchi-Cough Pills (qiguan yan kesou tanchuan wan; AUST L 144659) "due to contamination

with substances that pose an unacceptable risk to health".

Both currently available batches of the product (Batch 16080020 and Batch 4080015) are contaminated with low levels of amygdalin and in addition, Batch 16080020 is also contaminated with very low levels of aristolochic acid.

The TGA says there is no safe level of exposure to these contaminants. See tga.gov.au for more.

New PBS listings

HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt announced on Friday the funding for Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing of a therapy for sufferers of seizures associated with a rare genetic disease.

Affinitor (everolimus) from Novartis helps patients with tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC); they are afflicted with benign tumours impacting the nervous system and frequently experience as many as 50 seizures a day.

Also newly PBS-listed is Otsuka Australia Pharmaceuticals' Jinarc (tolvaptan) which is now being reimbursed for the treatment of autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD) which is estimated to affect about 10,000 Australian patients.

Jinarc blocks the activity of the naturally occurring hormone vasopressin, which is elevated in ADPKD patients and contributes to the growth of cysts on the kidneys.

NSW pharmacist vaccines

PHARMACISTS in New South Wales have now been added to the cohort of accredited immunisers able to deliver a wider range of injections, including those for measles and whooping cough, for anyone over the age of 16.

The new arrangements were announced in Oct last year (**PD** 25 Oct breaking news) by Health Minister Brad Hazzard, and came into effect yesterday creating a "new era of accessibility of vaccination for all residents, even in rural and regional areas".

Trained NSW pharmacist vaccinators can now give both the diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough combination vaccine and the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, in addition to the flu vaccine, to people over 16.

Health Care Homes trial extension

THE Government has announced the extension of the Health Care Homes program for an additional 18 months through until 30 Jun 2021, and is also now allowing patient enrolment until 30 Jun 2019.

The extension is also applicable to the Community Pharmacy in Health Care Homes trial, according to an update on the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement website.

The Government said extending the trial will give general practices, Aboriginal medical services and providers participating in the trial "more time and funding to implement the integrated and patient-centred model of care for enrolled patients".

The extension only applies to Health Care Homes currently participating in the trial.

The target for enrolled patients has also been slashed from 65,000 down to just 12,000, with the revised figure based on current patient enrolment rates.

Enrolled patients will continue to benefit from referral to their chosen pharmacy for review of their medications and development of a collaborative medication management plan until 30 Jun 2021.

Qualified pharmacists have established private rooms on the pharmacy premises with trained pharmacists conducting pre-jab assessments to assess each person's current health status.

Once administered, the shots are reported to the Australian Immunisation Register as a matter of course.

Hazzard said the record high rates of vaccination in NSW are a great public health achievement.

"Now, with this additional range of vaccinations available from pharmacists, we want to encourage new grandparents, carers of infants, and partners of pregnant women to get vaccinated to ensure they don't catch whooping cough and pass it on to their babies," Hazzard said.

"NSW has achieved its highest vaccination rates ever and is spending a record \$22.75 million in 2018-19 on state-wide immunisation programs."

"People eligible for free government-funded vaccines, including children under five, Aboriginal people, those with chronic illnesses, pregnant women and people over 65 will still need to access these vaccines via their GP, so they can get a health assessment at the same time," Hazzard added.

"Little evidence" for CMs - AMA

THE Australian Medical Association has released an updated position statement on complementary medicines, saying there is "little evidence to support the therapeutic claims made for most of these medicines and therapies".

AMA President Tony Bartone noted that in 2017 the revenue of the industry had reached \$4.9 billion, including \$630 million spent on herbal products and \$430 million on weight loss items.

"The majority of complementary medicines do not meet the same standards of safety, quality and efficacy as mainstream medicines, as they are not as rigorously tested," Bartone said.



AMA

He claimed that CMs pose a risk to patient health, either directly through misuse, or indirectly if a patient puts off seeking medical advice "or has spent so much on these products

that they cannot afford necessary, evidence-based treatment".

The AMA is also urging better regulation of non-registered health practitioners such as naturopaths, herbalists and Ayurveda practitioners, and the establishment of a national public register of those who have been banned from working in their state or territory.

The AMA *Position Statement on Complementary Medicine 2018* is available at ama.com.au.

