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Medication questions

NPS MedicineWise has summarised the most commonly asked questions pharmacists face when staffing Medicines Line, its free telephone information service.

More than 70,000 questions from the general public about a variety of medicines have been answered since 2010.

Callers often asked about antidepressants, accounting for around 7% of calls to the service, with 72% of enquiries about medicine interactions and 58% about side effects.

People commonly ask about onset of action of drugs, especially antidepressants.

Other frequently asked questions relate to pain medicines, reflux medicines and complementary medicines, these having generally the highest consumption in our society.

Medicines Line also offers an online 'Ask A Pharmacist' service through the NPS MedicineWise Facebook page, which is available at facebook.com/npsmedicinewise.

Guild, government at war

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has taken out full page newspaper advertisements today in an attempt to counter sweeping changes which were expected to be unveiled in next week's Federal Budget.

Guild President, George Tambassis, has written to members about his "astonishment and anger" about a proposed measure which would double prescription quantities to two months on more than 140 PBS-listed medications.

Tambassis confirmed the Guild had been in dispute with the Government over the issue which would have a "catastrophic effect" on community pharmacies.

The proposal is understood to follow an unpublished Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee recommendation.

Tambassis said he believed the Guild had succeeded in dissuading the Government from proceeding with the plan "but we cannot rest until we are confident it is off the table - now and forever".



COMMUNITY PHARMACY
YOUR HEALTH, OUR COMMUNITY

Throughout Australia, 5,723 local pharmacies serve their communities every day.

Providing health advice, care and medicines, to over 442 million individual patients visitors every year.
Employing 70,000 Australians.
We make your health our business because looking after our communities is what we do every day.

That's why we are taking out this ad.....
To remind the Government, ahead of the Federal Budget being handed down next week, that community pharmacy needs the Government's support to ensure that we can continue to provide equal access to medicines and care for all Australians.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

The Guild has urged PM Scott Morrison to restore pharmacy's confidence in the Government, asking for a letter of support for community pharmacy and a commitment that the 7th Community Pharmacy Agreement maintain "aggregate and per prescription remuneration for community pharmacy".

APC vax standards

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has published new revised Standards for the Accreditation of Programs to support Pharmacist Administration of Vaccines, in response to a consultation with stakeholders.

In particular, eligibility criteria for APC accredited immunisation training programs for pharmacists have been amended to include pharmacy students who are enrolled in an APC-accredited degree program.

The change will allow students to take an accredited vaccination program delivered either within their degree's curriculum, or via an external provider (during the period of study).

"The intent of updating the APC standards is to reflect the *National Framework* until the Council of Australian Governments immunisation harmonisation process is complete and State and Territory legislation is amended.

For more info or clarification call APC on 02 6188 4288.

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Dispensary Corner

BODY spray may ring the tills in pharmacy but they can't hide every bodily odour as one South Carolina man found out.

His creative attempts to hide the fact that he was drunk included spraying Axe body spray into his mouth, as police approached his car which had been speeding and swerving.

Efen Mencia-Ramirez, 49, didn't think to hide the 10 empty beer bottles on the floor of the car nor the half empty bottle held delicately between his legs - and he was only worried that his breath might be suspicious?

We're guessing he's not frontrunner to win a Nobel Prize anytime soon.



CCTV is usually seen as an important security measure, but one South Australian chiropractor appears to have been using it for more than keeping tabs on his premises.

The South Australian Health Practitioners' Tribunal found Robert Marin had used it to "deliberately enabled an ongoing breach of privacy to occur".

Marin was also found to have engaged in "serious commercially predatory behaviour" by providing "highly questionable services" to 28 patients over an eight-year period.

The tribunal banned him from registering as a chiropractor for 10 years.

VPA warns of S8 deficiencies

THE Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) has highlighted concerns about ongoing "serious deficiencies in the recording and storage of Schedule 8 (S8) poisons," which continue to be regularly uncovered during its inspections.

A communiqué issued by the Authority yesterday highlighted several recent cases, saying "licensees should ensure that all pharmacists, including locums, are made aware of procedures for the management of S8 poisons at the pharmacy".

Written policies and procedures are highly recommended, with transactions in S8 poisons required to be recorded as soon as possible and the VPA recommending regular independent audits of transactions on an ongoing basis to ensure accuracy of the register.

The communiqué also included details of three panel hearings last month into allegations that licensees had failed to meet their responsibilities in terms of good pharmacy practice.

Issues raised included insufficient

air conditioning in an overheating pharmacy, discrepancies in records for S8 items, a lack of current editions of mandatory references, and inaccurate maintenance of dose administration aid filling records.

Cautions and reprimands were issued, with one licensee having a condition imposed requiring submission of quarterly self-audits.

MM2018 abstracts

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has opened a call for abstracts for its upcoming Medicines Management 2019 conference.

The 45th SHPA National Conference will take place on the Gold Coast from 14-16 Nov, with the theme "Making Waves" reflecting SHPA's mission to transform healthcare by elevating hospital pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and their peers.

For the first time the conference is being convened by a national committee - view a teaser video at pharmacydaily.com.au/videos.

Win with skinb5

This week **Pharmacy Daily** & **skinB5** are giving away each day their NEW premium products from their Australian Botanicals Range - Cleansing Mousse and Hydrating Essence valued at \$85.90.

skinB5's Australian Botanicals Cleansing Mousse uses botanical extracts sourced from the Australian landscape to provide a soothing, non-drying cleanse that is rich in potent active nutrients specially selected for acne prone skin.

For more info see www.skinB5.com.

To win, be the first person from SA or NT to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Ann Winkle.



What is the daily usage of the Australian Botanicals Cleansing Mousse?

Travel & Cruise Weekly

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*.

Travel & Cruise Weekly

Sponsored by *Travel & Cruise Weekly*, your FREE travel newsletter. Subscribe now travellandcruiseweekly.com.au

Carnival's 'Spa & Bar Dollars' Sale

Carnival Cruise Line has launched its popular 'Spa & Bar Dollars' sale, offering couples great rates and up to \$400 onboard credit on a range of sailings across 2019 and 2020.

Discover tranquillity, indulge or enjoy that Ahhh moment while sipping on an ice-cold beverage at one of the 16 bars and lounges.

Look at 15 nights aboard *Carnival Splendor* from \$1,299. **CLICK HERE** for more.

APT 2020 Canada & Alaska Cruising

CRUISE APT with their *Rockies Odyssey & Alaska Cruise* package featuring a sailing through the Inside Passage and Glacier Bay, as well as a rail trip on Canada's iconic Rocky Mountaineer train service.

Prices for the 22-day adventure lead in at \$12,795ppts.

Selected sailings have special offers including companion fly free deals - see aptouring.com.au.