

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from Lorella Footwear.

Pharmacist reprimand

A VICTORIAN pharmacist has been found guilty of professional misconduct relating to stealing Schedule 8 drugs from two Chemist Warehouse pharmacies, falsification of records, forging scripts for alprazolam and self-administering the drug.

The action was brought by the Pharmacy Board of Australia against Mr Yostus Hanna before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Given the nature of the conduct, the tribunal imposed conditions on Hanna's registration requiring him to undergo urine and hair drug screenings, undertake treatment with a psychiatrist and be mentored by another pharmacist if he engages in practice as a pharmacist in a pharmacy under prescribed conditions.

CLICK HERE to access the ruling.

SHPA opioid epidemic alert

A LANDMARK report released by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has highlighted the urgent need for a "coordinated multidisciplinary response" to stem a looming opioid "epidemic".

The paper exposes national inconsistencies in provision of pharmacy services to reduce risk of opioid misuse, poor handover of discharge information to GPs and "extremely high use of sustained release opioids".

The document was produced using data from 135 hospitals across Australia, and follows SHPA's inaugural Medicines Leadership Forum (PD 31 Jul) which gathered key health system stakeholders to look at ways of reducing opioid harm to patients after surgery.

SHPA found clinical pharmacy services were often unable to prioritise surgical patients being discharged, with these patients not having an appropriate review of their medication.

More than 70% of hospitals frequently supplied opioids to

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Pharmacists in home care initiative

UK PRIME Minister Theresa May has announced the rollout of a national scheme to assign teams including pharmacists to provide "personal care" to residents of aged care homes with the aim of reducing hospitalisations.

The 24/7 rapid response teams also include doctors, nurses and physiotherapists, and will provide urgent care and support in the community as an alternative to hospital - including emergency treatment as well as support to help patients recover at home.

The major new investment in primary and community healthcare will be worth £3.5 billion annually by 2023/24, significantly boosting the proportion of overall health spending on primary care.

May said the increase would give more patients a "genuine and high-quality alternative to hospital".

She cited analysis which suggested that more than 33% of hospital admissions from care homes were avoidable.



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Alphapharm valsartan recall

ALPHAPHARM, trading as Mylan Australia, has initiated a nationwide consumer-level recall of all batches of its Dilart and Dilart HCT valsartan medicines in Australia.

The move follows action last week (**PD 22 Nov**), where the European Medicines Agency banned valsartan made by Mylan in India after the discovery of N-nitrosodiethylamine (NDEA) in some batches.

NDEA is classified as a probable human carcinogen, with Mylan saying "the estimated risk from use of these tablets is very low".

The recall applies to all batches of Dilart and Dilart HCT, in all strengths, distributed between Aug 2016 and Nov 2018.

Patients are being asked to return any of the medications to the supplying pharmacy for a refund and to discuss replacement options.

Valsartan (Dilart) is used for the treatment of hypertension, for the treatment of heart failure in patients receiving usual therapy who are intolerant to

ACE inhibitors, and to reduce cardiovascular mortality following a heart attack.

Valsartan in combination with hydrochlorothiazide (Dilart HCT) is used to control hypertension.

Alphapharm said patients who were on these medications should not stop taking them before consulting a health care professional, as the risk of harm to health may be higher if treatment is stopped immediately.

Mylan is also recalling 15 lots of valsartan-containing products in the USA, with the Food and Drug Administration saying it continues to investigate and test all angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs) for the presence of NDEA and N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) above acceptable levels.

Some Chinese ingredient manufacturers have also had valsartan products recalled earlier this year (**PD 11 Jul**, **PD 09 Aug**) but at the time the TGA said no Australian items were affected.

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has named Associate Professor Ian Coombes as the recipient of Fred J Boyd Award, acknowledging his passion and dedication for practitioner growth, pharmacy research and developing leading pharmacy services.



The presentation was made at a ceremony during Medicines Management 2018, the 44th SHPA National Conference, in Brisbane.

In awarding the prize, outgoing SHPA President Professor Michael Dooley (**left** in picture) celebrated the influence and broad reach of Coombes' vision and leadership.

"Ian's passion and commitment to improving the care of patients and developing the pharmacy workforce has been instrumental in the growth of our profession.

"He has led many innovations in practice that have resulted in the introduction of many impactful, nationwide initiatives and has been instrumental in Australia now recognising advancing practice of pharmacists."

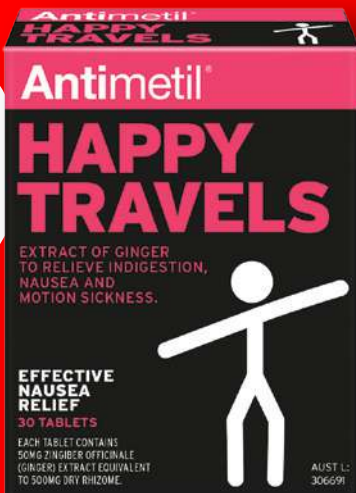
During his PhD research

investigating the cause and prevention of prescribing errors, Coombes has seen the adoption of a National Inpatient Medication chart which has led to a significant reduction in medication prescribing and administration errors across the country, Dooley said.

