

More MBS audits

DOCTORS will be subject to increased audits for inappropriate billing for Medicare services.

The 2,000 extra annual audits on Medicare Benefits Schedule services aim to ensure doctors are fulfilling their requirements.

Medicare Australia will also be granted more power to compel doctors to produce evidence when asked to substantiate their Medicare billing.

"Doctors found to be billing items inappropriately will receive education on how to bill the relevant MBS items correctly," Minister for Human Services, Joe Ludwig said.

Drug subsidies

MULTIPLE sclerosis drug Tysabri will be subsidised to the tune of \$370m over four years, with other funding for Sensipar and Champix.

Two pages today

TODAY'S *Pharmacy Daily* includes our weekly Health, Beauty and New Products feature.

Federal budget's health kick

PHARMACY didn't rate a mention in last night's 2008-09 Federal Budget announcement, but almost every other area of healthcare was promised millions of dollars.

The Government will provide an extra \$1 billion for hospitals this year; \$600 million to cut elective surgery waiting lists; \$780 million for dental health; \$249 million to fight cancer; \$275 million for 31 GP 'super clinics'; and more than \$62 million for initiatives to prevent obesity.

Hospital facilities and equipment will be upgraded, particularly in regional and rural areas, while 8,750 nurses will be encouraged to return to the workforce.

Other initiatives expand support for obstetricians providing support in the bush, double the amount of placements of medical students in rural communities, additional rural scholarships, and an increase in



the supply of a skilled health workforce for rural, regional and remote areas.

More than \$25 million will cover health checks for four-year-old children; \$85 million for perinatal depression; and \$89.6 million to give Indigenous communities better access to child and maternal health services.

For the elderly, the govt is spending \$293 million to help improve patients' transition between hospital and aged care, and \$300 million for zero-interest loans to aged care providers.

New funding has also been earmarked to tackle alcohol abuse, smoking and the use of 'ice' and other illicit drugs.

Health Minister Nicola Roxon said the Government was delivering on its election commitments to "end the blame game" between the Commonwealth and States and Territories, eliminating overlaps and duplication, and to "reform the nation's health and hospitals system, providing better healthcare for working families".

"Keeping people healthy makes sound economic sense," said minister Roxon.

"After 11 years of neglect, there is much to be done."

Cash for new fund

A \$10 BILLION Health and Hospitals Fund will be established by the end of the year - the single biggest investment in health infrastructure ever made by an Australian Government.

The fund will support strategic investments in health including: health and hospital facilities and equipment; medical technology and equipment; and research facilities for projects trying to support better links between hospital-based clinical research and high-quality clinical practice.

Stockpile replenished

A STOCKPILE of vital drugs and equipment will be maintained to protect Australians in case of a major health emergency, such as natural and man-made disasters, terrorist attacks and pandemics.

The Government has committed \$166.5 million over two years in the 2008-09 Budget to replenish a reserve of vaccines, antibiotics, antiviral drugs, chemical and radiological antidotes and personal protective equipment.

The funding will go towards the replacement of expiring medicines and equipment in the national medical stockpile, including maintaining holdings of antivirals at 8.7 million courses and holdings of H5N1 influenza vaccines at 1.2 million doses.

The Government has also set aside \$2.1 million to replace 100,000 doses of H5N1 influenza vaccine that are due to expire this financial year.

MMR workshop

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (Victorian branch) is next month conducting a two-day Stage 1 Medication Management Review accreditation workshop.

This program, recognised by the AACP, allows participants to progress to Stage 2 assessment and accreditation.

Pharmacists are encouraged to take advantage of incentives offered for MMR accreditation: \$1,500 for achieving initial accreditation and \$750 for re-accreditation.

The workshop, to be held in Parkville on June 14-15 by Dr Jenny Gowan, Robyn Saunders and other pharmacists, will cover the four core competencies for AACP accreditation: clinical knowledge, communication, ethics and practice, and quality management - to register contact Kate at PSA (Vic) on 03 9389 4013 or kate.mann@psavic.com.au.

RGH Pharmacy

Due to popular demand the
RGH Pharmacy
Anticoagulation Handbook
is now available to the
pharmacy industry across Australia.

The handbook gives patients important information about warfarin treatment and has a chart to record INR results.

Repatriation General Hospital is making it available for purchase for \$2.80 per booklet, reduced to \$2.40 for PSA and SHPA members.

More information
chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au



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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy! Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Silver platter

ModelCo's Bow Couture Colour Palette is a stylish silver palette for customers who are always on the go. It comes with a signature etched bow design and contains four creamy eye shadows, a champagne lip gloss and a double-ended brush. The trans-seasonal colour collection makes this perfect for anytime, anywhere touch-ups.

RRP: \$49

Stockist: ModelCo, Tel: (02) 8354 6700



Moroccan magic

Discover the olfactory richness of the most splendid of flowers with Givenchy's Harvest perfume. Morocco's *rosa damascene* weaves top notes of star anise and verbena in perfect middle accord with sophisticated tea rose and mingles with patchouli for an intense base.

RRP: \$150

Stockist: Givenchy, Tel: (02) 9695 4800

Two-texture concealer

Napoleon Patrol Conceal It combines two formulae with one all-purpose skin tone shade. Armed with the benefits of two textures, the cream formula targets dehydration zones, such as the delicate eye area, while the matte formula spot checks imperfections for a flawless finish.

RRP: \$35

Stockist: Napoleon Perdis, Tel: 1800 814 572



Hair survival kit

Keep your hair in control when you're on the go with the Lady Jayne Hair Essentials Kit. It contains hair's basic survival accessories in six vibrant colours to match any outfit. Each kit has four 'snagless' elastics, two one-touch clips and six bobby pins.

RRP: \$4.99

Stockist: McPherson's Consumer Products, Tel: 1800 651 146

New source of omega-3

OmegaGen is a new source of omega-3 that contains unique phospholipids, is rich in antioxidants, and possesses two essential omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids, EPA and DHA. It contains patented Neptune Krill Oil (NKO), which has more than 300 times the antioxidant power of vitamins A and E. Studies also claim that NKO is better than fish oil in reducing the risk of cardiovascular events, while manufacturers claim it can reduce arthritic inflammation.

RRP: \$34.95 (30 capsules) and \$59.95 (60 capsules)

Stockist: Inovail, Tel: 1800 642 646



DISPENSARY CORNER

UNDERAGE smokers in Japan will be very frustrated with new technology which enables cigarette machines to inhibit sales to young people.

The machines have a special camera which examines users' facial characteristics - and can spot a range of signs of maturity including sagging skin and wrinkles around the eyes.

Anyone judged by the machines to be aged less than 20 won't be able to use the machines.

Manufacturer Fujitaka claims the technology will help reduce smoking rates among teenagers.

In Japan a recent survey found that 13% of boys and 4% of girls aged 17 or 18 smoked daily.

AN ITALIAN man who falsely claimed to be a dentist for years has been arrested, after one of his patients called police complaining about severe pain following a routine procedure.

40-year-old Alvaro Perez reportedly had hundreds of clients on his books, despite having no dental qualifications whatsoever.

A police raid found a do-it-yourself power drill, electrical pliers, screwdrivers and other household tools in his surgery - as well as no signs of any anaesthetic equipment.

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