

Phenylephrine+ paracetamol move

PHARMACIES are being reminded by the Australian Taxation Office that from 01 Jan cold and flu products containing paracetamol and phenylephrine labelled for use by people aged 12 and over are no longer GST free.

The move coincides with the down-scheduling of the phenylephrine products, which were previously S2.

Now that the products are no longer restricted for sale under state or territory law, they don't meet the requirements of the GST act to be GST-free.

Pharmacies must update sales systems to ensure the change in GST classification, and any who experience problems are being advised to contact the Tax Office to discuss their specific issues.

Apotex alendronate

APOTEX has announced it's "clear to sell and promote alendronate" and expects an Apr PBS listing for the product.

Apotex alendronate will be one of the first to be launched under the Apotex branding, together with amlodipine which is also expected to be on the PBS in Apr.

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NPS warns on Champix

NATIONAL Prescribing Service has urged health professionals to be aware of psychiatric symptoms which have been reported with the use of varenicline (Champix).

Patients should be monitored for behaviour and/or mood changes, according to an NPS RADAR review released today.

"Varenicline is a new drug in a new class of drugs, therefore some extra uncertainty exists about its safety profile," the review said.

The most common adverse effect noted in clinical trials was nausea, but patients also reported insomnia, abnormal dreams,

Primary at 36.03%

THE long-running Symbion takeover saga grinds on, with Primary this morning advising it now holds 36.03% of the firm.

Primary's offer, which has been rejected by the Symbion board, now closes at 7pm on 21 Jan 08.

PBS Jan update

THE Department of Health and Ageing has issued the updated Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme schedule from 01 Jan.

Key changes include the addition of medications which can be prescribed by optometrists as well as the new stop smoking medication varenicline.

Other additions include pemetrexed disodium (Alimta) for pleural mesothelioma and infant influenza vaccine Vaxigrip junior.

Upcoming deletions from the schedule include efavirenz capsule 200mg (Stocrin) from 01 Mar; oestradiol hemihydrate nasal spray 150ug (Aerodiol) from 01 Apr; and salmeterol xinfoate oral pressurised inhalation 25ug (Serevent) from 01 May.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

A JAPANESE veterinary pharmaceutical manufacturer has started giving staff who own animals a monthly "family allowance" for their pets.

A spokesman for Tokyo-based Kyoritsu Seiyaki, said the payment of about \$15 a month aims to encourage the concept that pets are "life-long partners rather than accessories".

PERHAPS travel is the key to longevity and good health.

A 102-year-old British man is about to become the oldest person to emigrate from the UK.

Eric King-Turner said he'll turn 103 shortly after arriving at his new home in New Zealand.

"When I'm 105 I don't want to be thinking 'I wish I had moved to the other side of the world when I was 102'," he said.

TWO British dentists are smiling widely after winning a legal battle with fashion house Lacoste.

Simon Moore and Tim Rumney said they chose a crocodile for their logo (pictured below) because the reptile is renowned for having lots of teeth.

Lacoste claimed the sign was too similar to its own iconic crocodile logo, but the UK trademarks office said consumers were unlikely to confuse the dental practice with the clothing company.

THE DENTAL PRACTICE



*But what about those new
staff T-shirts at the dentist?*

headache and constipation.

The drug is thought to work by reducing craving and withdrawal symptoms from nicotine, with trials showing 23% of generally healthy, motivated smokers had quit smoking at one year - compared to 15% for those using bupropion and 10% for subjects taking a placebo.

Champix was made available on the PBS from 01 Jan, with a subsidy available for one 12-week course per patient per year.

It must be prescribed as part of a comprehensive program which includes smoking-cessation support and counselling to maximise its effectiveness.

See www.npsradar.org.au.

Vic exam dates

THE Pharmacy Board of Victoria has published details of the 2008 Registration Examination dates.

Open book oral examinations have been scheduled from 25 Feb, 30 Jun and 20 Oct-07 Nov, while the written examination (specified open book) APCAT is planned for 19 May, 18 Aug and 01 Dec 08.

Welcome to 2008!

WE have a great year ahead planned for *Pharmacy Daily*, Australia's first daily pharmacy publication.

Keep watching upcoming issues for new features, competitions and of course an interesting and entertaining read.

There are now almost 3000 people across the Australian pharmacy industry reading *PD* each day.

We're also keen for any reader contributions on how we can do better; give us your feedback on info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Stop snoring ruining your life

It's long been considered a joke in the bedroom but snoring can have serious consequences if left unchecked, affecting bedroom intimacy, work performance and general wellbeing. Snoring deprives sufferers of the sleep that experts say is vital to our physical and mental health, and essential for the normal functioning of all the systems of our body. Now a unique, patented anti-snoring device offers an easy-to-use solution that requires no specialist intervention.

The new aveoTSD™ is a tongue stabilizing device that's a simple and effective, clinically-proven medical aid for the treatment of snoring. Made from a soft, medical-grade silicone for comfort, the aveoTSD works by holding the tongue forward using natural suction. In this way, it prevents the tongue falling back into the back of the throat - part of the mechanics of snoring - and keeps the airway open during sleep.



More than 18,000 people worldwide are now successfully using the aveoTSD and are enjoying the natural health benefits that come with a good night's sleep.

Ask for the aveoTSD at your local pharmacy - the only oral anti-snoring medical aid that is available over-the-counter.

For further information phone 1300 300 330 or visit our website at www.aveotsd.com.au.

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