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New PBS payments

THE Pharmacy Guild has advised members of the PBS co-payments, fees and safety net thresholds which will become effective from 01 Jan.

The new patient co-payments are \$5.40 for concessional patients, and \$33.30 for general patients, while the safety net thresholds become \$324 for concessional and \$1281.30 for general patients respectively - www.guild.org.au.

MS stem cell recovery

AN Australian man diagnosed with multiple sclerosis last year has made a remarkable recovery following stem cell treatment.

Doctors took stem cells from the bone marrow of 20-year-old Ben Leahy earlier in the year, before using chemicals to destroy his immune system and reinjecting his body with the stem cells.

"At the moment there's a good chance we may have arrested the disease," said neurologist Dr Colin Andrews.

Pharmacy graduate concern

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is calling on the government to provide a financial subsidy for pharmacies to help them cope with training costs related to the placement of the ever increasing outflow of new pharmacy graduates.

The call comes on the back of the Australian Medical Association's Junior Doctor Survey findings which showed that the current \$157 million govt funding was not enough to cover the growing teaching costs for the rising number of medical students.

According to the Pharmaceutical Society, in order to cope with the spike in pharmacy graduates, around 30% of all Aussie pharmacies per annum are having to take on a new graduate - a number which it says is 'unreasonable' and 'impractical' if no subsidy is offered.

"Clearly if this rate continues we just won't be able to train or place these graduates and there will be insufficient pharmacies available for placements, leading to a collapse of the current system, with clear potential implications for patients because the Government is

ChemGenex deal

AUSSIE drug manufacturer ChemGenex has struck a deal with US company Hospira to develop, license and market its chronic myeloid leukaemia drug Omapro (omacetaxine) throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

As part of the agreement Hospira will pay a start-up fee of A\$17.7m, performance payments of around \$118m as well as ongoing royalties.

ChemGenex expects FDA approval of Omapro by mid 2010.

Smoking down

THE latest Australian Bureau of Statistics snapshot has shown that Australians are taking anti-smoking campaigns to heart and quitting.

Between 1989 and 1990 the rate of smoking dropped by 24% and has since continued to drop by around 1.5% per annum.

According to the report there were 3 million daily smokers in Australia between 2007-08, whilst 112,000 Aussies had reportedly cut down from the previous year and 604,000 smokers who had quit entirely.

unwilling to assist," said PSA president Warwick Plunkett.

He said that the proposed funds should be directed towards increasing the number of training preceptors "to maintain the standards of training required when this sort of rate is being experienced."

"The pharmacy profession and medical profession are among the few professions which conduct mandatory and stringent training programs. These are essential if we are to maintain competency standards and levels of primary health care in this country."

Recently the National Pharmacy Board announced it would not be funding preceptors - a move which the Pharmacy Society says further shores up its case for more govt support, possibly with monies from COAG workforce funding.

Doctor/patient privilege

NEW federal government guidelines announced today have given doctors the right to inform patients' blood relatives (but not spouses etc) of any genetic disorders, if the relatives' health, safety or life is at risk.

HalcyGen cuts Hospira

PUBLICLY listed HalcyGen Pharmaceuticals has announced it will take up the marketing and distribution of its products which are currently sold into Australian and Asian markets by Hospira.

HalcyGen will distribute the products through Mayne Pharma International, which it purchased from Hospira in Sep.

Affected products include Doryx, Eryc, Magnoplasm and Astrix, with HalcyGen confirming it will "be using the services of the three main pharmaceutical wholesalers in Australia to achieve nationwide distribution to hospitals and pharmacies."

"Distribution in Asia will be undertaken by either direct sales or through suitable marketing and distribution partners," the firm said.

Generic Aricept

THE US Food and Drug Administration has announced the approval of the first generic versions of Aricept (donepezil hydrochloride) orally disintegrating tablet, which is indicated for the treatment of dementia related to Alzheimer's disease.

Win an A'kin PureMAN pack



Every day this week, A'kin is giving **Pharmacy Daily** readers the chance to win an **[A'kin] PureMAN Everyday Essentials Pack** valued at \$39.90 each.

