

Pharmacy DAILY

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PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

Chemsave 7% off

BUYING group Chemsave launched a new 7% PBS discount offer at APP, saying it's the highest discount level offered in Australia.

National sales manager David Patton told **PD** that Chemsave is "all about choice" with no fixed allocations, a wide range of optional programs and fees from \$295 per month.

The firm said its offerings can boost gross profit by up to 2%.

CSO "vital" for PBS access

THE Community Service Obligation payments to wholesalers are playing a vital role in ensuring continued access to the full range of PBS medicines throughout Australia - particularly to rural and remote pharmacies.

That's the finding of an expert analysis of the CSO system, outlined at APP on Fri by Professor Ian Harper, who's a senior

NUROFEN JUST GOT FASTER

THAN STANDARD NUROFEN



TWICE AS FAST

NUROFEN ZAVANCE

ABSORBED UP TO TWICE AS FAST AS STANDARD NUROFEN

And the winner is...

CONGRATULATIONS to Jo Carter of Gambier City Pharmacies in South Australia, who was the lucky winner of an Apple iPod touch in **Pharmacy Daily's** competition at the APP conference on the Gold Coast over the weekend.

Hundreds of attendees at the conference visited our stand in the exhibition and signed up to receive **PD** each day.

Welcome to our new subscribers and thanks to the many existing readers who said hello during the conference too - we very much value your support.

TGA adopts BP2009

THE Therapeutic Goods Committee has resolved out-of-session to recommend that British Pharmacopoeia 2009 should be specified in an Order made under the definition of 'British Pharmacopoeia' in the TGA Act as "the edition of that standard in force with effect 1 June 2009".

The Pharmacy of the Year!



NICK Logan and his staff (above) just couldn't wipe the grins off their faces on Fri at the APP conference after Nick Logan Pharmacist Advice of Artarmon, NSW was named the overall winner of the 2009 Pharmacy of the Year award.

There were three categories in the awards: the Small Pharmacy category, for pharmacies with fewer than eight full-time equivalent staff; the Large Pharmacy category for bigger pharmacies, and the People's Choice award which was selected by voting from the general public.

You Save Chemist Macquarie Centre in North Ryde, NSW won the People's Choice award.

The Large and Small pharmacy categories were judged by independent arbiters - Graham Perl of Johnson and Johnson Consumer Healthcare, and Marek Malter, a retired pharmacy owner from Maleny in Queensland.

The Large Pharmacy category was won by Chemmart Sorell of Sorell, Tasmania, with other finalists in this section including Priceline Pharmacy Kiama and Washington

H. Soul Pattinson Pharmacy in Pitt St, Sydney.

As well as being the overall winner, Nick Logan Pharmacist Advice from Artarmon won the Small Pharmacy category with the other finalists including Dodges Ferry Pharmacy near Hobart, Tasmania and Gove Pharmacy in the East Arnhem region of the Northern Territory.

Guild President Kos Sclavos said he was delighted with the "level of innovation and excellence in the delivery of healthcare services demonstrated by the finalists, as well as their outreach to customers and the local community."

All the finalists made short presentations at APP with the winners congratulated by Federal Minister for Human Services, the Hon. Joe Ludwig.

Judge Graham Perl congratulated Nick Logan Pharmacist Advice, saying "excellence and innovation are clearly seen in every aspect of its executions, including the deep understanding of the local demography and creative ideas for the expansion of the business."

consultant with Access Economics.

Harper told delegates that the CSO had worked well, with distributors now ranging more PBS medicines than ever before.

"The CSO has secured the future of full line wholesaling without blocking competition from other suppliers," he said.

The Access Economics analysis also found that the government had more than recouped efficiency gains made by the wholesalers from higher volumes through the CSO distributor pool.

He was backed up by Sigma Pharmaceuticals ceo Elmo de Alwis, representing the National Pharmaceutical Services Association, who stressed the importance of maintaining the CSO into the future "as it ensures wholesalers will continue to stock and supply all PBS items."

The CSO was introduced in 2006 as part of the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement, and its success is expected to see the Guild pushing for its retention as part of the Fifth Agreement which will be negotiated with the government this year.

"Were the CSO not to continue or not to be resourced adequately, two classes of Australians would quickly emerge: those who have access to PBS medicines when they need them; and those who don't," the Guild said in a statement.

Genzyme Bayer deal

GENZYME Corporation has signed an agreement under which it will acquire the rights to Bayer Healthcare's portfolio of haematologic oncology drugs.

The move will see Genzyme add MabCampath (alemtuzamab) and Fludara (fludarabine) to its range, with both medications indicated for the treatment of B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukaemia.

The drugs are approved in many markets around the world including Australia, the USA and Europe.

Genzyme and Bayer said they'd work closely together to allow for an orderly transition of drug sales and distribution, with Genzyme Australasia managing director Dan Brown saying his company was "proud of its reputation of bringing innovative treatments to people with debilitating, and often life-threatening diseases."

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Dithrasal recall

THE TGA this morning announced the urgent recall of two batches of Dermatech Laboratories' Dithrasal ointment, used for the treatment of sub acute and chronic psoriasis of the scalp and body.

