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UK prescribing push

THE Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has called on the govt to introduce "parity between nurses and pharmacists in the prescribing of controlled drugs."

The society has pointed out a current discrepancy, which allows nurses to prescribe controlled drugs in certain conditions, while pharmacists cannot do so - even when the medicine in question is a controlled drug which they can sell as ingredients in OTC medicines.

"Allowing pharmacist independent prescribers the ability to prescribe controlled drugs will expand access to important medicines which improve quality of life by helping manage chronic conditions," said RPSGB Director, Howard Duff.

"We see this extension of the pharmacists' role as vital in its ability to further support community based medicine," he added.

Aspirin for colons?

STUDY published in the US this week has shown a link between aspirin and slowing colorectal cancer tumour growth.

The American Medical Association reported that a strong effect was shown in people with tumours overproducing the COX-2 enzyme.

HIP Alphapharm pact grows

THE owner of the Health Information Pharmacy franchise group has today announced an expansion of its current partnership with Alphapharm.

Publicly listed Health Corporation has had a deal in place with Alphapharm in connection with the Chemconsult medication counselling system (**PD** 28 Jul 08), but until now it's only applied to HIP member pharmacies.

Today's announcement will see the current partnership extended and expanded "to go beyond the Health Information Pharmacy (HIP) group and to include potentially all pharmacies in Australia," an official ASX announcement said.

As part of the expanded agreement, Health Corporation and Alphapharm will collaborate on Chemconsult, and Alphapharm will pay a fee to both the attending pharmacist and Health Corporation for each Chemconsult consultation.

Chemconsult is a 10 point system for medication consulting, which is claimed to ensure consistency in advice delivered to patients.

It has the potential to reduce medication problems, improve compliance and track medication

performance in terms of supply and adverse drug reactions or other misadventure, the company said.

"Chemconsult is a rigorous process that has proven its effectiveness over several years in reducing medical problems in the community, from patient compliance to detecting conflicts between prescribed medications and other medication errors," said Health Corporation ceo Ken Lee.

"We are delighted that Alphapharm has agreed to join us in this program that will ultimately significantly reduce health care costs as well as improve overall patient care," Lee added.

New FDA guidelines

THE US Food and Drug Administration has published rules to clarify the methods available to seriously ill patients interested in gaining access to investigational drugs and biologics, when they're not eligible to participate in a clinical trial and don't have other satisfactory treatment options.

The agency has also launched a web page where patients and their health professionals can learn about options for investigational drugs.

The FDA said the new rules make investigational drugs more widely available to patients by clarifying procedures and standards.

They also clarify the specific circumstances and types of costs for which a manufacturer can charge patients for an investigational drug when used as part of a clinical trial, or outside the scope of a trial.

More info at www.fda.gov.

More defence money

EMPLOYERS whose staff are members of the Defence Reserves have received an increase in financial assistance available through the Employer Support Payment Scheme.

From 01 Jul payments rose to \$1183.10 for every week full-time employee Reservists are away from their civilian jobs, once a qualifying period of two weeks and other eligibility criteria are satisfied.

A spokesperson told **PD** that the pharmacy sector is a significant contributor to the Defence Reserves program.

More info on 1800 803 485, with claim forms downloadable from www.defence.gov.au/reserves.

Web training for rural health workers

THE government has launched a new web-based training package for allied health workers, following the development of a new system by Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health Inc (SARRAH).

SARRAH was one of the ten successful applicants for the 2008-09 Rural Health Support, Education and Training grants announced last Dec, with health minister Nicola Roxon saying the organisation had "developed a world-class suite of web-based education and interactive training modules for Australian allied health professionals."

"This project will greatly benefit those who are moving to, working in or contemplating taking up practice in remote and rural Australia, as well as students undertaking a rural or remote clinical placement," Roxon said.

See www.sarrahrtraining.com.au.

WIN LASH ME MOUSSE MASCARA



CONGRATULATIONS to Rebecca Dunn from Terry White Management, who was yesterday's winner of an Australis Lash Me Mousse Mascara.

Australis has teamed up with **Pharmacy Daily** this week, giving readers the chance to win an Australis Lash Me Mousse Mascara in Blueberry. Valued at \$17.95, the revolutionary new mascara defines and separates lashes like never before!

The difference lies in the patented German designed brush which separates and targets hard-to-reach lashes.

The superior 3-in-1 mousse formulation also coats every lash for maximum thickness, curl and extension while the bamboo extract and vitamin E nourishes the hair cuticle and prevents breakage.

This mascara is also great for sensitive eyes.

For your chance to win your very own Australis Lash Me Mousse Mascara, simply send through the correct answer to the following question below:

Why should you not share mascara?

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

The first correct entry received each day will win!

Hint: Visit the Australis website at: www.australiscosmetics.com.au.

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Pharmacy DAILY

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New SUSDP shortly

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration today advised that the latest edition of the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons (SUSDP) is expected to be available for distribution later this month.

