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Forgery warning

PHARMACISTS in Sydney are being warned about a spate of forged prescriptions for MS Contin.

Melanie Hamilton of Blooms The Chemist in Edgecliff has alerted *PD* to the scripts today, saying the forgeries are computer generated, with the back of the script stating Multicare Family Medical Centre, Liverpool Rd Ashfield.

She said her pharmacy had seen scripts forged for Dr John Wen and Dr Richard Mason, and the phone numbers are also fake.

The police have advised they've seen the scripts forged for both 100mg and 80mg MS Contin.

MIMS goes mobile

MEDICAL information specialist MIMS will tonight launch its medication directory on PDA2, which allows all touch screen smart phones to be loaded with abbreviated medical information as well as MIMS DrugAlert interactions data.

"The portability and convenience of the MIMS suite of products on PDA2 will facilitate safe pharmaceutical prescribing and dispensing decisions anywhere," said MIMS national business manager Patrick McMahon.

He said the ready access to in-depth medical information would "also ensure a greater level of prescribing accuracy."

Guild Sigma training deal

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia and Sigma have formed a strategic alliance to jointly deliver a retail training program.

The national program is exclusively for Sigma's branded pharmacies (Amcal, Amcal Max and Guardian) and independent pharmacies aligned to its Embrace program.

Retail, health and personal development training modules will be delivered via a "face to face" platform, with attendees having access to on-line units.

"The objective of this alliance is to build on Sigma's current retail training programs by incorporating key health and professional topics," said Elmo

DeAlwis, Sigma ceo.

Guild and Sigma facilitators are expected to deliver 140 classroom-style sessions to 10,000 to 15,000 participants across Australia throughout the year.

Guild president Kos Sclavos said: "All pharmacy team members will benefit from this initiative, from the owner/pharmacist through to the next generation of new employees."

"The Pharmacy Guild is excited at the prospect of being able to deliver quality training to a significant number of pharmacy teams in 2008."

The Sigma Retail Training Program will be officially launched later this month.

New Guild logo

THE Pharmacy Guild has modernised its look with the announcement yesterday of a refreshed new logo.

The Guild websites have been updated with the new look which is pictured below.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia



DISPENSARY CORNER

A KIDNEY transplant recipient claims to have undergone a complete 'personality change' after receiving the new organ.

37-year-old Cheryl Johnson of Lancastershire in the UK says she's changed completely, with new characteristics picked up from the donor, a 59-year-old man who died suddenly.

"I have always loved books but I've started to read classics like Jane Austen and Dostoyevsky," she said.

US scientists have postulated a phenomenon they call "cellular memory" to explain personality changes claimed to be experienced by some transplant recipients.

THE latest industry to be hit by the obesity crisis is vehicle safety, with experts urging that children's car seats should be made bigger to cope with heavier children.

A study published this week showed that 37% of 633 children of the appropriate height who used booster seats in Australia exceeded the weight set down by Australian standards.

Booster seats are currently designed for youngsters weighing up to 26 kilograms, but safety experts want this limit raised to 36kg, because children aged 4-11 using adult seatbelts have increased risks of head and spinal injuries.



ABOVE: NZ healthcare company Comvita last week launched its new natural skincare range in Australia.

Pharmacy will be a key channel for the new products which contain Manuka honey and other natural ingredients, according to the company's general manager skincare Leigh Kite.

The range was developed in response to feedback from Comvita customers who urged the company to apply its expertise with Manuka honey to skincare.

Although the formulations contain honey, they don't leave a sticky residue and the range includes a cleanser, moisturiser,

body lotion, mist and soap.

The distinctive packaging of the products evokes their honey heritage, and recently won a number of design awards.

Kite told *PD* that retailers had already given the products a "strong vote of confidence" and said Huni was ideal for pharmacy.

Pictured above at the launch are Comvita's gm Australasia Di Ward, Rebecca Hutchison and Leigh Kite.



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