

## ADRAC issues colchicine warning

THE TGA's Adverse Drug Reactions Advisory Committee has today issued its latest bulletin, including a reiteration of previous warnings about fatal interactions and reactions with colchicine, used to treat acute gout.

ADRAC said colchicine is best avoided if patients are taking drugs that inhibit CYP3A4 or have renal or hepatic impairment.

The bulletin also has a reminder of tendon disorders associated with the use of fluoroquinolone antibiotics, as well as reports of hyponatraemia in association with various medicines - see the bulletin at [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).



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## \$1.9m loss for HIP parent

HEALTH Corporation, the listed parent company of franchise group Health Information Pharmacy, today revealed a loss of \$1.89m for the year to 30 Jun.

The company said that after a major restructure of its operations it "continues to transition into profitability," with the departure from the group of "several non complying stores."

The figures also show a provision for bad debts of \$570,000, including impaired trade receivables and non-repayment of loans.

However the company said its

performance was improving, with a loss for the second half of the year of \$290,000, compared to a first half loss of \$832,000.

During the year four new HIP stores opened, including its new Victorian flagship in the Melbourne CBD.

"The company continues to invest heavily in the expansion of the network and the support of existing franchisees," it said, with a number of projects under way "which upon completion are likely to make significant impact to the ongoing success of the business."

## GSK to cut R&D

GLAXOSMITHKLINE yesterday announced the loss of 850 jobs in research and development in its operations in the US and UK, with the cuts concentrated in preclinical and early stage teams.

## APP09 website

THE 18th annual Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and trade Exhibition will take place on the Gold Coast 2-5 Apr.

A special website for next year's event is now online at [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com).

## QUM workshop

THE NSW branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is once again running its popular QUM in Aged Care Homes workshop on 16 Nov at the Mercure Hotel Sydney Airport.

The workshop contains new content and will prepare pharmacists to deliver a range of QUM services as well as providing an update of RMMR business rules.

More info 02 9431 1124.

## Knife hold-ups

A PHARMACIST was held up at knifepoint on Sunday afternoon by a barefoot man demanding cash and drugs.

The Amcal Day and Night Chemist in a busy street in Cairns, was robbed at about 2.20pm.

The man, wearing shorts, t-shirt, a large hat and no shoes, pulled out a knife and demanded the pharmacy's safes be opened.

He was given money and drugs by the pharmacist and pharmacy assistant before he escaped.

Police praised the staff for following correct procedures.

MEANWHILE in Sydney's southwest a knife was also used to threaten a pharmacist working in a shopping centre in West Hoxton last night.

Nobody was injured in the robbery, with the assailant fleeing the store with a small amount of cash and prescription medication.

Police are looking for a man described as being 18-20 years old, of Middle Eastern appearance and of medium build.

## API reaffirms earnings guidance

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries yesterday issued a statement refuting a *Financial Review* report that it's facing a 'black hole' due to systemic issues, citing a publication by investment bank UBS.

API said it hadn't been consulted before the publication of the article and denied that it had encountered any problems.

The company reaffirmed previous financial guidance which estimated earnings before interest and tax of \$49-\$50m.

API said it's "continuing to make progress in building its base in pharmaceutical wholesaling and in growing its Priceline brand."

## Two pages today

TODAY'S *Pharmacy Daily* has two pages including our regular Health, Beauty and New Products feature - see p2.

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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](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au).

### Beauty on the inside

Qsilica is a premium grade silica supplement for hair and nails. Different to most other silica supplements, it's a colloidal suspension of microscopic particles of mineral silica. Colloidal minerals may be used by the body to promote the growth of strong, healthy hair and nails. Available in 500ml gel or 50 capsules.

RRP: \$29.95

Stockist: Planet Health

Tel: 1800 064 953



### Flex and shave

Remington introduces the 360 Rotary Shaver range for the ultimate in high-tech shaving. Featuring 360-degree flex and pivot technology and world-first Teflon-coated heads, men can experience one of the smoothest, closest, most comfortable shaves.

RRP: \$153.95

Stockist: Remington

Tel: 1800 623 118

### Groom in style

Manicare has eight new beauty tools for on-the-go women: a five-piece nail grooming kit (pictured); heated eyelash curler; eyeliner brush with line smudger; cuticle trimmer and pusher; and soothing eye gels that look like slices of cucumber. There is also the first-to-market automatic nail polisher, which files and buffs with the flick of a switch.

RRP: \$4.95 - \$24.95

Stockist: Manicare

Tel: 1800 651146



### Refreshed Feet

This fabulous Neat Feet Foot Scrub Soap contains a walnut crush and kiwi fruit seeds that act as an exfoliant to gently slough off dead skin. It will leave your feet feeling smooth and sensational.

RRP: \$5.95

Stockist: [www.neatfeat.co.nz](http://www.neatfeat.co.nz)

### Roll on Foot Deodorant

The world's first deodorant for your feet, this brilliant product prevents excessive foot perspiration and eliminates foot odour. It also helps prevent nasty foot infections that are more prevalent in summer including tinea. It improves foot hygiene and foot comfort. The deodorant contains moisturising agents to prevent the feet from cracking, and the active ingredient aluminium is the most effective antiperspirant available.

RRP: \$10.95

Stockist: [www.neatfeat.co.nz](http://www.neatfeat.co.nz)



### Dry clean hair

Batiste Blush Dry Shampoo is used between washes or to prolong a blowdry. The feminine fragrance leaves hair smelling and looking fresh in seconds - without stepping in the shower. Hold 30cm from the hair and spray evenly, then lightly massage scalp and brush through.

RRP: \$8.95

Stockist: Frostbland

Tel: 02 8709 8800



### DISPENSARY CORNER

POLIDENT certainly came in handy for a Croatian man, who survived an attack by a gunman when a bullet got caught in his false teeth.

Stipe Cavlovic was involved in an argument with a man who pulled out a gun and fired.

The bullet deflected off the cheek of Cavlovic's wife and "the next thing I knew was something hit my false tooth and I spat out the hot lead.

"It hurt like hell but we're both still alive," he said.

THIS pregnancy certainly came as a surprise.

A 71-year-old US man who was admitted to hospital in Oregon with abdominal pains last week was somewhat overcome when doctors told him he was going to have a baby.

It turns out a glitch in the hospital's computer meant he was given the wrong discharge note.

THE obesity crisis has spread to an aquarium in Japan, where zookeepers say they plan to put their portly porpoises on a diet.

The move follows comments from audiences at Kinosaki Marine World in the western Hyogo prefecture that the aquatic mammals weren't jumping as high into the air as previously.

The dumpy dolphins have been enjoying a feast of fatty mackerels, with officials saying they will instead offer other, more slimming kinds of fish.

In the meantime patrons are being asked to "please be lenient with them as they are making efforts to lose weight."

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