



First aid for carers

THE Federal govt has announced a one-off \$114,000 grant to St John Ambulance in order to help provide first aid courses for carers.

The grant will help fund the design and delivery of a course with "flexible practical and online components," designed for people voluntarily caring for frail elderly or disabled relatives or friends.

**UNDISCOVERED,
UNSPOILED,
UNBELIEVABLE.**

9 night Niue holidays staying at the Matavai Resort from only \$1,769pp* ex Mel, Syd or Bne

For more info contact Coral Seas Travel on (02) 8913 0793 or 1800 641 803

*Conditions Apply



PBS prescribing for nurses

NURSE practitioners are set to be given PBS prescribing rights, under reforms expected to be announced as part of next month's federal budget.

The move will be promoted as improving the accessibility of health services, particularly in rural and remote areas, with the prescribing limited to a range of common medications, mostly relating to minor ailments, according to News Limited reports this morning.

Currently there are about 350 nurse practitioners in Australia and they are able to write prescriptions

FDA orders label warnings for NSAIDs

THE US Food and Drug Administration has ordered makers of OTC pain relievers to revise their labelling to include warnings about potential risks such as internal bleeding and liver damage.

The ruling covers a range of products including acetaminophen as well as NSAIDs such as aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen and ketoprofen.

The revised labelling requirement applies to all OTC pain relievers and fever reducers, including those that contain one of the affected compounds in combination with other ingredients, such as cold medicines.

Manufacturers must ensure that the active ingredients of the drugs are prominently displayed on labels for both packages and bottles, and must also warn of the risks of stomach bleeding for NSAIDs and severe liver damage for acetaminophen.

The ruling requires manufacturers to have all their labels compliant by 28 Apr 2010.

for up to 200 medicines - without any PBS subsidy available.

The change will see the prescriptions now covered by the PBS, with available medicines including antibiotics, vaccinations and contraceptives.

Health minister Nicola Roxon has urged a bigger role for nurses in the health system, saying they are "under-utilised and undervalued."

UK orlistat mystery

THE Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has reiterated its practice guidance for pharmacists when selling weight loss drug orlistat, after newspapers conducted 'mystery shopper' exercises targeting the medication.

Orlistat recently became available without prescription in the UK (PD 21 Apr) and the media outlets sent women of healthy weight to a number of pharmacies in an attempt to procure the drug.

Although in several cases supply was denied after a consultation, in others the mystery shopper was given the medication after telling pharmacists she was buying orlistat for her overweight mother.

The RSPGB said it was disappointing that some pharmacies hadn't followed the guidance it published in conjunction with the launch, saying it was vital that they carry out a thorough consultation before deciding whether or not to sell orlistat, as well as being aware that some patients may lie in order to get it.

They also need to be "alert for vulnerable people with eating disorder or body-image issues who may try to obtain orlistat for the wrong purposes," the Society said.

Today's issue of PD

PHARMACY Daily today has two pages including our regular Health, Beauty and New Products feature on **page two**.

Plavix ad complaint

A FORMAL complaint has been lodged with Medicines Australia over an advertising campaign for sanofi-aventis' Plavix (clopidogrel) which touts a deal between Melbourne's Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute.

According to the ads, every time a doctor prescribes Plavix the institute receives 25c from the manufacturer, with more than \$100,000 in research funding already raised as a result.

La Trobe University's Dr Ken Harvey has raised concerns, which were also expressed in online news commentator Crikey and in yesterday's *Australian*, about the company making its financial support for the institute dependent on doctors writing a script.

He's written to Medicines Australia highlighting section 7.1.2 of its Code of Conduct which says that "nothing should be offered or provided in a manner or on conditions that would interfere with the independence of a healthcare professional's prescribing or dispensing practices."

"This arrangement between Sanofi-Aventis and the Baker Institute is...likely to encourage the continued prescripoin of Plavix after the patent has expired," Harvey said.

He also claimed the arrangement breaches section 10.8 of the Code, which covers "activities engaged in by companies with healthcare professionals that bring discredit upon, or reduce confidence in the pharmaceutical industry."



