



Cosmetic blemish

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has ordered Natural Products of Australia Pty Ltd to publish corrective notices after an investigation found incorrect labelling on its range of *Natural Instinct* and *Organic Instinct* hair and skin care products.

Chemicals such as sodium laureth sulphate, cocamide DEA and cetrimonium chloride weren't listed, leading to concerns that consumers, particularly those with allergies, weren't able to make "informed purchasing decisions."

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Guild calls for award action

THE NSW branch of the Pharmacy Guild has asked its members to urgently advise which of a number of possible options they would like the Guild to pursue in relation to the Award Modernisation legislation.

About 50% of pharmacies in NSW are operated under a corporate structure which will be affected by the proposed new awards, which if accepted will see increased penalty rates for weekends and public holidays, "much less flexibility than in current awards" and "highly regulated employment arrangements."

A circular to members lists the pros and cons of a number of possible options including a "Multi Business Agreement", a "Multi Enterprise Agreement", an

Coeliac vaccine

RESEARCHERS at Melbourne's Walter and Eliza Hall Institute have developed an experimental vaccine to treat coeliac disease, and will this month begin a phase 1 clinical trial of the inoculation.

Screening tests have shown that about 1 in 100 Australians have a predisposition to develop coeliac disease, with the only current treatment being a strict lifelong gluten free diet.

UK online warning

ONE in four British GPs has treated patients for adverse reactions to medicines bought on the internet, according to a study released in the UK this week.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain said the staggering figures show that the public is clearly unaware of the risks of purchasing medicines online.

The society has created a special 'Intenet Pharmacy' logo which is available for use by bona fide pharmacy websites where patients can safely purchase medicines.

"Employee Collective Agreement", relying on transitional provisions, decorporatisation or doing nothing.

The first option, a Multi Business Agreement which would cover all participating pharmacies, must be authorised by the Workplace Authority and the Guild says it will only pursue this if enough members express an interest in it by next Mon so the documentation can be lodged before the end of the month.

Sanofi buys BiPar

SANOFI-AVENTIS has announced the acquisition of privately held US biopharmaceutical firm BiPar Sciences, which is developing "novel tumour-selective approaches for the treatment of different types of cancers."

New COPD guidelines

THE Australian Lung Foundation has launched new guidelines for the management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

The updated document says pharmacists are well placed to assist in management of COPD, including helping smokers quit by advising about nicotine replacement as well as counselling patients requesting OTC salbutamol.

"They are well placed to monitor for medication problems and complications and suggest solutions (e.g. individual dosing dispensers," the report says.

See www.copdx.org.au.

Fitness Expo today

THE Australian Fitness Expo kicks off today at Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour.

It's the 14th year of operation for the Expo which features a number of different sections including spa & wellness, an Endota spa studio, natural therapy treatment booths, and 300 exhibitors.

It's open from 10am each day until Sunday - more info at www.fitnessexpo.com.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

THE obesity crisis around the world appears to be very literally affecting the bottom line of a number of airlines, with plans afoot to charge overweight passengers extra to fly.

Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair is currently running a passenger survey to determine what the next extra charge it will apply will be..

The airline, which has already cut out such luxuries as airport check-in desks and in-flight sick bags, said that so far 40% of voters are backing a so-called 'Fat Tax' which will see extra costs apply to overweight passengers, based on their Body Mass Index.

Other optional charges which have been popular in the poll include a suggested £3 charge to smoke in an airport toilet cubicle.

A Ryanair spokesman said he was delighted with the number of votes cast so far, but urged "more passengers, especially those who may be a little larger, to vote before the poll closes on Friday."

AND on the other side of the Atlantic, US carrier United Airlines is also targeting so-called "customers of size".

USA Today reports that customer service representatives at O'Hare International Airport check-in desks and gates have been told to be "extra vigilant" for passengers they deem to be overweight.

Travellers who are "unable to comfortably fasten a safety belt with one extension, or sit comfortably with armrests down" will not be allowed to board a flight unless they buy an extra seat, the report said - "even if the large passenger can be placed elsewhere in the aircraft next to an empty seat."

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