



Anxiety webinar

NPS MedicineWise will host a free webinar for health professionals on anxiety disorders.

To take place on Thu 11 Apr 2019 from 7pm-8pm AEST, the session will feature an interdisciplinary panel discussing evidence-based treatments and the importance of good communication and collaborative care to help patients get the most out of their therapy.

Participating pharmacists can record 1 CPD hour in connection with the webinar, with registration open until Tue 09 Apr - nps.org.au.

Telstra Health chief

FORMER NZ National Health IT Board Director Grame Osborne has been appointed as the new Head of Hospitals at Telstra Health.

Osborne, whose most recent role was as General Manager System Transformation at the NZ Govt's Chief Information Office, will oversee Telstra's Hospitals business unit and the development of its Electronic Medical Record.

Pharmacy software specialist Fred IT is 50% owned by Telstra Health, with Fred's Medview reconciliation system forming part of the hospital software platform.

Diabetes Expo 2019

DIABETES Victoria is hosting Diabetes Expo 2019 on 27 Apr, a diabetes education conference with a pharmacy and GP stream.

This event includes lunch and is free for pharmacists and GPs to attend at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Visit diabetes-expo.org.au.

API drops Sigma takeover plan

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries has blasted Sigma's rejection of its takeover bid (**PD** breaking news yesterday), saying the Sigma Board had "chosen a path to restructure its significantly downsized business, rather than pursue a merger to create a future that benefits consumers, pharmacists and both sets of shareholders".

Sigma Healthcare yesterday released its assessment of API's non-binding indicative proposal (**PD** 17 Dec 2018), with a statement confirming it had decided the offer was "not in the best interests of Sigma shareholders".

Over the last couple of months Sigma and API have engaged in a "limited form of due diligence focused on the synergy and regulatory workstreams" including the mutual sharing of high level information through virtual data rooms and in-person sessions.

Sigma said this process had confirmed there was a sound basis for savings of \$60 million per annum in any merger, much of which would come from consolidating the combined supply chain to Sigma-owned warehouses.

However Sigma has also undertaken a business transformation review (**PD** 12 Feb 2019) that has identified cost efficiencies of over \$100 million deliverable as a standalone business over the next 18-24 months, the company said.

Sigma Chairman, Brian Jamieson, said the Board was confident that the current API proposal "does not reflect the long-term prospects

and value inherent in Sigma having regard to the reset cost base of the business and our own growth agenda...we believe it is not in the best interests of our shareholders".

API responded, saying that based on the Sigma announcement it was clear that the proposal to pursue a merger between the companies was "unable to be taken forward".

API said the publicly available information on the Sigma restructure "remains highly uncertain and unclear, while the business will be significantly downsized following the decision by Sigma's major customer (Chemist Warehouse) to take its business elsewhere.

"Based on Sigma's publicly disclosed earnings guidance it is clear that a substantial portion of the claimed \$100m cost savings will be offset by lost Chemist Warehouse revenue," API claimed.

The 5% shareholding in Sigma acquired by API prior to lodging its proposal is now under review, and API said it had closed its data room.

APP2020 dates

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has confirmed that next year's Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition will take place at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre from 19-22 Mar 2020.

Planning is now under way for the event, which follows last weekend's successful APP2019 attended by more than 6,000 delegates.

The Guild noted that APP2019 featured more than 100 speakers and political leaders from both major parties, with key announcements including an additional \$200m investment to the Administration, Handling and Infrastructure (AHI) fee through to 2023, along with a \$5 million pharmacy mental health trial program unveiled by Health Minister Greg Hunt.

Networking was also a strong feature of the event, with a host of activities including the Welcome Reception, APP Street Party and the three day trade exhibition with more than 450 stands.

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Dispensary Corner

AUTHORITIES in Slovenia are planning to bring formal fraud charges against a woman who deliberately cut her hand off with a circular saw in order to collect an insurance payout.

Reports this week allege the 21-year-old and her family conspired to take out five different insurance policies, worth about €400,000, prior to a claimed "accident" in which she said she had been cutting tree branches when she severed her left arm just above the wrist.

While she was rushed to hospital, police say family members deliberately left the severed hand behind to ensure the disability was permanent - but doctors managed to recover the limb in time to reattach it.

"There was no payment because we discovered the fraud in time," authorities said.

NEWLY released documents from the archives of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher have indicated she was a regular user of "alternative medicines".

The *BBC* revelations reflected the friendship between the Iron Lady and prolific romance novelist Barbara Cartland - Thatcher's step-grandmother - who sent Maggie a range of remedies.

Letters made public by the Margaret Thatcher Foundation include one from Cartland which enclosed "a new product from the Health Movement" in case the Baroness ever felt tired.

Other products suggested by Cartland included jetlag remedies, while the correspondence also includes a mystic reference to a "golden acorn".

Hospital to community meds

THE Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) is today launching a trial in Box Hill, Victoria, to improve medicine safety for patients transitioning from hospital to community pharmacy.

The 12 month pilot is being managed by Eastern Health in partnership with Monash University.

DC MedsRec is a community pharmacy-based service for patients discharged from Box Hill Hospital with four or more medicines, aiming to reduce the risk of harm from dangerous drug interactions.

"Community pharmacies from the Eastern Health area will take part in the pilot, with up to 5,000 patients potentially involved," said Eastern Health Chief Executive Adjunct Professor David Plunkett.

Eligible patients will meet with a trained community pharmacist, who will look at their hospital discharge summary via My Health Record, along with a range of other medication information.

The pharmacist will then check the patient's understanding of the drugs they are taking, resolve any potential medicine safety problems and ensure any medication-related recommendations from hospital are followed up.

The pharmacist will also offer to dispose of any discontinued medications and prescriptions for the patient, with their consent.

ADHA CEO Tim Kelsey said the service was part of a \$8.5 million program trialling innovative new approaches in post-hospital support, palliative care and the management of chronic health conditions, using digital technology to support better health outcomes.

"Pharmacists involved in the Box Hill project will be able to access their patients' hospital discharge summaries quickly and easily using My Health Record," Kelsey said.

"The ultimate aim is to ensure patients with complicated medication regimens don't end up back in hospital after taking a bad combination of medicines."



Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Travel & Cruise Weekly*.

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Win with John Plunkett

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away the John Plunkett Collagen Eye Lift 15g (with bonus trial size Collagen Lift Moisturiser 10ml) valued at over \$50.

New John Plunkett Collagen Eye Lift is a day and night eye cream packed with peptides including Matrixyl 3000 and Eyeseryl to boost collagen by 100%, and Hyaluronic Acid to provide cushioning hydration, while Rosehip Oil softens and smoothes delicate skin around the eyes. Effectively targets three causes of ageing - fine lines and wrinkles, eye bags and puffiness and dark circles. Visit: www.JohnPlunkett.com.au for more.

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