

Two pages today

TODAY'S *Pharmacy Daily* includes a full page flyer from GSK promoting the new packaging for Panadeine - see p2.

OTC Tamiflu push

TAMIFLU may soon be available without a prescription if it is given the go-ahead by the National Drugs and Poisons Scheduling Committee.

NDPSC is again considering whether the flu medication should be down-scheduled from S4 to S3 after it received a submission calling for the change in classification.

Roche, which markets the drug, said it was not behind the submission.

Pharmacy Guild president Kos Scavos also said the Guild had not made a submission but it was expected to support the move.

The committee blocked an earlier attempt to make Tamiflu available over the counter in 2005 because of fears the move could lead to drug-resistant flu strains.

New NPS structure

NATIONAL Prescribing Service has appointed new executive managers as part of a major organisational restructure.

The new positions include roles for QUM Support, Communications and Strategy, Human Resources, Business and Corporate Services, QUM Programs, and Innovation and Learning, and all the positions report directly to NPS ceo Dr Lynn Weekes.

COPD, quit smoking

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (Victorian branch) is presenting a daytime lecture, 'Update in the management of COPD and smoking cessation' on Mon 26 May.

Guest speaker is Dr Johnson George, Coordinator, Pharmacy Practice III A & B, Vic College of Pharmacy, Monash University.

Pharmacy heart initiative

THE Pharmacy Guild is inviting applications from researchers to develop a service which involves community pharmacists in helping patients reach and maintain target blood pressure levels.

The initiative, endorsed by the Heart Foundation, is part of the Fourth Agreement R&D program.

Guild President Kos Scavos said

Pharmacy Practice conferences

PHARMACY proprietors, managers and QCPP co-ordinators can learn about their obligations under the Pharmacy Practice Regulation Act 2008 at a series of conferences held by the Pharmacy Guild (NSW).

The Sunday sessions cover the new regulations about dispensary barcode scanners, the new infection control standards, the QCPP fast track program (units 1 and 4), OH&S, and the Pharmacy Practice Act 2006.

Dates and venues include: 4 May, Wagga RSL Club; 18 May, Illawarra Master Builders Club; 25 May, Rydges Parramatta; 1 June, Travelodge Newcastle and 15 June, Dubbo RSL Club.

To register, contact the Guild on 02 9467 7150 or 02 9467 7100.

Hospital contract

IBA Health Group has been awarded a \$4.4 million contract to provide an online pharmacy management solution to 11 public hospitals in South Australia.

Sydney-based IBA Health subsidiary iSOFT will streamline pharmacy services across the hospitals and assist SA in implementing a series of pharmaceutical reforms.

The system will provide consistency in medication management and clinical decision support and is scheduled to be fully operational in all SA public hospitals by the end of next year.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

IT'S a tough job, but somebody has to do it.

Researchers in the UK are calling for 150 female volunteers to eat a bar of chocolate every day for a year.

The University of East Anglia trial is part of a study aiming to discover whether flavonoids, commonly found in cocoa, can reduce the risk of heart disease in women with type 2 diabetes.

The specially formulated chocolate bars, created for the trial by a Belgian chocolatier, only weigh 27g and have been fortified with extra flavonoids, with the subjects also continuing to take statins during the trial.

THE mayor of a small town in Chile, South America, has announced plans to distribute free Viagra to male residents aged sixty and over.

Gonzalo Navarrete is mayor of Lo Prado, an impoverished town south of Santiago, and said the proposal would see four 50 milligram tablets given out to each man each month.

"This has to do with quality of life and it's done responsibly," he said.

"It's not just like handing out candy at the corner."

that poor medicines compliance was a significant contributor to the low levels of blood pressure control seen in the community.

"Studies have shown that pharmacists have a key role to play in assisting with the management of patients with high blood pressure," and in reducing the incidence of cardiovascular problems, he said.

Scavos said the outcome of the project would have "real and measurable health benefits for Australians."

Research proposals are due by Fri 06 Jun 08 - more info www.guild.org.au/research.

Symbion deal done

PRIMARY Health Care today advised that it's now completed the compulsory acquisition of shares in Symbion Health held by shareholders who didn't accept the takeover bid.

A Cialis a day keeps Viagra away

A NEW dosage of tadalafil, launched today, is expected to rival Viagra and Levitra.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved a smaller-dose once-daily tablet that will make men ready for sexual intercourse at any time without having to plan ahead.

Tadalafil (Cialis) has been on the market in Australia for five years but was available only in 10 and 20 mg doses that had to be taken hours before sex in the same way as other anti-impotence drugs.

But the TGA's decision will see a packet of 28 Cialis tablets available from on prescription for about \$170 a month.

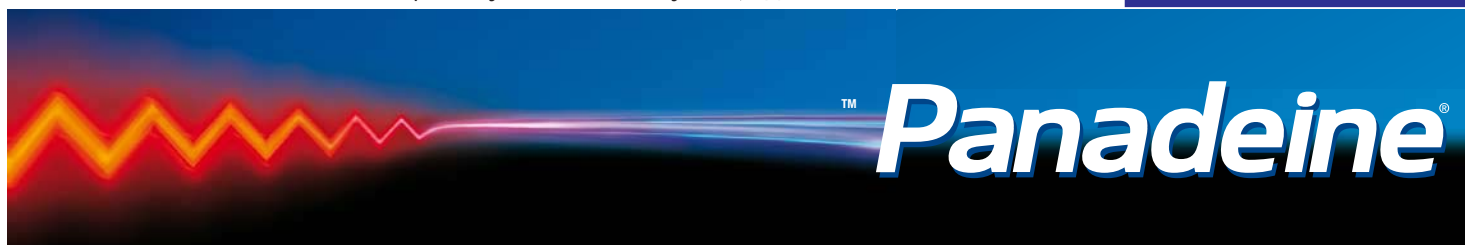
Rather than take a Viagra up to four hours before sex, men can now pop a Cialis every morning and have a more spontaneous approach to romance.

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Panadeine®

PLEASE REVIEW FULL PRODUCT INFORMATION (PI) BEFORE RECOMMENDING. PANADEINE® EXTRA contains paracetamol 500mg and codeine phosphate 15mg. Use: Temporary relief from moderate to severe pain. Contraindications: Hypersensitivity to any ingredient in the product; Children under 12 years. Precautions: CNS, respiratory depression; high doses, prolonged use; renal, hepatic impairment; poor CYP2D6 function; pregnancy & lactation. Adverse reactions: Dependence; Impairment of mental & physical abilities; nausea, vomiting, constipation; dizziness, drowsiness. Interactions: Anticoagulants; sedatives, tranquillisers; drugs affecting gastric emptying; chloramphenicol; hepatic enzyme inducers; CYP2D6 inhibitors. Dosage: Adults and children 12 years and over: 2 caplets every 4-6 hours orally with water (maximum 8 caplets in 24hrs). The full PI is available from GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare on request (FREECALL: 1800 028 533). Panadeine contains paracetamol 500mg and codeine phosphate 8mg. For the temporary relief of strong pain. PANADEINE®, CAPLET® and the Panadeine Vibration™ are trade marks of the GlaxoSmithKline group of companies. GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare, 82 Hughes Avenue, Ermington NSW 2115. WH GSK14537



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