

Roxon named as health minister

PRIME Minister-elect Kevin Rudd this afternoon confirmed Nicola Roxon as the new Minister for Health and Ageing in his cabinet line-up.

Roxon will be responsible for implementing "one of the most significant reforms of Australia's health and hospital system since Federation".

Justine Elliot has been named as Minister for Ageing, with the appointments welcomed by the pharmacy and health industry.

Australian Self Medication Industry exec dr Juliet Seifert said Labor had already outlined some "welcome policy initiatives" including a greater focus on preventative health and the commitment to elevate obesity to a National Health Priority Area.

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RGH Pharmacy

Due to popular demand the
RGH Pharmacy
Anticoagulation Handbook
is now available to the
pharmacy industry across Australia.

The handbook gives patients important information about warfarin treatment and has a chart to record INR results.

Repatriation General Hospital is making it available for purchase for \$2.80 per booklet, reduced to \$2.40 for PSA and SHPA members.

More information



APC multiple script policy

THE Australian Pharmacy Council has issued an official statement on simultaneous supply of repeat prescriptions, saying it's "contrary to good pharmaceutical practice".

The council, formed in 2002 as the national body for registration of pharmacists, met this week with discussions including the multiple script issue.

The official statement as a result of the deliberations is:

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) believes that the simultaneous supply of multiple quantities e.g. supply of multiple repeats at once may not be in accordance with the prescriber's intention and is contrary to good pharmaceutical practice.

The APC further believes that this practice is contrary to the National Medicines Policy and may deprive the consumer of regular review and provision on

Provigil warning

THE US Food and Drug Administration is suggesting stronger warning labels on sleep narcolepsy treatment Provigil.

Officials said that although the drug isn't approved for treatment of children under 16, it continues to be prescribed for attention deficit disorder in youngsters.

The FDA panel said the label should advise that in children the drug's risks outweigh any benefits.

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STOCK EXCHANGE

DO you have any excess medications you'd like to offer to other pharmacists?

Pharmacy Daily's regular Stock Exchange column gives the industry the chance to promote close to expiry or other surplus items.

Today's item is Rimycin 300mg caps expiring 07/08, available for \$40 from Surf Beach Pharmacy in Batemans Bay NSW.

Contact Petar Scott on 02 4471 1596 or via email surfbeachpharmacy@hotmail.com.

If you have items you'd like to offer through PD's Stock Exchange column please email stockx@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Avandia PI update

GLAXOSMITHKLINE has changed the product information documents of its diabetes medicines containing rosiglitazone, under the brand names Avandia and Avandamet.

The update includes a boxed warning relating to rosiglitazone use and myocardial ischaemia seen in certain patient groups.

There's also more info in the Precautions section of the PI relating to Congestive Heart Failure, with the updates mirroring requirements mandated by US regulators.

Two pages today

TODAY'S Pharmacy Daily includes this week's edition of our regular Health, Beauty and New Products page - see p2.

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New inhaler product

medicine information which assist in minimising medicine misadventure. However, the APC recognises that extenuating circumstances such as those catered for by the provision of Regulation 24 of the National Health Act can exist.

New inhaler product

A NEW inhaler device is set to revolutionise the lifestyle of asthma sufferers, according to the Asthma Foundation of Vic.

The Sports-haler has been developed by DelvTech, which is offering the product to pharmacy nationally.

Described as a "smart alternative to the old style puffer," the Sports-haler can be easily refilled with standard Ventolin or Asmol canisters.

However it offers the additional benefits of a retractable twist-action mouthpiece and flexible press cap seal, which prevents dirt and moisture entering the device.

DelvTech is also planning a range of holders and accessories to enable wearers to select a portable option best suited to their chosen activity.

A percentage of the sales of each Sports-haler will be given to the eight Asthma foundations across Australia in support of their education programs.

Asthma Foundation of Vic ceo Robin Ould said "being physically active is part of a good asthma management plan.

"It is imperative that people with asthma have easy access to their medication at all times and the Sports-Haler is an exciting new development for everyone who is active with asthma," he said.



See www.sportshaler.com.au.

New product to promote?

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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy! Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.



Blush for beginners

Many women are afraid to wear blush in case they look too clown-like. Take the guesswork out of finding the perfect match with Almay Smart Shade Blush, in pink, berry or natural, or play it safe with Almay Smart Shade Bronzer. Both come in a liquid cream formula for easy blending.

RRP: \$19.95
Stockist: Almay
Tel: 1800 025 488

Swarovski crystals for Christmas

This is a perfume fit for a princess. Packaged in a limited-edition bottle, decorated with Swarovski crystals and floral etching, Calvin Klein Euphoria Crystalline is all about beauty, decadence and shine. Available in selected pharmacies only.

RRP: \$120 (100ml)
Stockist: Coty
Tel: 1800 812 663



Aromatherapy sleepy essentials

In Essence Aromatherapy Aroma Touch Gift Pack contains lavender pure essential oil, for irritated skin, tired muscles and peaceful sleeping, and hydrating hand cream, with lavender, rose and myrrh. Encased in an elegant cosmetics bag, each product smells divine and is thoroughly relaxing.

RRP: \$29.95
Stockist: Purity Australia
Tel: 1800 802 036

Olay extends to gradual tanners

Touch of Sun is the latest launch from super-successful Olay. Touch of Sun Daily UV Facial Moisturiser with SPF15 is formulated for a natural, streak-free, sun-kissed facial glow. It's light, non-greasy and won't clog the pores. Olay Touch of Sun Body Lotion has just a hint of self-tanner to subtly enhance skin tone and colour without an orange result.

RRP: \$9.99-\$15.99
Stockist: Procter & Gamble
Tel: 1800 028 280



The fairest of them all

The Wicked Sista range of mirrors is now available in pharmacies. The mini mirrors, in black and red, are great for the handbag, while the larger A5 size is a handy addition to your desk. These pretty products are unique suggestions for stocking fillers, too!

RRP: \$9.95-\$14.95
Stockist: Sax International
Tel: (03) 9568 5999



DISPENSARY CORNER

A SO-CALLED "faecal transplant" has allegedly saved the life of an 83-year-old woman in Scotland.

The *Fife Daily Record* said Ethel McEwan was near death after contracting *Clostridium Difficile*, a severe infection of the colon often contracted after microbes within the gut are eradicated by antibiotics.

The treatment involves liquidising a sample of faeces from a close relative of the patient, and feeding the liquid down a tube into the stomach.

This apparently helps restore "good bacteria" to levels where they help recovery.

Mrs McEwan said many people "wrinkle their noses" at the treatment.

"But it's not like they put it on a plate and you have to eat it," she said.

Reports don't say whether she needed a tic-tac afterwards.

JUST in time for your Christmas giftware display!

A British soft toy designer has just released a fabulous new range of road kill teddies.

Products available will include Grind the Rabbit, Splodge the Hedgehog, Twitch the Raccoon and of course Pop the Weasel.

The makers, who style themselves as "toy terrorists," say Twitch the Raccoon (pictured below) comes complete with its own body bag "to keep the maggots out".

Children playing with the dead raccoon can unzip its body to release a selection of cloth entrails, and it even has a tyre track across its back.

The toys will be available online from next month at www.roadkilltoys.com.