SUSDP No. 24 is a consolidation of SUSDP No. 23 and its three Amendments, and is now available free of charge in electronic form on the ComLaw website, which can be accessed by following the links at www.tga.gov.au

The SUSDP is also available by subscription, with order forms available on the TGA website.

FDA migraine tick

INDIAN generic manufacturer Aurobindo Pharma has reported that a new drug application for sumatriptan succinate tablets 25mg, 50mg and 100mg has received final FDA approval.

The medication is the generic equivalent of GlaxoSmithKline's Imitrex tablets (marketed in Australia as Imigran), indicated for the treatment of acute migraine.

By Gove, they're winners!

A REMOTE pharmacy servicing the community of Nhulunbuy in Arnhem Land has been named the Northern Territory Business of the Year.

Gove Pharmacy is owned by Darryl Stewart, who took over the operation in 2005 with his family and is pictured right with his wife Nicole accepting the NT Telstra Business Award at a ceremony earlier this week.

Since taking over, the store has been refurbished, with an expanded product range and revised pricing, and has built a loyal customer base by offering value for money, stocking ranges customers want and offering good customer service.

"Gove Pharmacy is proving that distance is no barrier to first-class customer service, building long-term relationships with local residents based on affordable healthcare which meets their needs," said Telstra Country Wide Group md, Brett Riley.

The judges cited Gove Pharmacy



for its inclusive approach to both staff and indigenous people.

The pharmacy is improving access to PBS medicines and professional services for local Aboriginal Health Centres, reducing the reliance on Darwin suppliers.

Winner Darryl Stewart said the pharmacy had also become involved in Indigenous employment, mentoring and training.

"I see our business being an industry leader in Indigenous health and attracting more interest for research, rural pharmacy and student placements," he said.

As well as being the overall Territory winner, Gove Pharmacy took out the MYOB Small Business Award and will now progress to the National Awards, with winners to be announced in Sydney next week.

Fag fine for Coles

THE operator of Coles Express was today fined \$107,000, plus court costs of \$50,000 for a 2007 discount deal offering two for one specials on cigarettes.

The bargain was offered in 26 stores across NSW for just 10 days, with undercover health officers investigating the special and one testifying that he was told he should "stock up for the weekend."

The NSW Health Department took the owners, Eureka Operations, to court last year, claiming they had breached the NSW Public Health Act by advertising tobacco publicly.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A STUDY reported this week in the *Journal of the American Dental Association* has confirmed the urban myth that redheads feel more pain than other people.

The research said that those with red hair often require up to 20% more anaesthesia during operations, and are sometimes more resistant to local pain blockers.

The report surmises that a gene affecting hair colour may be also involved in modulating the body's sensitivity to pain, adding that redheads tend to be more anxious about dental treatment and are twice as likely to avoid it.

A CHINESE man from the eastern Jiangsu province has preserved his severed leg in formaldehyde for more than two decades, as part of a campaign against drink driving.

48-year-old Song Weiguo puts the limb on display each year on the anniversary of the accident in which he lost it.

His leg had to be amputated in 1989 after he hit a tractor while riding a motorbike when intoxicated.

ON a wing and a prayer?

A group of Jewish rabbis has moved to protect Israel from the swine flu pandemic by chartering a plane to carry them around the country as they prayed and blew ceremonial ram's horns (below).

About 50 holy men from the Kabbalah group took part in the flight, with Rabbi Yitzhak Batzri saying "The aim of this operation is to stop this epidemic so that people don't die any more.

"Following our prayers, we are certain the danger is now over."

Israel has so far recorded five deaths from influenza A (H1N1), with about 2000 people currently infected with the virus.



Swine flu - a horny problem.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature.

Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

HAWAIIAN AIRLINES has a fantastic bargain on sale this week for people wanting to escape the cold winter weather.

The special "Take a Mate" offer has fares from \$1360 return for two people ex Sydney to Honolulu.

You'll have to be quick - it's only available for booking until next Monday, and for travel from 17 Oct until 13 Dec and 13 Jan-10 Mar 2010.

It's perfect timing, because the Australian dollar is sitting at around US\$0.83 meaning Hawaii shopping is great value too - see your travel agent or 1300 669 106.

Russian river cruising specialist **BEYOND TRAVEL** has a limited number of single cabins available on departures next year on its

popular voyages between Moscow and St Petersburg.

The 13 day cruise includes daily escorted sightseeing, all meals and gratuities, with single cabins priced from just \$3330 - 1300 363 554.

Travellers wanting to experience Turkish delight in context should take advantage of special new airfares released this week by **ETIHAD**, which is offering flights to Istanbul from \$1854 ex Sydney.

The airline is also offering special fares to other destinations across its global network including Athens in Greece, and Larnaca in Cyprus as well as many more.

The special prices are available for bookings made by 28 Aug, and travel 01 Sep-31 Mar 2010 - more details 1800 998 995.

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