Terry White Group now part of EBOS

EBOS Group Limited has completed its acquisition of the minority shares in Terry White Group Limited (**PD** breaking news 24 Dec 2018), meaning TWG is now a wholly owned subsidiary of EBOS.

The \$50 million transaction was first announced on 19 Oct last year and has seen EBOS acquire the TWG shares it did not already hold via a Scheme of Arrangement.

TWG shareholders received \$3.55 per share, with the deal said to "enable Terry White Group and the TerryWhite Chemmart pharmacy network to achieve the scale and strength required to fulfil its potential to become Australia's favourite pharmacy brand".

PBS co-payments up

THE Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits has been updated, highlighting new fees, patient contributions and Safety Net Thresholds.

Concessional patient co-payments are now at \$6.50 and general co-payments have been increased to \$40.30, while dispensing fees are now set at \$7.29.

The site also identifies drugs subject to price disclosure as at 01 Jan - more at pbs.gov.au.

Dispensary Corner

VEGETABLES are good for more than just your health, according to a British woman who claims to be able to predict the future using asparagus.

Jemima Packington, 63, from Bath (pictured below) claims to be the world's only "Asparamancer," and conducts her eerily accurate forecasts by tossing the spears into the air and then examining how they land.

In 2019 her predictions include a global recession which will see the UK survive Brexit relatively unaffected, while there's good news for the British Rugby Union team which is forecast to be successful at the upcoming World Cup in Japan.

Another ground-breaking asparagus-inspired prognostication is that reality TV show Big Brother will return to British screens after being cancelled in 2018.

"When I cast the asparagus, it creates patterns and it is the patterns I interpret," she explained, with a success rate of between 75% and 90%.

Ten of her predictions for 2018 came true, with the green vegetable apparently correctly forecasting that US President Donald Trump would take part in a summit meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.



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

Baby Moisturising Cream - QV by Ego

Pharmacy-only skincare company Ego Pharmaceuticals highlights its QV brand **Baby Moisturising Cream**.

QV Baby Moisturising Cream is a concentrated moisturising cream that hydrates skin, relieves dryness and seals in the skin's natural moisture. It also has the capacity to act as a protective barrier. The pH-balanced, low-irritant formulation is free from fragrance, colour, lanolin and propylene glycol. QV Baby Moisturising Cream is suitable for eczema, dermatitis and psoriasis and is suitable for infants and all skin types, Ego Pharmaceuticals says.



Stockist: 1800 033 706
RRP: \$13.20 for 250g
Website: www.qvskincare.com.au

Firming Body Lotion by Trilogy



Trilogy **Firming Body Lotion** is a body moisturiser that helps to improve elasticity and skin texture. Natural actives caffeine from green coffee and plant-derived hyaluronic acid help to firm and soothe the skin to a silky smooth, freshened look. Avocado, evening primrose and certified organic rosehip oils nourish and replenish, while jojoba and almond oils condition the skin to the firmness of youth. The Trilogy Firming Body Lotion formula is non-greasy and easily absorbed. It features a fragrance of lavender, frankincense and rose geranium.

Stockist: 1800 651 146
RRP: \$25.95
Website: www.trilogyproducts.com

Cancer Council Active Ezi Clip

Active Ezi Clip from the Cancer Council is the answer for active on-the-go people who like to bathe in the summer sun whether at sports or the beach. The product features full SPF50+ protection with broad spectrum coverage against UVA and UVB. Furthermore its dry touch technology makes for a lightweight, non-greasy matte finish, ideal for active land pursuits such as golf, tennis, cycling, gardening. Cancer Council Active Ezi Clip has been tested to four hours water resistance, although the Cancer Council recommends as always reapplying every two hours.



Stockist: 1300 354 144
RRP: \$10.95
Website: www.cancercouncilshop.org.au

New Hyper Glow Complexion Palette

Designer Brands (DB) brings to the new year its new **Hyper Glow Complexion Palette**



which is comprised of a stunning multi-toned palette with a unique marbled effect. Each of the pigment shades is intensified and concentrated but still blends like a dream. Choose among blush, highlighter and bronze effects to create the opportunity to mix and match shades to glow with your ideal image. As with all DB cosmetics, Hyper Glow Complexion Palette is not tested on animals and is certified vegan.

Stockist: 03 8544 8000
RRP: \$9.99
Website: www.dbcosmetics.com.au