Coombes is Director of Pharmacy at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, a former SHPA Board Director and recipient of the 2003 SHPA Australian Clinical Pharmacy Award, 2010 Medal of Merit and the 2017 SHPA Qld Branch William Harris Award.

In what was described as an "entertaining and broad-ranging oration", Coombes urged his 1,200-strong Medicines Management audience to "let go of things that hold you back".

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Dispensary Corner

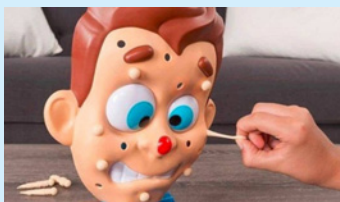
A FAMOUS online acne expert has created a new game which is sure to become a grisly hit.

Dr Sandra Lee - also known as "Dr Pimple Popper" - has launched Pimple Pete (pictured below), a game where players take turns to squeeze pimples on a zitty caricature face.

You have to do it very carefully - because if you squeeze too hard or too fast the really gigantic pimple on his nose is activated, spraying the player with "pus".

It's not actually pus - just water - but it's pretty darned gross.

The game is available for order from the good doctor's website, and is sure to be a winner because Dr Pimple Popper has about 10m social media followers.



THERE'S now less than a month until Christmas, so get those decorations up now!

A study published in 1989 in the *Journal of Environmental Psychology* says people who get in the festive spirit early are more likely to be happy than those who wait for the last minute.

The researchers rated American residents on their friendliness, correlated with the decorations on the outsides of their homes.

In particular the study found getting into the festive season in a big way was a key factor in communicating sociability and boosting integration into a neighbourhood's social activities.

Vitex for Badgerys

VITEX Pharmaceuticals has signed an agreement with the NSW Government for the development of a new pharmaceutical training and research facility at the Western Sydney Aerotropolis at Badgerys Creek.

The company will invest an initial \$10 million in a 10,000 square metre facility, supporting about 100 jobs and training up to 200 students at a time.

Vitex already has a new \$100m manufacturing facility at nearby Eastern Creek, with Minister for Western Sydney Stuart Ayres saying the firm was a "classic Western Sydney business success story".

Botanix R&D tax boost

LISTED medical dermatology company Botanix Pharmaceuticals has announced the receipt of a Research and Development Tax Incentive cash refund of \$4.6m for the financial year 2017/2018.

The money will be channelled back into the research program with strong initial recruitment progress made in the firm's BTX 1503 acne Phase II clinical study and the BTX 1308 psoriasis study.

Three over-65 flu vaxes for the UK

ENGLAND'S National Health Service has expanded the influenza vaccines which can be used to immunise patients aged over 65 in the 2019/20 flu season.

Currently the only authorised vaccine for English seniors is Fludax, the adjuvanted trivalent vaccine made by Seqirus, but next year this will be complemented by a cell-grown quadrivalent vaccine and a high-dose trivalent vaccine.

The additional options are expected to become licensed from next month.

It's understood the expanded range follows concerns raised by pharmacies across England about sourcing a sufficient supply of Fludax.

Oligosaccharides in foods consultation

FOOD Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is calling for submissions on an application to permit two new substances in infant formula products and formulated supplementary foods for young children.

FSANZ CEO Mark Booth said the application related to 2'-O-Fucosyllactose and Lacto-N-neotetraose, both identical to those naturally present in human milk.

The oligosaccharides are produced by microbial fermentation using genetically modified production strains, with submissions in this initial stage of consultation due by 17 Jan 2019.

CLICK HERE for more information.

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 \$50 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.

Aloe Barbadosensis 'Natures medicine plant' is renowned for its soothing, cooling and hydrating properties. Plunkett's Aloe Vera is fragrance and colour free and contains pure certified organic Aloe Vera extracted from Aloe Barbadosensis Leaf - rich in vitamins, minerals, amino acids and anti-oxidants to restore dry and damaged skin all year round.

Visit: www.Plunketts.com.au.

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

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Judy Cheung-Wood, SkinB5 Founder & Managing Director.**



The Power of B Vitamins

MOST people know B vitamins for the incredible energy they provide, along with stress relief, great digestion and improved mood. All the B vitamins work as a team, guiding the body towards better health. B vitamins also have a huge role in skin health, with B5 playing a starring role alongside its co-stars B1, B2, B3, B6 and B9. Together they support skin healing and renewal, bringing a healthy glow through their teamwork.

Vitamin B5 (Pantothenic Acid) is a star vitamin that can be used therapeutically to strengthen immunity, increase energy production, cell renewal and stamina, improve wound healing, and reduce skin oil production and stress.

When it comes to skin, B5 protects against premature ageing and can be used to control acne. It helps to keep the skin supple and moisturised, and seems to be particularly useful when it's consumed internally and applied topically.

B5 is also essential to producing healthy hormones, which are important for skin health. It's naturally found in broccoli, avocado, mushrooms and apricots. Modern food processing can destroy B5, so often supplementation is necessary, particularly for those suffering from acne breakouts.

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