

Disinfectant moves

THE TGA is seeking comments on proposed changes to the regulation of hospital, household and commercial disinfectants.

Stakeholder info sessions will be held from 31 Mar, in response to a recommendation from a taskforce on Reducing Regulatory Burdens on Business.

More info www.tga.gov.au.

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NPS type 2 diabetes push

NATIONAL Prescribing Service is urging health professionals to be more aggressive in their management of patients with type 2 diabetes, with a new education program focusing on early use of insulin and oral antidiabetic drugs.

NPS said recent reports about the risks of thiazolidinedione use and patient resistance to insulin had created uncertainty about how to escalate treatment once control is no longer achieved with one or two oral agents.

NPS said early introduction of

Dental update

THE PSA is running a Dental Update for Pharmacists in Rockhampton on Wed 26 Mar 08.

Topics covered by speaker Dr Don Knowles, Principal Dentist of the Central Region Oral Health Services, will include fluoride and common mouth infections.

More info 07 3844 4900.

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insulin is optimal for reducing complications and maximising overall health, with a major thrust of the program advising pharmacists on how to initiate insulin "simply and safely."

ADEC approvals

THE Australian Drug Evaluation Committee has given its approval for the following new medications and indications:

- A new starting dose of 30mg of Merck Sharp & Dohme's *Arcoxia* tablets for osteoarthritis.
- Wyeth's *Torisel* injection for advanced renal cell carcinoma
- A new formulation and route of administration for Novartis' *Exelon/Prometax* transdermal drug delivery systems containing rivastigmine 9mg for dementia.
- A new indication for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis for Pfizer's *Celebrex*.
- Genzyme Australasia's *Myozyme* powder for injection containing alglucosidase alfa for the treatment of Pompe disease
- Pharmion's *Thalidomide Pharmion* capsules for the new indication of multiple myeloma.
- Novo Nordisk's *Levemir* penfill, flexpen and innolet injection solution for type 2 diabetes, and for use in children aged 6-17 years for type 1 diabetes.
- A change in the product information for GSK's *Avandia* to include safety data from the ADOPT study.
- New dosage regimens from Roche Products for its *Xeloda* tablet (capecitabine) colorectal cancer treatment.
- Bayer's *Nexavar* (sorafenib) for the new indication of advanced hepatocellular carcinoma.



DISPENSARY CORNER

OBSESITY has hit the Italian justice system, with a suspected Mafia member unable to be put in prison because he's too fat.

A court in Sicily has allowed 36-year-old Salvatore Ferranti to be placed under house arrest because "none of the five prisons that have held him have been able to guarantee respect for his dignity."

The 210-kg alleged gangster was attended around the clock by guards who had to "assist him in all his bodily functions," according to news agency AFP.

SECURITY staff at Munich Airport had an unusual find this week.

When the luggage of two Italian women was X-rayed, the airport police spotted a skull and human bones.

The women were in transit from Sao Paolo to Naples and after some investigation told officers they were carrying the remains of their brother, who had died in Brazil 11 years ago.

They explained that it was his wish to be buried in Italy, and after producing a valid death certificate were allowed to continue their journey.

PHARMACIES in Sweden will begin stocking sex toys, incl "massage oils and dildos" under a trial later this year.

Swedish chemists are run under a state-owned monopoly called Apoteket, with a spokesperson saying the firm had decided to introduce the products "because we know that sex is an important part of our well-being and our health."

Today's PD wine fact - number 26!

WELCOME to our regular *Pharmacy Daily* wine feature.

LIKE the many different shades of the rose, Rosé wines can range from a very pale pinkish-orange tinge to a very vivid purple colour, depending upon the grape variety and the winemaking techniques used.

There are two common methods used to create these wonderfully coloured wines.

The first method (called saignee) involves the pressing of red grapes, with the juice being left in contact with the skin of the grapes for a long enough period of time to extract the desired colour.

The juice is separated from the skins and the usual white wine fermentation process applies.

Highly pigmented grape varieties (such as Grenache and Cabernet Sauvignon) may need much less contact time, while lightly coloured grapes (such as Pinot Noir) need a day or two.

The other form of making Rosé is where there is a blending of finished red wine to white wine.

This is known as a "basic Rosé" and will tend to have a slightly unbalanced flavour.

While some of the best Rosés in the world are made in France, Australia has also mastered the art of saignee and has some brilliant Rosés.

Our speciality is the swash-buckling deep pinks and a great example of this is the 2007 Kirrihill Companions Clare Valley Rosé (RRP \$15, www.kirrihillwines.com.au).

Made from Grenache this wine has a vibrant pinkish-reddish colour.

The lively palate is full of sweet, red berry fruits, overlaid with a cranberry lift and a crisp and crunchy finish that leaves you feeling full but refreshed.

The 2006 Philip Shaw Pink Billy (RRP \$24, www.philipshaw.com.au) is another exciting wine.

Made from 85% Merlot and 15% Shiraz, Pink Billy is a serious Rosé with a silky, slightly lighter pink colour hiding a wine that is powerful of flavour and bright of fruit.

A mouthful of raspberries are blended with a soft peppery edge for real satisfaction.

The University of Sydney
Faculty of Pharmacy



2008 Pharmacy Practice Foundation Council Call for Nominations

The Foundation is calling for nominations for Council & Executive Committee positions.

Voting will take place at the Annual General Meeting of the Pharmacy Practice Foundation Office, Faculty of Pharmacy on **Wednesday 26 March 2008 at 7.30 pm**

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN WRITING PRIOR TO THE AGM
(BY 20 MARCH 2008)

To fill in your form visit our website: www.pharm.usyd.edu.au/ppf/about/council.shtml

For further information or to hand in your completed form, please contact:
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