

Meds not convenience commodities

CALLS to up-schedule paracetamol to Pharmacist-Only are being supported by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, in the wake of a study showing a 44.3% increase in hospitalisations between 2007/08 and 2016/17.

Research published in the *MJA* flagged concerns over the accessibility of paracetamol with the NSW Poisons Information Centre reporting a 77% increase in the number of intentional overdoses between 2004 and 2017.

Guild Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, said the data highlighted the need for “a review and careful consideration whether paracetamol can continue to be sold from non-pharmacy outlets for the sake of public safety”.

“If paracetamol is to continue to be available from non-pharmacies at the very least there should be a limit to how much can be purchased,” he said.

“Despite there being a limit to the pack size there is no limit to how many packets can be purchased from a supermarket or convenience store due to the lack of professional oversight in these environments.

“Pharmacy owners being pharmacists have a professional duty and obligation to our patients through our registration – and our pharmacies should ensure that medicines are promoted and offered in a way that is consistent with quality use of medicines.

“Medicines are not normal items of commerce, and our scheduling system that allows for varying levels

of safeguards and access recognises this.”

University of Sydney Dean of Pharmacy, Professor Andrew McLachlan, also questioned whether current unrestricted sale of 20-tablet packs in supermarkets and convenience stores was appropriate, *MJA Insight+* reported.

“[However], the data internationally point to the fact that if you have smaller pack sizes, then the opportunity for people to self-harm using paracetamol starts to be substantially reduced and ... that alone provides merit for the regulators to consider where those packets are unrestricted, outside of a pharmacy,” he said.

However, he also raised concerns over the profession’s stewardship of the drug noting discount pharmacy groups have been selling large packs of paracetamol as “loss



leaders”, adding “they should not be promoted that way”.

Tassone told *Pharmacy Daily* that pharmacy owners needed to ensure patients accessed paracetamol appropriately.

“It is essential that pharmacy proprietors and our staff continue to uphold the intent of this system to ensure safe access to medicines where appropriate for benefit of patient care.”

Consumer Healthcare Products Australia voiced its support for retaining the current scheduling for paracetamol.

Therapeutic goods advertising guide

PHARMACISTS can bolster their knowledge of therapeutical goods advertising requirements and complementary medicines (CM) regulation, through two new e-learning modules developed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and Guild Learning and Development, in partnership with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

PSA President Dr Chris Freeman said the two online modules would support pharmacists in understanding the legislation and

the prerequisites for advertising therapeutic goods.

Both modules are available on the Pharmacy Guild of Australia’s GuildEd learning platform and the MyPSA Portal.

The advertising therapeutic goods module is accredited for 1.25 hours of Group 1 CPD points, while the CM module is accredited for one hour of Group 1 CPD, with both modules converting to Group 2 CPD activities upon successful completion of relevant assessments.

Today’s issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus full pages from:

- Sigma Rewards
- Healtched

Botox PBS listing

THE Federal Government has approved the listing of botulinum toxin type A injection on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for patients with moderate-severe spasticity following a stroke, traumatic brain or spinal cord injury, from 01 Sep.

It is the ninth PBS listing of the drug, and the only subsidised toxin for both upper and lower limb spasticity.

Epworth Healthcare Director of Rehabilitation, Professor John Olver, said the listing “may help patients retain function and improve their quality of life”.

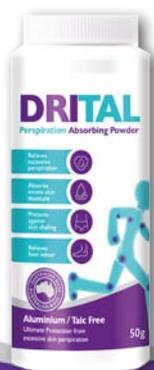
Footy tipping

CONGRATULATIONS to Alice Tucker from Queensland Health, the top point scorer for Round 24 of *Pharmacy Daily’s* NRL footy tipping competition.

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

Remember Prantal Powder?

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Dispensary Corner

WHEN you gotta go, you really gotta go.

That was the unusual excuse given by a UK man to police after they caught him driving his Mercedes at 160km/h.

Officers said the silver vehicle was also spotted overtaking in "awful" weather conditions.

"The 'professional' driver was very sorry but 'he needed the toilet, a number two'," one policeman wrote on Twitter.

"Err...that's OK then. Reported," the update finished, with the now hopefully relieved driver facing disqualification.

THERE has been a major medicines mishap in Spain, with authorities blaming a drug substitution mistake for a rise in so-called "werewolf syndrome".

A spate of babies and children developing hair all over their bodies is believed to be due to them being given what was thought to be omeprazole to treat gastric reflux.

Unfortunately it appears the bottles actually contained baldness treatment minoxidil, with a total of 17 cases of exceptionally hirsute youngsters reported so far.

An investigation found the suspect medications came from Malaga-based FarmaQuimica Sur, with the company's laboratory now closed as a precaution.

A statement from the Spanish health ministry said the unfortunate hypertrichosis was expected to reverse once the affected children stopped taking the drug.

Chemists' Own 'Help Us'

OVER-THE-COUNTER pharmacy brand, Chemists' Own, is working with 338 pharmacies across the country to raise funds for early learning centres in their communities.