The affected batches are Dithrasal 1% (dithranol 10mg/g) ointment 50g tube, batch number 6A49 expiry date July 2009, and Dithrasal 2% (dithranol 20mg/g) ointment 50g tube, batch number 34526 expiry March 2011.

The TGA said the batches are being recalled because they contain higher than permitted levels of 1,8 dihydroxyanthraquinone (DHAQ) which has been associated with the development of tumours in animal studies.

Epidemiological studies haven't shown a link between DHAQ and tumours in humans, but the product is being recalled as a precaution to avoid any potential safety risk to consumers.

Wound campaign

THE Australian Wound Management Association has launched a public awareness campaign with an online petition urging the government to fund wound products and treatments via the PBS, saying that in many cases people with chronic wounds go without treatment because of cost.

The campaign is being fronted by author Bryce Courtenay; more info www.elephantintheroom.com.au.

Govt to streamline audits

THE Health Department is hoping to lessen the impact of Medicare Australia PBS audits on pharmacies by "addressing potential issues at a much earlier stage."

Minister for Human Services, Joe Ludwig, told the APP conference on Fri that new processes would build on the success of PBS Online, which had been taken up by pharmacy "much faster than expected" with more than 97% of community pharmacies using the system, and 98.2% of scripts now lodged online.

Ludwig said that Medicare would introduce new processes, in response to feedback during audits of pharmacies about the length of time taken to approach them with the scripts extracted from claims.

A new streamlined procedure means that if claims information may indicate non-compliance valued at under \$5000, Medicare will make contact with the pharmacy and seek an explanation on the basis of the electronic data alone.

"In cases over \$5,000 a sample of 10% of the documents will be reviewed before making contact with the pharmacy and seeking an explanation," he said.

However in any situation where the pharmacy requests a document review, the documents will be retrieved and reviewed.

Ludwig also said the PBS Online

success had encouraged the gov't to also offer subsidies for the design, development or roll-out of solutions which integrate Medicare's Easclaim system with doctors' practice management software.

Ludwig also outlined some details of the Unique Health Identifier (UHI), one of the "fundamental building blocks for e-health" which will be used to confidently and uniquely identify people and organisations involved in health care across Australia" - including pharmacists and pharmacies.

Registered pharmacists will be entitled to a number which will remain with them throughout their practicing lifetime and the functionality being provided through the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Full UHI services are expected to be operational by 2010, he said.

Barcode warning

THE Pharmacy Board of NSW says it's concerned that pharmacies are "in many cases" not using barcode scanners, despite the devices being attached to the dispensing station.

The Board cited a complaint from a member of the public who had been the victim of several dispensing errors involving combination product Karvezide 300/25, as a result of mis-reading of the prescription or selection errors, where the label was attached to Karvezide 300.12.5.

Karvezide 300/25 and Avapro HCT 300/25 are prescribed much less frequently than the lower strength 300/12.5 products, but "the number of combination products is on the rise...and it is essential that all pharmacists make themselves fully aware of the range of combination products on the market," the Board said.

"These errors also point out that some pharmacies are somewhat dismissive of the requirement for barcode scanners in the dispensary.

"Scanners do not replace careful checking of prescriptions by the pharmacist...but a selection error will be identified by scanning the product barcode after the label has been produced and the pharmacist can then rectify the error before it becomes an issue for the patient,"



DISPENSARY CORNER

POLICE in Germany are looking for a thief who attempted to steal 68 tubes of toothpaste from a supermarket in the northern city of Rostock.

A shop assistant noticed the man's bulging jacket, grabbing him when he refused to stop and causing the toothpaste tubes to spill on the floor.

A police spokesperson confirmed the regional manhunt, saying "We don't know if he had bad teeth."

LAVENDER has been found to be an ideal perfume to reduce anxiety - but only if you're a woman.

The British Psychological Society reported on a study in which volunteers were given capsules containing lavender before watching a scary film.

Women who took lavender were more relaxed during the horror movie - but men displayed more symptoms of stress, including sweaty palms, after taking the plant extract.

The gender difference is intriguing, with previous research indicating that lavender could have such a soothing effect that dentists have been advised to have lavender in their waiting rooms in the hope that the fragrance will reduce anxiety in patients waiting for treatment.

WIN TAN IN A CAN

Le Tan has again teamed up with *Pharmacy Daily* giving readers the chance to win a can of the new **Le Tan Jet Dry** over the next two weeks.

Le Tan Jet Dry is the perfect last minute tan solution that can be applied before work or a night out on the town with the confidence it will be completely dry and ready when clothing is put on three minutes later.

Le Tan Jet Dry is infused with vanilla fragrance making it one of the most pleasantly scented tans available.

Each 100g can retails for \$12.99, and to receive your very own can for FREE, simply send through the correct answer to the following question:

How much is Le Tan Jet Dry?

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

The first correct entry received each day will win the prize, so get those entries in quick!

Hint: Visit the Le Tan website at: www.letanfast.com.au.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Gerald Lian** of **United Discount Chemists Alice Springs** who was Friday's winner.



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