

## Guild planning tools



**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia has released a new online training module to assist members wanting to utilise its ScriptMAP and Opportunity Analysis tools.

The *Planning for your pharmacy's future* course is accredited for CPD purposes and can be accessed via [gilded.guild.org.au](http://gilded.guild.org.au).

## Bowel cancer awareness ramps up

**CANCER** Council Australia has welcomed \$10m in government funding for a national mass media campaign to encourage more Australians to screen for bowel cancer with a simple home test that could save their life.

The phased rollout of Australia's free screening program commenced in 2006, with the final two age groups (52 and 56 year-olds) added for the first time this year, meaning free bowel screening kits will henceforth be sent on a two-yearly basis to all eligible Australians aged 50 to 74.

The \$10m in funding will be used for three separate seven-week bursts of promotional activity in 2019, with further communications support from Cancer Council, including outreach to GPs to encourage them to get their patients to do the test.

## Alkyl nitrites risk

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration will host public meetings in Sydney and Melbourne in early 2019 regarding appropriate access to and safety controls of alkyl nitrites, which are being upscheduled to S9 - see [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## More busts in formula ring

**POLICE** have arrested a 31-year-old man at Sydney Airport this morning, in connection with his alleged role in the "coordinated theft" of more than \$1 million worth of baby formula from retail outlets across Sydney.

It's the fifth arrest in the case, which has seen stolen formula, vitamins and more than \$200,000 in cash seized from an address in Carlingford in the city's north-west.

The breakthrough has come almost a year after the establishment of Strike Force Dungv by NSW Police, following information from retailers about the theft of the items.

The man was arrested with the assistance of the Australian Federal

Police and Australian Border Force upon his arrival from China on Sat.

After a search of his luggage he was charged with "recklessly dealing with the proceeds of crime" and "participation in a criminal group contributing to criminal activity".

Police will allege that the offenders were part of an organised syndicate which received the stolen products before on-selling them to customers overseas.

"Police will continue to pursue those who seek to make a quick buck at the disadvantage of others and will always strive to stamp out unscrupulous activity," a NSW Police spokesperson said.

Investigations under Strike Force Dungv are continuing.

## Possible HDL boost

**UNSW** School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences Professor Rob Yang says he and his team have identified a protein called ORP2 responsible for transporting cholesterol in a cell.

He said this may lead to the development of the first drug to significantly raise high density lipoproteins (HDL).

## Lung cancer stigma

**LUNG** Foundation Australia is launching a "raw new campaign" calling on Australians to stop asking patients living with lung cancer the wrong question.

Insensitive though it is, the first thing many ask when learning someone has the debilitating disease is, "Were you a smoker?"

While understandable, this assumption is "extremely unfair" says the Foundation, and can result in delayed diagnoses, access to treatment, and a lack of research funding - [fairgoforlungcancer.org.au](http://fairgoforlungcancer.org.au).

## New CDI antibiotic

**RESEARCHERS** at Flinders University in Western Australia have developed a new antibiotic which is being claimed as a breakthrough in the war against drug-resistant "superbugs".

Ramizol is the subject of a paper recently published in the *Scientific Reports* journal, detailing research undertaken jointly by Flinders University, US-based Product Safety Labs and Tox Strategies plus Boulos & Cooper Pharmaceuticals.

Dr Ramiz Boulos, CEO of Boulos & Cooper Pharmaceuticals and adjunct research associate at Flinders, said testing in hamsters found Ramizol had been successfully used to treat clostridium difficile infection (CDI), which was becoming resistant to traditional antibiotics.

Various strains of C.difficile have emerged over the last decade, with one in particular easily transmitted between people and responsible for large outbreaks in hospitals in the USA and Europe.

CDI is the most likely cause of diarrhoea for patients and staff in hospitals, and is one of the most common hospital-acquired infections.

The study can be downloaded at no charge at [nature.com](http://nature.com).

## April price disclosure

**INDICATIVE** price disclosure-related price changes have been posted by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme at [pbs.gov.au](http://pbs.gov.au).

Epirubicin price in varying strengths is to drop by almost 45% while idarubicin and irinotecan will fall by nearly 40% compared to Oct 2018 pricing.

A total of 62 products are named in the Apr cycle.

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## Dispensary Corner

PET therapy is a much welcomed diversion at many aged care homes, but usually it involves somewhat fluffy animals of the canine or feline variety.

