

CPD to your inbox

SOUTH Australia's Repatriation General Hospital has today launched an "exciting new development" which will allow pharmacists to use its regular free Pharmacy E-Bulletin to gain Continuing Professional Development recognition.

The weekly bulletin is now in its seventh year of production, with more than 350 editions read by thousands of people in about 30 countries across the globe.

The new RGH E-Bulletin CPD digest will optionally be made available to subscribers for a nominal charge of \$55+GST.

They will then receive a brief (8 item) quiz which can be completed online or by fax, with a quarterly certificate of participation provided.

"It is likely that pharmacists using the service will be able to claim significant credits for CPD purposes," said Associate Professor Chris Alderman, who runs the E-Bulletin program.

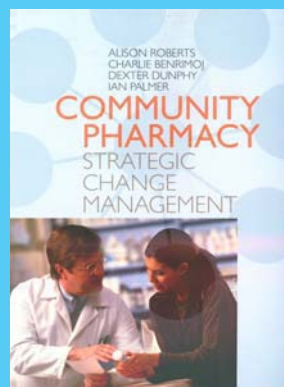
He said initial discussions with the Pharmacy Board of South Australia indicated that users would be able to claim 3 Enrich credit points per month - [info via chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:info@chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au).

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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.](#)

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\$30m claim over PBS cuts

PHARMACEUTICAL manufacturers say a request from the health department to drop prices ahead of the 01 Aug introduction of the PBS changes will cost them up to \$30m.

Earlier this month an official wrote to manufacturers asking them to ensure price cuts were "seamlessly affected across the various sectors in the supply chain," according to today's *Financial Review*.

Pharmacists are managing stock with the expectation that prices would drop from 18 Jul, but Sigma ceo Elmo de Alwis says

manufacturers and wholesalers appear to have been "overlooked" in the negotiations, creating uncertainty in the supply chain.

The failure to confirm transitional arrangements has left wholesalers and manufacturers with a dilemma - they're not legally obliged to cut prices until 01 Aug but "that would not endear them to either pharmacists or consumers," according to Guild president Kos Sclavos.

Run, fatty, run...

AUSTRALIANS are getting fatter by the minute and it could take up to 10 years to stop our stomachs growing.

Thirty years of bad diets, lessening exercise and reliance on our motor vehicles for transport has seen a "huge reduction in activity" according to Dr Rob Moodie, chairman of the Federal Government's National Preventive Health Taskforce.

More than 3 million Australians are currently obese with that figure estimated to rise to more than 7 million by 2025 - and the annual cost of obesity has been estimated to be \$21 billion.

"That's sort of happened without us noticing," Dr Moodie said.

"The fact that we've lost even the stairs in our buildings, we've become so car-dependent, our kids don't walk to school anymore.

"These are all major challenges that we need to confront over the next one year, the next two years, the next 10 years."

The taskforce, formed in April, held its first meeting in Canberra yesterday, with the seven-member group charged with developing a national preventive health strategy by June next year.

Clexane recall

SANOFI-AVENTIS has clarified that pharmacists are being advised to return any affected batches of Clexane to their wholesalers (PD yesterday) who will in turn pass them onto the manufacturer.

Stop the Clot!

WITH blood clots killing at least 2,000 people each year, health minister Nicola Roxon has launched a new prevention program to stop potentially lethal blood clots in private hospitals.

Hospital patients are 25 times more likely to develop a blood clot than air travellers, with about 30,000 Australians hospitalised each year due to blood clots.

Titled *Stop the Clot*, the program was developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council's National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS) and successfully implemented in over 40 public hospitals nationally.

Now NICS is working with the private hospital sector to reduce the incidence of blood clots in private hospitals.

DISPENSARY CORNER

ADVANCED Medical Institute, the company which relentlessly promotes its erectile dysfunction treatments with tasteless and embarrassing radio commercials and billboards, is claiming a church's spoof of its ads is a "divine endorsement".

AMI has a billboard erected across the street from St Barnabas Anglican Church on Broadway in Sydney, with the ad carrying the infamous slogan 'Want longer lasting SEX?'

St Barnabas has countered with its own message that reads: 'Want something longer lasting than SEX? The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases - Bible: Lamentations 3.22'.

AMI ceo Jack Vaisman insisted the St Barnabas sign was "evidence the church supports healthy love lives."

HEALTH professionals need to make sure they check those baby bracelets in hospital.

A 35-year-old Spanish twin is suing the Canary Islands government over a mix-up in 1973 that saw her sent home with the wrong mother at birth.

The woman's suspicions were raised last year when she was mistaken for somebody else while shopping, and after some inquiry found out that she was in fact mistaken for the identical twin she had never met.

The woman grew up alongside another girl, believing they were twins, and is now claiming 3 million euros (about \$5 million) for emotional trauma over the incident.