



Travel medicine warning

THE National Prescribing Service is urging Australians who are travelling over the Christmas holidays to spare some time to ensure their medication requirements are all in order.

"There are three things to consider about your medicines when preparing to go away – do you have enough for the duration of your holiday or repeat prescriptions that can be filled, do your medicines need to be stored in special conditions while you're travelling [eg. under 25°C or out of direct sunlight], and do you have the right documentation if you're going overseas," said Lynn Weekes, ceo of the NPS.

She also urged travellers to check their immunisation requirements, get a letter from their doctor explaining what their medicines are for, and also if they are crossing timelines consult with their doctor or pharmacist about how to manage their medicines.

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Pharmaxis applies to TGA

AUSTRALIAN pharmaceutical manufacturer Pharmaxis has submitted an Australian marketing approval application to the TGA for its Bronchitol cystic fibrosis drug.

A proprietary formulation of mannitol administered as a dry powder in a hand-held inhaler, Bronchitol is designed to hydrate the airway surface of the lungs and promote normal lung mucous clearance in cystic fibrosis sufferers.

It's been found to improve lung function by around 6.5%.

"This has been an important year for Pharmaxis and I am delighted that 2009 is ending with another

step towards bringing Bronchitol to the cystic fibrosis community in Australia," said Pharmaxis ceo, Dr Alan Robertson.

"We believe that Bronchitol has the capacity to modify the course of the disease and are looking forward to working with the TGA over the coming months," he said.

Bronchitol has already received orphan drug designation and fast track status from the US FDA plus orphan drug designation from the European Medicines Agency.

A final TGA decision is expected in the first half of 2011.

Baby bottle danger

A FRENCH study into a common chemical (bisphenol-A) in baby bottles and food containers has found it may affect gut function above the 'tolerable daily limit'.

The scientists tested bisphenol-A on rats and found that the compound made the lining of their intestines less permeable.

Previous studies have signalled problems with the easy transference of bisphenol-A into food and water.

Fat to reduce dementia

LARGE levels of the appetite regulating hormone leptin may be able to prevent the onset of Alzheimer's disease, according to new research in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The report took into account previous leptin studies and concluded that people with high levels of leptin in their bodies had a lower incidence of Alzheimer's disease.

Although the researchers admitted that there was still much more research to be done into the connection, they were hopeful that the end result would be a tool to predict a person's risk level and also to help prevent disease onset.

Malaria levels down

ACCORDING to WHO instances of malaria appear to have been halved in a third of all countries currently battling the disease, due to UN initiatives incl the distribution of mosquito netting for bedding.

Bonus for API chief

2008/09 was a much better year than the previous 12 months for Australian Pharmaceutical Industries - with the improved performance reflected in a \$187,500 "short term incentive" payment to md Stephen Roche.

Today API released its annual report, showing Roche was paid a total of \$991,550, up more than \$200,000 on his 07/08 income.

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.

What root extract does [A'kin] PureMAN Visibly Fit 24 Hour Moisturiser contain?

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Congratulations to yesterday's winner **Scott Ripley** from **Osborne Park Hospital**.

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

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2010

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National's new Hurphy

NATIONAL Pharmacies has launched a point-of-difference campaign, saying it is the only pharmacy chain in Australia to stock the brand new Aussie Hurphy Murphy Seat Belt Buckle Guard.

Designed by Australian mother of two Imogen Mirmikidis, the buckle is a child safety device designed to prevent the accidental release of the seat belt buckle anchoring a capsule or infant seat - and was a finalist in the 2009 Women's Weekly Product of the Year Awards.

"We're thrilled to not only be supporting a locally made invention which can bring peace of mind to parents - but also an inspiring Australian entrepreneur in its creator," he added.

Retailing in at \$29.99 National Pharmacies is currently offering a 20% off discount to all its members.

MEANWHILE National Pharmacies has also announced that it's latest 'BrasOFF for Breast Cancer Research' campaign throughout South Australia has netted an impressive \$65,000 for the Flinders Medical Centre Foundation's ongoing research projects.

A new united e-health front

IN A meeting held last week in Canberra key health-industry bodies and stakeholders have all agreed that there are still several significant issues that need to be addressed prior to the launch of any successfully functioning national e-prescribing service.

