



Pharmacist prescribing no way: AMA

PHARMACISTS lack the skills necessary to prescribe medicines, Australian Medical Association (AMA) Western Australia President, Dr Andrew Miller, claims.

Speaking on *ABC Radio Perth's Breakfast* show yesterday, Miller said the AMA thinks "pharmacists are great", but it holds "severe concerns about [pharmacists'] diagnostic capabilities and about prescribing".

"We have just seen last week a study come out of Queensland and 400 pharmacies which had mystery shoppers, more than half the time they were selling unnecessary things and prescribing unnecessary over-the-counter medicines," he said.

"We have severe concerns about... [them] prescribing, particularly moving into things like antibiotics or opioid medications.

"This is the reason codeine had to



be taken out of pharmacy."

Miller told the hosts that the recent WA Review of Pharmacy Ownership report, which recommended expanding pharmacists' scope of practice, was driven by pharmacy business interests and failed to address the medical profession's concerns.

"Our views in the review were not put forward," he said.

"We love working with

pharmacists, they're great at managing chronic disease, advising GPs on medicines, they're great at deprescribing, saying 'you've got a big list of things here in a nursing home, we need to reduce that'.

"And there are lots of non-dispensing and employee pharmacists whom we 100% support, and I don't think they're wanting to buy into this 'let's become GPs writing sick certificates and scripts'.

"I think it's the big business interests [driving that], and that's what we're against."

Miller added the growing trend of pharmacists working in GP practices to provide medicines reviews and script advice, provided an alternative career path for pharmacists.

"Those pharmacists aren't conflicted," he said.

"They're not making money out of selling you a prescription or all the other stuff.

"There's lots of stuff that's being sold to patients in pharmacies that's worthless in our view."

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today has four pages of news, Footy Tipping results for this week and regular features Dispensary Corner and the Guild Update.

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Glucosamine protects joint health

NEW research from Juntendo University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan, has demonstrated that chondroprotective action of glucosamine enhances cartilage quality in endurance athletes with intense joint loading.

While athletes such as soccer and rugby players have increased cartilage metabolism (type II collagen degradation), glucosamine demonstrates a chondroprotective action on these athletes by preventing type II collagen degradation but maintaining type II collagen synthesis.

The Japanese researchers used urine biomarkers to establish levels of collagen degradation.

Soccer players were orally administered with glucosamine hydrochloride 1.5 or 3 g/day for 3 months. Urine levels of CTX-II and CPII were measured before (0 month), after the glucosamine



administration (3 months) and after the withdrawal of glucosamine administration (6 months).

“Glucosamine may exert a chondroprotective action in endurance athletes by suppressing MMP production, thereby inhibiting type II collagen degradation but maintaining type II collagen synthesis,” the authors said.

“However, the effect disappears after withdrawal of administration.

“Therefore, glucosamine should be continuously administered for the joint health of endurance athletes,” authors concluded.

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

Medication harm tops list

PATIENT harm during healthcare is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality internationally, and incidents related to drugs are the most prevalent causes of preventable patient harm in medical care, according to a UK meta-analysis.

Data from 70 studies meeting the research criteria involved 337,025 patients to reveal that around 50% of all patient harm while in medical care was preventable.

The pooled prevalence for preventable patient harm was 6%, or more than one in 20, with 25% of those, caused by medication errors.

Other treatments accounted for 24% of preventables, with risk of harm greater in advanced specialties (intensive care or surgery) than in general hospitals.

A significant 12% of preventable harm was severe, led to permanent disability or to death, the authors of the study wrote.

“Developing and implementing evidence-based mitigation strategies specifically targeting preventable patient harm could lead to major service quality improvements in medical care which could also be more cost effective,” they concluded.

CLICK HERE to access the study.

MedAdvisor appoints new CFO

LISTED digital medication management company MedAdvisor has appointed Simon Glover as its new Chief Financial Officer.

Glover is an experienced senior finance professional, most recently working with the Coles Group and Tabcorp Holdings, and prior to that had worked with Mayne Pharma.

He has also been heavily involved in the international expansion of Jetstar where he was responsible for all finance matters relating to the

international growth of Jetstar.

Company CEO, Robert Read, said Glover’s “skills and experience will be invaluable as we grow our company globally.

