

On the agenda

COMMUNITY pharmacy will be in the spotlight at the first national state and territory health ministers meeting to be held this Fri in Tasmania.

National health minister Nicola Roxon said the meeting will address cost-shifting practices, such as making hospital patients go to community pharmacies to obtain their PBS medicines.

Federal budget eve

HEALTH is the hot topic of tomorrow's Federal Budget announcement, with the most controversy surrounding the raising of the Medicare threshold from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for singles, and \$150,000 for couples.

Health groups have warned this would lead to thousands opting out of private health insurance, placing greater pressure on the public health system.

Health Minister Nicola Roxon has also promised hefty funding for national preventative health strategy, with just 1.7% of the health budget currently spent on preventative healthcare. Indigenous, rural, dental, child and maternal health services will also receive a boost.

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Apotex Coversyl victory

A "NO brand substitution" stamp issued to doctors by Servier for its Coversyl (perindopril arginine) product has been found to be misleading or deceptive to pharmacists and patients.

Apotex brought a trade practices claim against Servier over the issue in Feb 2007, with judgement handed down last Fri.

The judge found that the stamp (pictured) and an associated

advertising campaign contravened

section 52 of the Trade Practices Act, citing a claim as to the 'improved stability' of the

Pharmacist faces drug charges

A RETIRED pharmacist in New Zealand is facing 12 charges over an alleged role in a methamphetamine operation.

Samuel Pulman, 68, is charged with making the drug 'P' (known in Australia as 'ice') with eight other people, and he faces separate charges of supplying and possessing pseudoephedrine and possessing drug-manufacturing equipment.

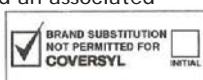
At the time of the alleged offending, between Jan 2006 and Dec 2007, Pulman worked at Unichem Pukekohe Pharmacy.

He has since been remanded on bail with a 24-hour curfew and is not allowed alcohol, drugs or to enter any pharmacy.

His lawyer said Pulman would defend the charges.

Two pages today

TODAY'S *Pharmacy Daily* includes a second page promoting access to MIMS on Telstra's Next G™ PDA.



Coversyl product as likely to mislead or deceive doctors.

Another ad which said the drug was 'Now indicated for stable coronary artery disease' was also misleading or deceptive.

Apotex has been fighting Servier's attempts to inhibit generic substitution for Coversyl for some time (PD 24 Sep).

Servier switched its Coversyl products from an erbumine salt to an arginine form, at the same time as targeting doctors with the aggressive anti-generic campaign.

The parties to this latest judgement now have 14 days to agree orders, with Apotex saying it will be seeking "permanent injunctive relief, a recall of the stamp, appropriate corrective advertising and damages."

GP's incentive plan

THE Federal Government is considering a plan to pay doctors an incentive if they provide longer consultations and keep more people out of hospital.

"We want to move prevention to the centre of our health system and, without GPs playing a more active role in prevention, that won't be possible," Health Minister Nicola Roxon told the Sunday Telegraph.

"One of the things we'll look at is whether we should introduce incentives to provide longer consultations, focused on helping people to eat better, exercise more and manage the threat posed by obesity and chronic diseases like diabetes.

Pharmacists are not mentioned in the proposal, which will be discussed at the Government's review of the Medicare schedule, later this year.

DISPENSARY CORNER

FARMERS in Estonia will be searching for a bovine version of De-Gas, after authorities slapped a new flatulence tax on the country's cows.

The so-called "fart tax" makes agricultural producers compensate the government for the greenhouse gases produced by their herds.

A single cow is thought to produce up to 1500 litres of CO₂ and 350 litres of methane every single day, and are responsible for 25% of Estonia's methane gas emissions.

A 55-YEAR-OLD US man survived breathing difficulties last week by giving himself a tracheotomy with a steak knife.

Steve Wilder has a shrunken throat after radiation treatments, and says seasonal allergies caused him to struggle to breathe - so he grabbed a knife and made an incision.

"I got relief right away. There was a big gush of blood and I was able to start sucking in air," he told ambulance officers.

SEE no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil...eat no evil.

The obesity crisis has hit a Japanese zoo, where a group of rhesus monkeys have been put on a strict diet after becoming grossly overweight.

Authorities at Ohama Park near Osaka said they've drastically cut the primates' daily food allowance to just 2kg per head - compared to the previous 10kg amount.

The park is also planning to build a fence to stop visitors throwing food to the monkeys.

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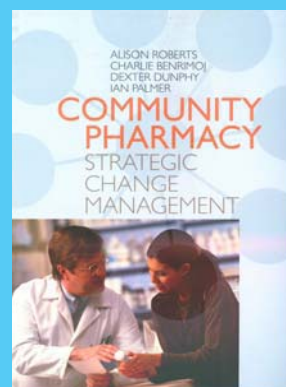
Community Pharmacy: Strategic Change Management has hit the book shelves!

The book, which covers the essential trends and issues in successful pharmacy management for today and the future has been written by S.I. (Charlie) Benrimoj, Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Sydney; Alison Roberts, a research fellow in the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney; Dexter Dunphy, Distinguished Professor and Ian Palmer, Associate Dean (Research) and Professor of Management at the Faculty of Business, University of Technology, Sydney.

The book will help community pharmacists and pharmacy owners adapt to an increasingly competitive retail environment by providing industry-specific tools for change.

Key features include authentic pharmacy case studies, development by world leading authorities utilising the latest research and balanced coverage with theoretical insights and practical focus.

The book is highly suitable for pharmacy students, providing the knowledge and skills for best practice in community pharmacy - [click here to view a list of bookstores stocking the publication.](#)



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