The Help Us Help Our Local Community campaign kick-off yesterday, with the company hoping to top the \$10,000 raised last year.

The campaign has been designed to support organisations and programs that support the community using funds from in-store donations and sales of Chemists' Own Children's Range products, the company's Brand Manager, Stephanie Calapa, said.

"Early learning centres were an obvious choice to be the beneficiaries of Help Us, in light of all the wonderful work they do in caring for the next generation," she said.

"As a trusted cornerstone in communities, we are delighted to see that so many pharmacies are keen to participate in the initiative and raise funds for their local centres."

During the campaign, which runs until Dec, pharmacies will compete across five categories, Best Display, Community Engagement, Social Media Engagement, Children's Sales and Overachiever Store, with the top pharmacy in each category receiving a \$1,000 educational experience to donate to an early learning centre of their choice, and a \$200 Visa gift card for the store's staff to enjoy.

DriTal Prantal's successor

VICTORIAN pharmacists, Chris Zoanetti, Gavin Lau and Matt Hayward, are bringing a fresh product to the Australian market as a substitute for the discontinued Prantal Powder - DriTal Powder, under their company Zohala Pharmaceuticals.

DriTal Powder provides effective relief for excessive perspiration, skin moisture, chafing and foot odour.

Email **HL PHARMA** for more.

Win with ULTRASENSITIVE

This week Pharmacy Daily and ecostore are giving readers the chance to win a prize pack of products from ecostore's ULTRASENSITIVE home and body range, valued at over \$50.

Convert your home to an asthma and allergy-aware space with ecostore's ULTRASENSITIVE home and body range, approved by Sensitive Choice for Australians with sensitivities. **CLICK HERE** for more.

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

Which brand is currently the only Sensitive Choice approved body care range?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



Guild Update

Chronic Pain MedsCheck trial

PHARMACIES involved in the Chronic Pain MedsCheck trial are encouraged to make a push over the next five weeks to increase patient recruitment numbers.

It is vital that as many pharmacies as possible recruit patients and provide the trial service according to the required protocol. The better the quality of our data, the stronger the case will be for increasing the role of pharmacy in chronic pain management.

Patient recruitment must finish on 30 September 2019.

To be eligible, patients must be:

- Adults who are 18 years and over
- Have a Medicare and/or DVA card
- Taking over the counter (e.g. ibuprofen or paracetamol) or prescription medicine to treat pain that has been present for three months or greater
- Based on patient self-report, have not received a MedsCheck or HMR in the previous 12 months
- In the pharmacist's opinion, there is an opportunity to improve self-management or address dependency concerns.

If you need any assistance please visit 6cpa.com.au or call the Chronic Pain MedsCheck Trial team on 1300 555 262 or email chronicpain.ptp@6cpa.com.au.



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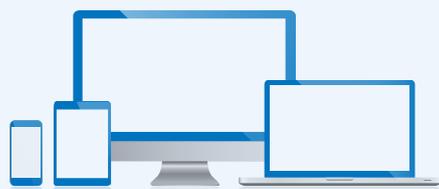
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WA*	7:00 – 8:30pm

*Special delayed session for WA viewers



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CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE FREE WEBCAST

Breast Implants and Complications – Practical Advice for Health Professionals



Prof Rodney Cooter
Plastic Surgeon; President, International Confederation of Plastic Surgery Societies

Accreditation Number: A1908HED1*

With the current concerns about Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphomas occurring around textured implants, and a social media-driven entity known as Breast Implant Illness, breast implants have been the subject of major controversy. This presentation aims to provide practical advice about breast implants – including their risks and complications – and will also explain the origin of the controversies, and the registry efforts undertaken to generate better data about these high-risk implantable devices.

*This activity has been accredited for 1.5 hrs of Group 1 CPD (or 1.5 CPD credits) suitable for inclusion in an individual pharmacist's CPD plan which can be converted to 1.5 hrs of Group 2 CPD (or 3 CPD credits) upon successful completion of relevant assessment activities. All Australian pharmacists can convert their group one credits to group two credits by completing the assessment component of this activity on the Australian College of Pharmacy (ACP) website: <http://www.acp.edu.au>. The assessment will be accessible via the ACP website once registered as a complimentary member (non-member) for free.

Sleep Disturbances in Menopause – Practical Advice



Dr Linda Schachter
Sleep and Respiratory Specialist; Medical Director, Sleep Services Australia

Accreditation Number: A1908HED1*

This presentation will tackle the prevalence, causes and management of sleep disturbance over the menopause transition. Practical approaches to managing this condition will be discussed including the role of pharmacological and behavioral treatment strategies.

Vitamin D in Pregnancy – Supplement or Not?



Prof Aris Siafarikas
Paediatric Endocrinologist, Bone and Mineral Medicine, Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes, Perth Children's Hospital

Accreditation Number: A1908HED1*

Nutritional rickets is a preventable disorder that is associated with significant childhood morbidity and mortality. Primary health care physicians are in a unique position to lead in the prevention of nutritional rickets. Vitamin D, nutritional rickets, treatment and prevention will be highlighted in this presentation.