

Xmas Constipation

THE Gut Foundation has released a survey showing one in two sufferers believe that constipation will effect their enjoyment of the holidays; 84% of sufferers feel down-hearted, unhappy or worn-out; however 80% believe their happiness, personal and work life improved after relieving constipation.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

This week's update from the Guild Find a Pharmacy

Once upon a time, three wise men were guided by a star to their desired destination.

These days, however, people in search of a good community pharmacy shouldn't look to the sky, but rather should log on to www.findapharmacy.com.au.

It's a great system for all Australians with access to the Internet to find their nearest suitable pharmacy, and to check on the services offered, trading hours and languages spoken. To make sure this system works effectively for pharmacies and the public, however, it is very important that the information on the site is accurate and up-to-date. That's why the Pharmacy Guild is urging its members to make it their New Year's resolution to ensure their pharmacy is listed correctly.

You can do this quickly and easily by visiting the site at: www.findapharmacy.com.au, click on the 'contact' tab, then click where it invites you to register feedback on any incorrect or out-of-date information.

The www.findapharmacy.com.au is an invaluable resource for not just consumers, but also the Pharmacy Guild, as we use it to compile data and pharmacy statistics that are of use when speaking to politicians and bureaucrats.

In closing, the Pharmacy Guild would like to wish all of its members and their staff a happy and safe holiday season.

Decline of generic meds

GLOBAL prescription sales of generic drugs have slowed significantly in the past year, a study has found.

Generic sales growth slowed to 3.6% in the 12 months ending in September, compared to 11.4% in the prior year, according to IMS Health.

This is a far cry from recent years when the global generics market had posted double-digit percentage growth, said Murray Aitken, IMS senior vice president.

Preventative paper

THE Government's Preventative Health Taskforce is calling for submissions on its discussion paper, *Australia: the Healthiest Country by 2020*.

The project focuses on obesity, tobacco and alcohol and is the first step in developing the National Preventative Health Strategy.

The discussion paper is available at www.preventativehealth.org.au.

Medicine stories told

MEDICINES Australia has released a publication that demonstrates the impact new medicines and vaccines have had in tackling illness and disease.

Innovating for Life tells the stories of ordinary Australians who have been affected by diseases, and illustrates the benefits of the medicines and vaccines used in their treatment.

Copies will be available free for doctors' surgeries & waiting rooms.

It is also downloadable from www.medicinesaustralia.com.au.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

ANYONE fancy a cup of cow urine?

Scientists in India have come out in support for the traditional practice of drinking cow urine to aid healing.

Even the Minister for Health and Welfare has spooked the benefits of a cup of pee, saying that studies have shown the urine to contain valuable salts and minerals, such as gold and copper.

The apparent cure-all is said to work wonders for all ailments including cancer, stomach upsets and is especially beneficial in skin care products.

So coveted is a fresh cuppa, that recent agreements struck with dairy farmers will supply thousands of fresh litres of urine to India on a daily basis.

AND whilst we're on the subject, a man in the U.S has been busted after stealing a fridge containing his own urine sample.

Clearly, a lot of planning was put into this braniac scheme; shortly after the sample had been analysed and confirmed positive for drugs, the 26 year old Einstein shot out a window in the offending police station, grabbed the fridge, left a nice big patch of DNA behind from scrapes on his body as he climbed through the broken glass, and hot footed it home.

The police arrived at the man's house shortly after, where shards of blood covered glass gave the game away, and he was arrested.

The fridge is still on the lamb.

"But in 2008, despite robust volume increases, we are seeing the first significant decline in sales growth as manufacturers increasingly compete in fierce price battles within most of the world's major markets," Mr Aitken said in a statement.

In the US, the world's largest generics market, sales fell by 2.7%, the report showed.

Scripts price rise

EXPECT queries from customers over the next few days as the rising cost of prescription medicines has hit the media.

The *Daily Telegraph* reports today the cost will increase by \$1.60 per script to \$32.90 on Jan 01 - "an increase in excess of inflation".

CMEC recommends

THE Complementary Medicines Evaluation Committee has recommended to the Therapeutic Goods Administration that Bovine Whey Immunoglobulin is suitable for use as an active ingredient in listed therapeutic medicines, where supported by appropriate evidence for any indications and claims made for the product.

CMEC has also recommended that the use of magnesium sulfate in medicines be referred to the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee to consider if there should be restrictions on access to certain doses when used for human therapeutic purposes.

The TGA is yet to consider these recommendations or make any final decisions.

WIN DermaNew's Sensitive Skin Cleansing Crème

EACH day this week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving subscribers the chance to win a bottle of DermaNew's Sensitive Skin Cleansing Crème, courtesy of **Total Beauty Network**.

This newly released cleanser is designed specifically to hydrate, balance, soothe, calm and soften the skin.

To be in the running to win your very own bottle, simply send your answer to the below question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Name five other things the crème can do.

The first person to answer correctly each day this week will win.

HINT: Go to www.tbn.com.au each day and click on the DermaNew logo featured at the top of the page.

CONGRATULATIONS to Kim Johnston of **Valeant** who was yesterday's winner.



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