The meeting, hosted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia in conjunction with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, was designed to discuss the development of the new 'patient-centred' e-prescribing system.

According to the PSA, there was general industry agreement that the technical issues relating to the transfer and exchange of information between the current information systems that would be involved in the e-prescribing system needed to be identified and rectified before the program's implementation, to ensure an accurate and efficient system.

Other highlighted issues of industry concern were found to include questions over e-

prescription data ownership, remuneration for all of the parties involved, technical and professional standardisation, the security of the systems involved and the 'safeguarding of consumer choice'.

"It is essential that we get it right from the very beginning and so we must have in place the necessary standards as well as the technical and professional protocols to ensure its efficient and sustainable operation," said Warwick Plunkett, president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

In the aftermath of the meeting, the PSA is calling on the government to set a firm date for its national e-health program, and also for it to provide a supporting action plan for e-health's implementation for 'all Australians'.

Complementary move

IN response to the growing consumer demand for complementary medicines, representatives from 13 pharmacy schools nationwide have banded together to form the 'Australasian University Pharmacy Complementary Medicines Education Group' (AUPCMEG).

The new group aims to develop standardised complementary medicine education and best practice guidelines for pharmacists in conjunction with relevant industry bodies.

"We all agree that complementary medicine teaching should be a core component in pharmacy curricula and integrated throughout our programs," said the Group's chairperson, Dr Evelin Tiralongo from Griffith University.

"While each pharmacy school currently teaches some complementary medicine content, the content varies.

"We feel that we really need to start identifying possible educational gaps and additional teaching needs, and share our experiences in order to better prepare our future graduates for their professional role which includes counselling on complementary medicines," Tiralongo added.

The group now plans to meet biannually



DISPENSARY CORNER

AUTHORITIES in New York are sponsoring a special contest for the wrapper design for the city's next "official condom".

The public is being invited to submit suggestions for a special "limited edition" design, with the initiative aiming to "keep people excited about safe sex".

The winning artwork will be displayed on several hundred thousand official condom wrappers, with the winner to be selected by online voting.

New York distributes more than 40 million free condoms a year.

ANIMAL health workers investigating a reportedly neglected cattle dog have found that the poorly treated animal was in fact a concrete statue.

The Queensland RSPCA branch said it had received complaints about the owners of the dog which was suffering with no food, no shelter and had been tied to the same spot for months.

Other unusual calls received by the RSPCA branch included multiple drivers worried about a Maltese puppy which had been hit by cars on a motorway.

"When the ambulance was dispatched it turned out to be a very dirty and torn-up cushion," said spokesman Michael Beatty.

A CHILEAN weightlifter had a bit of a surprise this week after unexpectedly giving birth to a baby boy during a training session - without having been aware she was even pregnant.

22 year-old Olympian Elizabeth Poblete said she had only noticed feeling a bit unwell lately.

The child was three months premature and is currently in intensive care with his mother.

The head trainer at the gym understandably said the birth had "been a surprise.

"A week ago I acted as a judge in a competition...and this girl was competing. All went well and she won the competition.

"I could see she was a big girl, round and strong. That's all I noticed," he added.

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.

CONTIKI is offering some chill-chasing 50% off specials on its Ski Austria itineraries, when booked in conjunction with a Contiki 2009/10 Winter Europe tour of eight days or more.

Two Ski Austria itineraries are on offer, a 7-day trip now priced from a bargain \$372.50pp and a 14-day adventure priced at an amazing \$632.50pp

For more info see
www.contiki.com.au/deals.

For something slightly closer to home, the NT's **TERRITORY DISCOVERIES** has released a special on its 4-day 'Explore Darwin and Litchfield' tour.

The deal is priced from \$279 per person/ and includes three

nights accommodation in Darwin and a one day Litchfield National Park Tour with APT, including luxury coach travel, expert commentary and hotel transfers.

For information see
www.territorydiscoveries.com/apt/.

QANTAS HOLIDAYS has released a bargain hotel stay offer for Mantra and Breakfree resorts across the country.

The deals are priced from as low as \$99 per room per night, and apply for stays between now and 30 April at Mantra and Breakfree resorts in NSW, Qld, Vic, SA, WA and the NT.

The offer is limited, and will expire on 21 December.

See www.qantas.com.au.

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