WIN EVERY DAY!
CLICK HERE TO ENTER

78.60 †
INTEGRATED †
EFTPOS †
SOLUTION †
\$15 A MONTH †
60.70 †
15.85 †

Australian Pharmacy's biggest event of the year...

visit **ps** for your chance to...

WIN

One of four plasma TV's just for registering!
See website for details.

pharmspace09
CAREERS FAIR & EXPO 1ST - 31ST JULY

www.pharmspace.com.au

Health, Beauty and New Products

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.

Some Vicks cough lozenges, honey?

Vicks has introduced a new range of honey cough lozenges made with Dextromethorphan and pure natural honey, offering a great tasting, on-the-go relief for dry, irritating coughs. The lozenges are suitable for adults and children 12 years and older.

RRP: \$7.95

Stockist: Pharmacies nationally

Tel: 1800 148 022



DISPENSARY CORNER

THE outbreak of swine influenza has caused major nomenclature problems for officials in a number of countries, with Muslims and Orthodox Jews both regarding pigs as unclean.

In a press conference yesterday to assure the Israeli community that authorities were well prepared to handle any cases, the country's deputy health minister told media "We will call it Mexico flu."

A 30-YEAR-OLD man from Yorkshire in the UK has woken up with a strong Irish accent after a brain operation.

Chris Gregory sat up in his hospital bed and reportedly gave a "stirring rendition of Danny Boy" to his astonished girlfriend.

"It sounded like a drunken Irishman," she said, with other relatives also stunned at his broad Gaelic lilt.

The identity change didn't stick, however, with Gregory's Yorkshire accent back the next day.

Doctors described the phenomenon as a condition called 'Foreign Accent Syndrome'.

A GANG of New York thieves won't be smelling the roses for quite some time after they were given lengthy prison sentences for a string of hijacks of trucks loaded with perfume and cosmetics.

The court sentenced the three perpetrators to terms of 55, 37 and 26 years respectively for the armed robberies which took place between Sep 2006 and Jan 2007.

In one attack they stormed a truck carrying more than \$500,000 worth of perfume, beat up the drivers and drove the vehicle to New Jersey for unloading.

A UNION official in Serbia has chopped off his own finger and eaten it as part of a protest over unpaid wages.

Zoran Bulatovic, a union leader at a textile factory, said: "We, the workers have nothing to eat, we had to seek some sort of alternative food and I gave them an example," he said.

"It hurt like hell," he added.

Energy drinks reach their peak

Energy Drinks Aust. Pty Ltd has launched an 'all natural' energy drink called Peak Performance, designed to provide energy and alertness without relying on caffeine, sugar and artificial stimulants. The drink contains a blend of vitamins and extracts of Gaurana, Acai, Catuaba and Marapuama. It's gluten free, doesn't need to be refrigerated and can be mixed with any other beverage, hot or cold.

RRP: \$2.50

Stockist: Energy Drinks Aust. Pty Ltd.

Tel: 1300 655 183 Web: www.nrgdrinks.com.au



Kids cough no more

Prospan is a new cough medicine from Germany suitable for children (including under two years old with doctor's advice) and is now available in Australia. Prospan has the strength to clear chesty and bronchial coughs, acting as a mucolytic, an expectorant and a bronchodilator. It has a non-drowsy, sugar-free, gluten-free and alcohol free formula.

RRP: \$14.95 - 100ml

Stockist: bio Revive

Tel: 1300 790 978 Web: www.prospan.com.au



Get Professional Texture at home

L'Oréal Professional Texture Expert Expansion is a long lasting volumising cream mousse which is designed specifically for use in fine hair, to add texture and body. Enriched with a pearl protein, Texture Expert leaves hair naturally shinier, stronger and resilient.

RRP: \$35

Stockist: L'Oréal Professionnel Products Division

Phone: 1300 651 141



Experience Liquid Gold

Liquid Gold Revita and Firming Solution is a 'wake up call' for the skin, containing glycolic acid for smooth exfoliation and licorice extract to soothe skin and reduce pigmentation. As a whole, the lotion leaves skin toned, firmer and clearer.

RRP: \$54.95

Stockist: International Waters Pty Ltd

Phone: 1800 659 777