“With the growth of the company, the demands on the executive team will evolve and Glover’s appointment together with the recent appointment of Kovalev will add depth and experience to the executive team as the team pursues the international expansion of the business.

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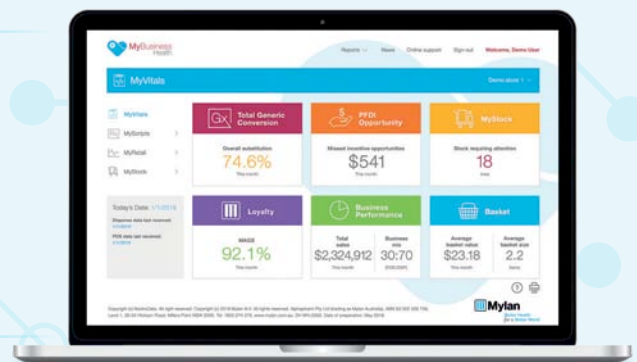
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VPA highlights privacy

THE simple act of giving patients their prescription medicines in open baskets visible to other patients in the pharmacy constitutes a breach of privacy for that patient, the Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) has said.

Citing the case of a licensee cautioned on the matter, the VPA referenced the Pharmacy Regulation Act 2010 which states, "Adequate arrangements are in place to ensure that the identity

of a medicine being supplied or dispensed to a client of the pharmacy or pharmacy department cannot be known by another person present in the pharmacy or pharmacy department who is not a person carrying on the pharmacy business or pharmacy department or a member of the staff of the business or department".

The VPA also referred to the recent case of a man who was held at knife-point by a robber who followed him to his vehicle and asked specifically for his alprazolam medicines he had just picked up from his pharmacy in Western Australia.

Further, the VPA said, "when informing staff and consumers about the legislative requirement to maintain the privacy of dispensed medicines in the pharmacy, licensees are also encouraged to highlight the potential public safety risks that could result from consumers' medicines being identifiable after dispensing".

Other cases reported by the Authority involved failure to maintain true and accurate balances of Schedule 8 poisons in their possession, failing to store them in an appropriate drug safe, or failing to ensure security of the storage space.

In addition issues around storage temperature monitoring, the maintenance of the dispensing area as a private dedicated area and compounding of hazardous materials in a non-dedicated area without suitable protective clothing.

The VPA also submitted its Quarterly Performance Report for the period 01 Apr 2019 to 30 Jun 2019.

The report can be sourced at pharmacy.vic.gov.au.

Student Biz Plan

SEMI-FINALISTS in the 2019 Pharmacy Guild of Australia National Student Business Plan Competition have been announced.

Involving Australian and New Zealand contestants, five teams from three universities: Auckland University, University of Technology Sydney and University of Queensland, have been awarded places in the semi-finals.

Some of the innovative ideas from the semi-finalists include new-to-market services related to skin cancer and skin conditions, back pain, mental illness and pharmacogenomics.

The semi-final round closes on 14 Aug 2019, with the top three teams progressing to the finals being held at the Pharmacy Connect Conference, Sydney 05 to 07 Sep 2019.

The business plan competition is sponsored by Sanofi Consumer Healthcare (principal sponsor), EBOS (major sponsor), Gold Cross Products and Services and Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL).

Cystic fibrosis drug PBS listed

THE Health Department has announced Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) funding for the cystic fibrosis therapy Kalydeco (ivacaftor) sponsored by Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

Infants aged 12 to 24 months with the diagnosis will be eligible, saving their families up to \$300,000 per year, and helping respiratory function.

Health Minister Greg Hunt also announced other PBS listings. See the full list at health.gov.au.

Biologicals hurdle

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has posted an update on its "Testing of biological medicines" page, outlining for sponsors: the requirements of the testing program during and after registration as well as how the TGA applies a risk-based approach to prioritising tests.

Although these policies have been in place since 2007, they are published as part of TGA's ongoing transparency initiatives - tga.gov.au.

NRL R18 WINNER
Congratulations
GARRY ANDERSON
from *Sproutlife Pharmaceuticals*

Garry is the top point scorer for Round 18 of Pharmacy Daily's NRL footy tipping competition.

GuildDigital

Pharmacy Daily NRL tipping competition is sponsored by GuildDigital, with the top tipper for the season winning a \$1,000 gift card.

