

Child fever survey

TODAY'S *Pharmacy Daily* includes a full page from GlaxoSmithKline about treatment of fever in children (see p2).

The pharmacy industry is also being surveyed on what recommendations are made to customers about treating childhood fevers.

Click here to give your opinion on fever therapy

'Real' pharmacy training centre

NATIONAL Pharmacies has opened a dedicated staff training facility in South Australia with a section set up like one of its stores, complete with shelving and a register.

The company has designed a three-tiered training scheme for pharmacy assistants in this 'real' environment to help ease the transition out of the classroom.

The centre at Kidman Park allows three sessions to be run concurrently, and will also help train in optical dispensing.

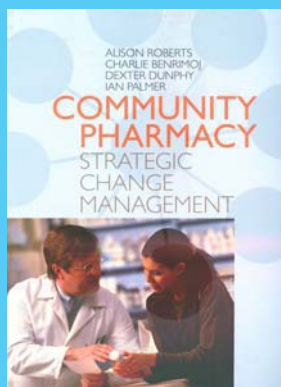
The company said the facility would also be used to deliver beauty training and development programs for pharmacy managers.

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Generic Health expands

MELBOURNE-based Generic Health will expand its portfolio after signing an exclusive distribution deal with global generics player Actavis.

Actavis, founded in Iceland in 1956, operates in 40 countries and has about 650 products on the market, with a further 350 in the pipeline.

"The partnership with Generic Health is an important milestone for our entrance into the Australian market," said Actavis vice president Asia-Pacific Thomas Runkel.

All about Botox

THIS week's Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy E-Bulletin gives an overview of Botulinum toxin type A - which as well as being widely used in the cosmetic industry is also PBS listed as a section 100 item.

The bulletin is available free via chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au.

Rural locum call

THE Rural Pharmacy Workforce Program is calling for tenders for its Emergency Locum Service.

The service is funded under the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement and aims to provide support to pharmacists in rural and remote areas of Australia, through direct access to locums in emergency situations.

The tender is calling for organisations to manage the Emergency Locum Service on behalf of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

The closing date for applications is Mon 16 Jun 08; copies of the documentation can be obtained by emailing michelle.quester@guild.org.au.



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DISPENSARY CORNER

KIDS say the darnedest things.

Staff at a Sydney hospital told PD of a recent incident where a caucasian mother gave birth to her third child, and the excited older siblings, aged six and two, came to visit their new brother.

The six-year-old was thrilled to meet the baby, making the typical first-grade older sister comment that "maybe he'll be an academic."

Mum's response was that he's probably too little to determine that at the moment - to which the two-year-old responded, saying that "Maybe he'll be an Asian."

A PASSENGER travelling through Tokyo's Narita Airport last weekend may have taken home an 'unusual herbal remedy'.

Customs officials reportedly hid a package of cannabis inside a suitcase belonging to a traveller arriving from Hong Kong, as part of a training exercise for sniffer dogs.

Unfortunately the dogs didn't do their job properly, and officials also lost track of the bag meaning the cannabis disappeared.

Although special training luggage is supposed to be used, in this case the package was hidden in a "real" bag to make the exercise harder.

"The dogs have always been able to find it before," said a Customs spokesman.

"I became overconfident that it would work," he added, urging anyone who finds the package to contact Tokyo customs as soon as possible.

Get your copy of *Community Pharmacy* today!

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.](#)



Take aim against pain

Alternating paracetamol with ibuprofen for fever: Where's the evidence?

Alternating paracetamol with ibuprofen is reported to be the latest parental method for controlling fever.¹ This practice is also common amongst healthcare professionals.² Some authors refute this practice, claiming that "no data support the efficacy of the practice,"³ whilst others highlight that advice is inconsistent leading to confusion and frustration among parents, nurses and doctors.⁴

Why do parents alternate antipyretics?

- Nine out of 10 caregivers believe that raised temperatures may cause harmful effects.⁵
- Nine out of 10 parents reduce temperatures ranging from 37.0°C to 40.0°C (mean 38.3°C, SD 0.63) with over-the-counter medications.⁶
- When parents do not perceive the temperature reduction from one medication to be sufficient, they administer a second medication 1-2 hours later.¹

Is there any advantage to alternating paracetamol and ibuprofen for fever reduction?

- Four studies have been conducted to evaluate the efficacy and safety of alternating paracetamol and ibuprofen.⁷⁻¹⁰
- These studies have consistently found that alternating paracetamol and ibuprofen provides little or no advantage over monotherapy.¹¹
- The current consensus of opinion is that there is not enough evidence to support this practice.^{3,4,11,12}

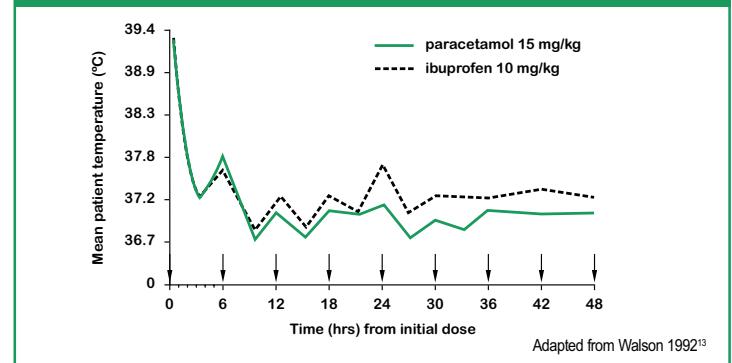
*"There's still not enough evidence to support prescribing paracetamol and ibuprofen in combination or alternately."*⁴



Is one antipyretic preferred over another for monotherapy?

- The currently available literature demonstrates the efficacy of antipyretic monotherapy for fever reduction.³
- Paracetamol monotherapy provides fast, effective fever relief.¹³

Figure 1. Mean patient temperatures in a multiple dose study during which patients received paracetamol (15 mg/kg) or ibuprofen (10 mg/kg) every 6 hours for 48 hours. Downward arrows (↓) indicate when medication was administered.



What are the implications for Pharmacy practice?

- Fever without other symptoms does not generally need to be treated. Treatment should be considered if a fever is associated with pain, discomfort or if the child is miserable.^{14,15}
- Parents should be advised to watch for signs of development of potential serious problems (vomiting, irritability, lethargy, apathy) and seek further medical advice if a fever persists for more than 48 hours or if the child's condition deteriorates.¹⁴
- Choose and recommend one drug, give maximal dosage and use caution and realism in managing fever in a child.¹²

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Take aim

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in managing fever in children

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