However a senior living facility in Pennsylvania experienced a visit of a different kind when Wally - a metre-long alligator - was brought in to meet the residents.

The not-so-cuddly companion arrived courtesy of its owner, Joie Henney, who encouraged the locals to get to know him.

"He's just like a dog...he wants to be loved and petted," she said.

The *York Daily Record* quoted one of the reluctant residents saying "I'm not scared of snakes, but that thing has a lot of teeth".



PHARMACY students could take a tip from Bristol University in the UK, which is prescribing special "stress relief packs" to help relieve exam tension.

Each pack contains a piece of bubble wrap, along with detailed instructions advising the items are: "For immediate stress relief. Pop three capsules every 4-6 hours, or as needed".

The initiative apparently follows the delivery of some new furniture, with the student union deciding to repurpose the packaging.

## VPA reference warning

THE Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) has highlighted the outcome of several recent pharmacy inspections in which "gross deficiencies in mandatory references" were identified.

The VPA said the absence of one or more of the current references mandated by the Pharmacy Board of Australia continues to be one of the most common issues noted during pharmacy inspections.

"Licensees and pharmacists in charge are responsible for ensuring the maintenance of required references at registered premises," the VPA said in a communiqué issued late last week.

"The Authority expects pharmacies to have procedures in place to ensure that references are continuously updated so that all pharmacists can practise safely and effectively."

The Board-mandated list of references include **current editions** of the Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and Handbook; the Australian Medicines Handbook; the Therapeutic Guidelines; a source of current product information such as MIMS or

## Low back pain clinic

NPS Medicinewise has posted a series of resources for health professionals counselling patients with low back pain.

They include key points, articles, a podcast, the role of education, a practice review and prescribing guidance - visit [nps.org.au](http://nps.org.au).

AusDI; a drug interactions reference updated at least quarterly; the AMH Children's Dosing Companion; an evidence-based reference work on complementary and alternative medicines; copies of the legislation controlling the practice of pharmacy; the Australian Immunisation Handbook; the PSA and SHPA professional practice standards; the Pharmacy Board of Australia guidelines; the Merck Manual; and the recently updated Australian Don't Rush to Crush handbook - [pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://pharmacyboard.gov.au).

Texts must be readily accessible in either hard copy or electronically.

## Dr charged with fraud

A 50 year-old Brisbane doctor has been charged with 17 counts of fraud, uttering, obtaining or detailing with identification, falsification of records and forgery.

Police allege he used records of four different patients at the Chermide medical clinic where he worked to self-prescribe and have his scripts filled.

He will appear in the Brisbane Magistrate's Court in Feb.

## Win with Plunkett's



Name one use for Plunkett's Aloe Vera.

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away an Aloe Vera prize pack valued at over \$60 each including Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera gel 240ml, Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera gel 75g, Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera Spray 125ml, Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera Moisturiser 200ml and one Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera facial mask.

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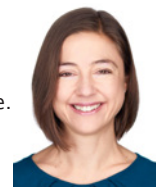
Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



## Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is Sally Benedek, Pharmacist, Diabetes Consultant & Trainer and Professional Services Account Manager at instigo Pharmacy Consulting.



## Know the Four T's of Type One Diabetes

IN PRACTICE, I have found the diagnosis of type 1 diabetes is being delayed in children due to a lack of awareness of the early signs of type 1 diabetes, by parents and by healthcare professionals. The consequence of this can be very serious. The onset of type 1, especially compared to type 2, is rapid and if left untreated can lead to diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), which is a life-threatening condition and can be fatal.

Diabetes UK developed the "Four T's" campaign to promote the awareness of the early signs of type 1 diabetes. Education campaigns, not only in the UK, but in parts of Australia too, have significantly reduced the proportion of children presenting to hospital with DKA at time of type 1 diagnosis.

The most common and early symptoms of type 1 diabetes are polydipsia, polyuria, lethargy, and unexplained weight loss. These are represented in the "Four T's" campaign as Thirst, Toilet, Tired, Thinner.

Unfortunately, there is an average of 7 new cases of type 1 diabetes each day in Australia<sup>1</sup> so it is important that awareness is raised. Make sure you and your pharmacy team are aware of the "Four T's" to recognise symptoms so patients can then be referred promptly to the doctor or emergency department for early diagnosis and treatment. The earlier the diagnosis, the better outcomes for the patient and less stress for their families.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/diabetes/diabetes-snapshot/contents/how-many-australians-have-diabetes/type-1-diabetes>