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AFL TIPPING R18 WINNER
Congratulations
BRIAN WARD
from *Douglas Chemists*

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Dispensary Corner

IT'S been a few weeks since we last checked in on the slings and arrows of pharmacist, and star of UK Love Island, Anna Vakili's on-air search for love.

Having seen her first lust, Sheriff Lanre, was booted from the island, 28-year-old Vakili has a new boy-toy, and it's getting serious.

Like an awkward 13-year-old, Jordan Hames, sought to take their relationship to the "next level" on Sun night's show

Early on, Hames said he would seek the wisdom of the "boys" before attempting to sway the pharmacist's heart.

"I want the boys' opinion," he said.

"I want to ask Anna to be my chick" (what a classy gent).

"I want to make a gesture now and it'll be special and something we can remember."

Having canvassed his male peers, Jordan made his move, taking Anna on a trip down "memory lane" - it was pretty short - walking round the villa to key places from their brief courtship, stopping off at the location where they shared their first kiss - oh the romance.

Finally, they reached the swing - this really is like some sort of teen romance, isn't it?

With Vakili seated, it was time for Jordan's big moment, "I've never trusted anyone as much as I've trusted you".

"I am amazed by you," he said.

"I feel like I'm falling for you.

"I wanted to ask you to be my girlfriend."

It brought back some teen memories.

UK phased out MURs

MEDICINES Use Reviews (MURs) are set to be phased out over the next two years in the UK under a new deal between the government, NHS and the Pharmaceutical Negotiating Committee (PSNC).

The deal has also seen the community pharmacy fund package - equivalent to the Community Pharmacy Agreement - frozen for the next five years at £2.59 billion a year.

The framework document was released yesterday, revealing community pharmacies will be allowed to provide a maximum of 250 MURs per pharmacy in 2019/20, falling to 100 in 2020/21.

MURs will be replaced by Structured Medicines Reviews, which will be conducted by "clinical pharmacists" working within primary care networks rather than community pharmacies.

These clinical pharmacists will be able to adjust prescribing and access patient health records.

As part of the five-year plan a new Community Pharmacist

Consultation Service will be established by the NHS in Oct, with pharmacists to earn a £14 consultation fee.

The Pharmaceutical Journal reported that the deal has not been universally welcomed, receiving the backing of two-thirds of PSNC members.

However, PSNC CEO, Simon Dukes, said the agreement includes an annual review each autumn, which he said was "a crucial part" of the deal.

"While we have not succeeded in getting an increase in the overall sum, we have secured a commitment from the government to a protected £13bn over five years," he said.

"These built-in reviews will provide real opportunities for us to monitor and consider crucial factors, such as costs, service volumes, pharmacy income and sector stress, and the PSNC will be using this evidence to make the case strongly for further investments in the sector."

Guild Update

Aged care and community pharmacy

THE ongoing Royal Commission into Aged Care has prompted much discussion about the vital role of community pharmacists in aged care facilities.

The Guild believes a key challenge is to bolster the connection between local community pharmacies and the aged care facilities, so that the pharmacist dispensing the medication is also the pharmacist overseeing the medication management for the patient.

Community pharmacies that work with residential aged care facilities have long adopted an approach of translating best practice from the community sector into aged care settings.

It is important to recognise the importance of Residential Medication Management Reviews (RMMRs) and QUM activities undertaken by community pharmacists in collaboration with aged care staff.

Our view is that wherever possible, the delivery of these services should be directly connected to medicines supply by the local pharmacy, and focus on known medication related issues in residential aged care. It's a view the Guild will be putting strongly to the Royal Commission in our submission to be lodged next month.

Win with LA CLINICA

This week Pharmacy Daily and LA CLINICA are giving readers the chance to win the baby kit pictured, valued at over \$60.

Australian made "Organic For Baby" by LA CLINICA is formulated with certified organic and safe ingredients to care for baby's delicate skin. The Bath & Body Gift Set contains full-sized Soothing Lotion, Soap-Free Wash Gel, Nappy Wipe Lotion and Zinc Barrier Balm. No artificial ingredients or artificial fragrances.

Visit www.laclinica.com for more.

To win, be the first from QLD to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What is the address of the LA CLINICA website?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Rebecca Segrott.