[A'kin] PureMAN Energising All-In-One Hair + Body Wash 150ml, [A'kin] PureMAN Visibly Fit 24 Hour

Moisturiser 50ml and is presented in a stylish toiletry bag.

[A'kin] PureMAN has been formulated naturally for men and includes hair, skin + body care products.

These everyday grooming essentials have been created with selected active ingredients to refresh + recharge.

Long term, your skin will look energised and fine lines and wrinkles appear diminished.

For your chance to win this great prize, simply be the first reader to email the correct answer to the daily question below to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

**Which Flower Oil can be found in all
[A'kin] PureMAN products?**

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Congratulations to yesterday's winner **Amy Ratcliffe** from **Devantiers Pharmacy, Qld**.

Check out the Purist website for hints at www.purist.com.

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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.

Excellent and flawless coverage

Australis Mineral Purity Powder Foundation is a great choice for all day coverage. A lightweight powder that looks and feels like you are wearing no makeup. Create buildable even coverage. It is available in five shades and includes a soft silky kabuki brush for flawless application

RRP: \$17.95

Stockists: Creative Brands

Tel: (03) 9574 2100



Get a good nights sleep

With the most common reason for insomnia being stress, Blackmores have created a new Blackmores Executive B Sleep Formula. The specialised sleep formula contains a combination of herbs including passionflower, hops and lemon balm to relieve insomnia, relax an over active mind and support normal sleeping patterns.

RRP: \$19.95 for 14 tabs

Stockists: Blackmores

Tel: 1800 803 760

Get into brights for Christmas

The **Neons range** from BYS Cosmetics has released a new range of brightly coloured eye shadows designed to make wearer's eyes really 'pop' this party season. The range includes five fabulous Shimmer Powder pots as well as Custom Colours Eyeshadows in five bright colours - Red, Pink, Orange, Green and Yellow.

RRP: Powder Pots \$4.95, Eyeshadow \$2.95

Stockists: www.bys.com.au

Tel: (03) 9551 4666



Pinpoint Ovulation

Maybe Baby is a mini-microscope which can help pinpoint when a woman is most likely to conceive. The simple saliva test helps predict ovulation. The size of a lipstick, Maybe Baby is re-usable month after month and is 98% accurate at predicting ovulation.

RRP: \$79.95

Stockists: Care Pharmaceuticals

Tel: 1800 788 870

Woody Fragrance for him.

New from Dsquared **HE WOOD Rocky Mountain Wood** is a distinctive fragrance created for men. HE WOOD features top notes of incense and musk, a heart of Violet, Canadian Lily and White Pepper, and a base of Vetiver and Cedar Wood and is available for order from January 2010.

RRP: 50ml \$105, 100ml \$135

Stockists: (02) 9663 4277



DISPENSARY CORNER

A NEW video game has been developed by doctors at Sydney's Prince of Wales hospital.

"Dance Dance Revolution" aims to help elderly Australians with their mobility and stepping responses, and could signal the beginning of a rise of health related cyber games.

According to researchers, video games have the potential to reach a broad range of markets with targeted treatments for health conditions including psychological areas such as phobias.

Currently scientists from the Prince of Wales Medical Institute are trying to get a group of medical and video game industry experts to lobby the government for funding.

Dance Dance Revolution is about to commence a trial in the homes of around fifty Australian senior citizens over a six month period.

SIX COFFEES a day keeps the diabetes away!

According to researchers at Sydney's George Institute for International Health who looked at 18 previous studies involving some 450,000 participants, coffee drinkers who imbibe six cups of coffee per day have a 40% reduction in their risk of developing type two diabetes.

The researchers also found that coffee-lovers who drank between 3-4 cups per day diminished their type 2 diabetes risk by around 25% and that every extra cup of coffee sliced 7% off participants' diabetes risk.

However before you start guzzling straight from the percolator, researchers are still not yet sure as to what the actual ingredient is that creates the effect.

Previous studies have shown that the protective effect also extends to decaffeinated coffee and tea - albeit to a lesser extent.

The study published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* said that if the ingredient could be isolated, the "implications would be significant".