

## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today has two pages of news plus our latest **Back to School** Spotlight plus a full page from **Flo**.

## Back to school offers

**TODAY'S Pharmacy Daily** includes a special "Back to School" feature showcasing several products ideal for families as they start the 2019 educational year - see **page three**.

## Research funded to regenerate kidneys

**HUMAN** stem cells may be used to develop kidneys as an alternative for renal replacement, if funding for a new research project announced yesterday proves fruitful.

Professor Melissa Little from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute will receive \$936,221 for her research project courtesy of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

The research will focus on the molecular basis of kidney development, renal disease and repair, with Little saying it was now possible to make kidney tissue from human stem cells.

"Having this develop into mature kidney tissue after transplantation is a very promising step towards new treatments," she said.

## Flo celebrates success

**FLO** is today highlighting its recent accolade, with the company voted the top baby health care product by a parent group - see **p4**.

## Testosterone reprimand

A **WESTERN** Australian pharmacist who illegally sold testosterone in 2015 has been reprimanded after admitting to engaging in professional misconduct.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia yesterday highlighted the case of Oliver Dzubiak, which was heard by the State Administrative Tribunal of Western Australia in Aug last year.

According to the Board, Dzubiak admitted to taking testosterone from one of the pharmacies he co-owned with his wife and sold it to a man known to WA police for \$500.

In 2017 he was convicted of selling testosterone - a prohibited drug - in the District Court of Western Australia.

Dzubiak also admitted to failing to notify the Board that he had been

charged with the offence within seven days, as required under the National Law.

Terms of settlement were agreed between the Board and Dzubiak in Aug last year, with the pharmacist admitting to professional misconduct, receiving a reprimand and ordered to pay \$3,000 towards the Board's costs.

The Tribunal noted "extensive mitigating factors in the case," including that it was a one-off incident at a time of significant personal stress; that there was no prior disciplinary or criminal history; and that Dzubiak had "demonstrated remorse for and insight into his conduct".

The Tribunal also noted the pharmacist had been suspended by the Board for approximately 10 weeks in 2016, and had complied with strict conditions imposed on his registration for two years.

## Safety Net kits

**THE** Department of Human Services has highlighted changes in the 2019 PBS Safety Net kits which have been delivered to pharmacies across the country in recent weeks.

The 2019 kit includes 150 PBS Safety Net entitlement (SN) cards and 20 PBS Safety Net concession (CN cards), along with a letter advising that the appropriate forms for prescription records and payment claims can now be downloaded rather than being supplied as part of the kit.

It is also now possible to order PBS Safety Net reply paid envelopes via the ordering portal for PBS stationery on the Camerons Group website - see [pbs.camerons.net](http://pbs.camerons.net).

## NAPSA pro pill tests

**THE** National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) has released a position statement in favour of "pill testing" at music festivals and public locations as part of a harm minimisation strategy.

"Following a successful trial of pill testing in the ACT at the Groovin the Moo festival in 2018, and current political discussion around preventing tragic illicit drug-related deaths of young people at music festivals, NAPSA encourages the Australian Government to approve further pill testing trials," the NAPSA statement said.

## Guardian tops for satisfaction in Nov

**GUARDIAN** Pharmacy has displaced Discount Drug Stores at the top of the monthly rankings for Customer Satisfaction compiled by Roy Morgan Research.

The Nov results showed Guardian leading the pack, ahead of Discount Drug Stores in second spot followed by Amcal, Priceline Pharmacy and then Chemist Warehouse.

The ratings are based on a rolling sample of 9,258 customers between Dec 2017 and Nov 2018.

## BMS-Celgene deal

**BRISTOL** Myers-Squibb has announced a US\$74 billion merger agreement with Celgene Corporation, with the company saying the transaction would create a "leading focused specialty biopharma company well positioned to address the needs of patients with cancer, inflammatory and immunologic disease and cardiovascular disease through high-value innovative medicines and leading scientific capabilities".

The combined company will have nine products with over US\$1 billion in annual sales as well as near-term launch opportunities representing over US\$15 billion in revenue potential.

Key medications include Opdivo, Yervoy, Revlimid, Pomalyst, Orenicia, Otezla and Eliquis.

If approved by shareholders of both companies and regulators, the companies expect the transaction to be completed in the third quarter of 2019.



## PSA Intern Training Program

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## Dispensary Corner

**JOGGING** is a great way to stay fit and healthy - most of the time.

Just ask the woman who was recently bitten by another woman while going for her morning exercise in Oakland, California.

She received a nasty forearm bite after an irate dog owner chased her down for pepper spraying her dog earlier that day.

Local police claim the attacker's dog tried to bite the jogger on a trail in Anthony Chabot Regional Park in Castro Valley, prompting liberal usage of a pepper spray bottle to fend off the animal.

We have strong suspicions as to where the dog learned its aggressive behaviour.



**WE HAVE** come a long way in the area of kids' health, for evidence just check out a gallery of images put together by *Country Living* **HERE**, an assortment of variously dangerous parental practices that existed in the 1960s.

Heading up the list of poor parental choices was the widespread use of the topical antiseptic Mercurochrome which contained harmful mercury.

More historical boo boos included smoking and drinking while pregnant and drinking from unfiltered garden hoses.



## Reviews miss heart issues

**PHARMACISTS** are missing the opportunity to pick up potential drug-related cardiac complications during medication reviews, according to a new study by pharmacists from the University of Canberra and the University of Tasmania.

