

## UK Trasylol move

BRITISH health authorities have suspended the licence for Bayer's Trasylol (aprotinin) from 07 Dec, following its global withdrawal of marketing (PD 06 Nov).

The suspension is pending a Europe-wide review of the risk-benefit balance of the drug announced overnight, which is expected to take at least 3 mths.

No formal recall has been initiated in the UK at this stage.

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1. "A brief review of the use of honey as a clinical dressing". Miles, PC. Primary Intention (The Australian Journal of Wound Management); 6 (6): 148-158 (1998).
2. White, R., Cooper, R. and Mitran, R. (2005). Honey: A modern wound management product. Wounds UK Limited, Aberdeen, United Kingdom.

Always read the label and use only as directed. If symptoms persist, consult your healthcare practitioner. Monitor blood sugar levels of people with Diabetes.



11-08-05 Patient hospitalized with Tissue Necrosis Secondary to Cellulitis. 31-10-05 After treatment with Comvita Medical Apinate Active Manuka Honey & Alginate Fibre wound dressings.

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## HIP cuts back on finance

FALLOUT from the current US mortgage crisis has affected Health Information Pharmacy, which told its shareholders this week it was "winding back our leverage finance activities".

Described as a "key element" of the franchisor's strategy, rising interest rates are making second mortgage finance for pharmacy purchases less appealing.

Health Corporation ceo Ken Lee said funds freed up from this move would be "reinvested in the core franchise" as well as product development, which he said was an important component of HIP's value proposition to pharmacists.

Lee said a focus on providing integrated health solutions would

## Sanofi-Aventis deal

SANOFI-AVENTIS has announced an expansion of its collaboration with US firm Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, with an investment of up to US\$872m

The tie-up relates to "fully human therapeutic antibodies," adding to an existing joint deal developing an experimental cancer drug called aflibercept.

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be a key driver of profit, adding that the firm intends to develop a diabetes product and program within the coming year.

He also foreshadowed the introduction of a so-called Full Management Model, similar to the way some corporate medical centres are operated.

Lee said this would relieve the administrative and management burden from pharmacists and provide the company with additional revenues and profit.

## Primary makes its move on Symbion

PRIMARY Health Care today upped the ante in its bid for Symbion, saying it would declare its \$4.10 per share offer unconditional if it receives acceptances for at least 50.1% of the company by 10 Dec.

The move puts pressure on rival Healthscope, which had hoped its 9.9% stake would block Primary from acquiring the company.

Primary said shareholders who accept by 10 Dec would receive payment in time for Christmas.

## Wine time with Pharmacy Daily

WELCOME to our regular *Pharmacy Daily* wine feature. We know that many pharmacists enjoy a nice bottle of wine, so have decided to provide a regular column on some of the new wines available.

AUSTRALIA'S first wine book was written in 1825 by James Busby, who's known as the father of Australian and New Zealand viticulture.

Busby (1801-1871) founded the Hunter Valley, after having studied viticulture and winemaking in France.

While teaching at a Liverpool school, Busby became the author of "A treatise on the culture of the vine and the art of making wine" and was also a principal importer of vines.

Two great wines to celebrate the accomplishment of James Busby are from the varietals now seen as the strengths of the Australian wine industry.

The 2005 Kirrihill Tulach Mor Shiraz ([kirrihillwines.com.au](http://kirrihillwines.com.au)) comes from South Australia.

Kirrihill Estates was established in 1999 and is founded on wines from several South Australian regions and

prides itself on offering consumers great value.

A testament to the quality of their wines is the more than 500 awards they've received over the last eight years - rrp \$19.95.

Goes well with Australian beef - the rarer it is and the thicker it's cut, the gutsier wine it can take!

From the Heart of James Busby's Hunter Valley wine region is the 2005 Tintilla Semillon (available at the cellar door, [www.tintilla.com.au](http://www.tintilla.com.au)).

Semillon is the most famous grape variety identified with the Hunter Valley.

Made by the Lusby family in Pokolbin, it typifies everything Busby thought wine should stand for - with lightly fresh low alcohol and crisp refreshing acidity, it's a marvel for moderate consumption and ages gracefully.

Goes well with oysters or a seafood salad on a good old hot Australian summer day, rrp \$22.

## New kidney listing

THE PBS inclusion of Renagel from tomorrow is expected to cut death rates from chronic kidney disease, one of Australia's fastest growing ailments.

Cardiovascular disease is one of the leading cause of death in people with CKD due to a build-up of calcium and phosphorous in the blood.

Current therapies to control phosphorous actually contain calcium, in contrast to Renagel which is calcium-free.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

VISITORS to London no longer need to fear getting caught short.

Westminster Council has launched a novel loo-locating text messaging service, creatively dubbed "Sat Lav".

People out on the town can message 'toilet' to a special number, and the Sat Lav service will triangulate their position using mobile phone masts and then message back the location of their nearest public toilet.

Sav Lav currently covers 40 toilets across the 8.5 sq miles of Westminster, with estimates that Sat Lav will stop 45,460 litres of urine from hitting the streets.

THERE may not be too many Olympic babies made in Beijing next year, after a government ruling ordering the city's 700 hotels to provide condoms in all rooms by the end of 2008.

The move is said to be a response to soaring rates of HIV infection in China.

PERHAPS some Australian politicians should have followed the lead of one of their Thai counterparts in the recent election.

Competitors have accused the unnamed Thai candidate of vote-buying by handing out Viagra tablets to elderly men at social functions in order to secure their votes.

Reports say Thailand has a history of vote-buying in politics, and this year strict laws have been introduced punishing both politicians and voters - but this effort is taking the art to new heights.

It brings a new meaning to the concept of standing for election.