A paper published last month in the *Journal of Clinical Medicine* has highlighted the issue after examining the use of "QT interval-prolonging drugs" in an elderly community-dwelling population at risk of medication misadventure.

The retrospective evaluation of 500 medication review reports looked at the individual risk of drug-induced QT interval prolongation in patients taking at least one such medication.

More than 10% of patients took at least one drug with a known risk, but in such cases pharmacists conducting the review provided specific recommendations in less than a quarter of these people.

In addition, where recommendations were made by the pharmacists these were focused on drugs with known

risk of QT interval prolongation, rather than patients' additional risk factors, the paper noted.

"There is a need to improve knowledge and awareness of this topic among pharmacists performing medication reviews," the authors concluded.

They said the prolongation of the QT interval was a relatively rare but serious adverse drug reaction, because it can lead to the potentially life-threatening condition of torsade de pointes.

The paper is available online at [www.mdpi.com](http://www.mdpi.com).

### TGA acts on devices

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has launched a series of consultations in relation to medical devices, including a proposal to introduce a Unique Device Identification (UDI) system for medical devices in Australia.

The TGA said such a system would help improve traceability of medical devices in the supply chain, with views sought on the proposed regulatory changes required.

### Coffee cardiac OK

**NEW** UK research involving over 500,000 participants investigated the role of high-level coffee consumption on health.

Data showed that even for people with genetic predispositions for poor caffeine metabolism, up to eight cups per day can be part of a healthy diet.

No reference was made to patients with atrial fibrillation.

Visit [jamanetwork.com](http://jamanetwork.com).

## Guild Update

### 2019 PBS Co-payments

**COMMUNITY** pharmacy owners will be well aware that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme patient co-payments and safety net thresholds are adjusted for inflation each 1 Jan.

The new co-payments and other minor adjustments to fees are contained in a downloadable document for Members only on the Guild's website.

You can access the document here, after logging in: [www.guild.org.au/resources/pharmacy-agreement-pbs/PBS-Prescription-Prices-Effective-January-2019.pdf](http://www.guild.org.au/resources/pharmacy-agreement-pbs/PBS-Prescription-Prices-Effective-January-2019.pdf).

The 80-cent increase in the general patient co-payment puts it over the \$40 mark for the first time – noting that the impact of price disclosure has seen an increasing number of medicines fall below the co-payment for general patients.

## Win with Dermal Therapy

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Dermal Therapy are giving away a selection of the pictured products to the value of \$45.

Dermal Therapy blister prevention spray, **Blistop**, creates an invisible layer of film to protect the skin where blisters can occur from friction. Convenient and easy to use, Blistop stays in place and won't rub off easily or leave residue on your socks or shoes, acting like a transparent second skin. Blistop is water resistant, but still allows your skin to breathe and has up to 50 applications in one can. Visit [www.dermaltherapy.com.au](http://www.dermaltherapy.com.au) to find out more.

To win, be the first from QLD to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**How many applications are in one can of Blistop?**

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Josephine De Lucia.*





# Back to School

**Pharmacy Daily** presents

Pharmacy Daily's Back to School spotlight is your guide to all the essential products for starting the 2019 school year. To feature here email [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au).

## Hedrin Liquid Gel and Spray Gel

From \$18.99 RRP

Hedrin is offering one lucky family the chance to win a holiday to the Gold Coast. This fabulous trip includes luxury 5 star hotel stay for 7 nights, return airfares for 4 people, \$500 spending money and a 7 day theme park day super pass.

The first 200 entries to describe in 25 words or less tell us about their most frustrating headlice story, will receive a complete back to school stationery pack, valued at over \$35 each, FREE!

Enter at [www.hedrin.com.au](http://www.hedrin.com.au)

Stockists: Pharmabroker Sales (02) 8878 9733

Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist, see your healthcare professional.



## Beat back to school bugs with award winning Flo!\*

From \$12.95 RRP

Flo Baby and Kids Saline Nasal Sprays are helpful in relieving nasal congestion as a result of colds and allergies. Returning to school and day care means children may be further exposed to the common cold virus and airborne allergens like dust, pollen and mould spores. Daily nasal washing with a gentle, preservative-free, non-medicated saline like Flo Baby or Flo Kids can help thin excess mucus and wash away germs and allergens breathed into the nose.

Stockists: ENT Technologies 1300 857 912 | [www.flo.com.au](http://www.flo.com.au)

\*Flo Baby - highest baby healthcare product by Tell Me Baby parents. Always read the label. Follow instructions for use. If symptoms persist, talk to your healthcare professional.

## NitWits Anti-Lice + Detangling Spray

From \$12.95 RRP

Defend against head lice this back to school season with NitWits, a repellent and detangler in one, formulated for everyday use. The addition of conditioning agents work immediately to unlock knots making the daily combing and styling routine much easier. This 2-in-1 product uses natural oils and extracts to create a repellent that is long lasting, has a refreshing scent and is free from alcohol. Use daily or when there are head lice present at the school or playgroup.

Visit: [www.nitwitsforkids.com](http://www.nitwitsforkids.com)

Stockists: Symbion, API & Sigma

Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist, see your healthcare professional.





# 2018 Winner Highest rated baby health care product<sup>\*</sup>



- Voted top baby health care product (by TMB parents)
- Preservative-free
- Gentle enough for daily use
- Sprays at any angle

[www.flo.com.au](http://www.flo.com.au)



<sup>\*</sup> Tell Me Baby Reviewers have not received any valuable consideration from Flo for their testimonial. Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist see your healthcare professional.