



### Guild Update

This week's update

from the Guild

## Tailor-made rental analysis

The Pharmacy Guild and Medici Capital will combine in 2010 to offer community pharmacy a new form of assistance in dealing with rental issues.

The Rent Analysis and Report Service, to be launched early in the New Year, will help pharmacies avoid the rental run around by giving them an authoritative snapshot of where they sit in the market.

The customised analysis conducted by the industry experts at Medici Capital will provide cover of general pharmacy rental issues, plus detailed and comparative analysis of the pharmacy's existing and proposed leases.

The service will complement the Guild's popular annual Rental Report, prepared in collaboration with Medici Capital. The service will be available to Members across Australia, and naturally the price to Members will be discounted against the price to others in the industry.

The coming year is likely to throw up many challenges for community pharmacy.

The Guild hopes this advisory and analytical service will help to reduce some of the pressures felt by owners as they contemplate a lease renewal.

## Britain acts on fake meds

PHARMACIES in Britain may be subjected to new licensing and regulation requirements under a proposal which aims to "strengthen the medicines supply chain and reduce the risk from counterfeit medicines".

The move follows an investigation into ten recalls of fake drugs since 2004, where on each occasion the

### Small business move

THE TGA is asking all of its vendors to identify whether they should be considered as "small businesses" when making payments, under new government policies which aim to support small business in Australia.

The policy applies to written contracts for procurements by the TGA, stating that for payments valued up to \$5 million the TGA will make payment not later than 30 days after receiving a correctly rendered invoice.

Under the policy a small business means an enterprise that employs less than 20 full time equivalents.

### HDL could save lives

FATTY deposits lining heart arteries could potentially be broken down with a large injection of HDL—also known as "good cholesterol", according to the early testing results of a new therapy from Aussie drug manufacturer, CSL Ltd. The new drug, derived from waste products of donated blood that had been 'fractioned' off, found that in one patient, fat in their leg arteries was reduced by 60% after an injection of HDL.

"Cholesterol is carried to the heart by LDL and carried away by HDL...[We're] trying to use this natural process to carry cholesterol away from the artery wall and reduce the chance of a second heart attack," said Samuel Wright, director for cardiovascular therapeutics research and development at CSL.

counterfeits reached the regulated supply chain, and in half the cases reached pharmacies and patients.

The MHRA is seeking public feedback on its preferred option which would see the introduction of licenses for drug wholesalers and criminal sanctions for fake drugs.

However pharmacies will also be severely impacted by a proposal to remove an exemption which currently allows them to sell small amounts of surplus stock.

Other proposed changes would require pharmacies to document the safe disposal and exchange of near expiry stock, and a Wholesale Dealer's licence for pharmacies trading in larger quantities of drugs.

### Chronic health project

CURRENT guidelines for the prevention of chronic disease will be re-examined under a new research project announced by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Heart Foundation and the University of NSW.

The project will review the strategies used by GPs to implement prevention, including interviews with patients and a clinical audit of de-identified medical records.

### GP locum scheme

THE government yesterday announced a new Rural GP Locum program, which is very similar to the highly successful locum scheme for pharmacists.

The GP program is being funded to the tune of \$6.1m over four years, and is estimated to deliver at least 403 locum placements over that period "and help improve the working conditions of medical professionals in rural and remote areas of Australia," according to Rural and Regional Health Minister, Warren Snowdon.

The scheme will be administered by Rural Health Workforce Australia. More info [ruralgplocum.org.au](http://ruralgplocum.org.au).

## New orphan drug

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has designated Shire Australia's velaglucerase alfa powder for solution for injection as a new orphan drug.

The medication is indicated for the treatment of Gaucher disease.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

DADS, you now have an excuse to burn up the dance floor.

Researchers from the University of Hertfordshire have hypothesized that embarrassing "dad dancing" as witnessed at weddings, Christmas parties and other such events may in fact be an unconscious way of repelling younger female attention.

"The message their dancing sends out is 'stay away, I'm not fertile,'" said head researcher, psychologist Peter Lovatt.

The study took into account the level of dancing confidence and dancing styles of around 14,000 people—with findings showing that men between 35-60 years generally tried on 'complex' grooves with very limited co-ordination skills.

Lovatt also cited research that suggested women were able to gauge testosterone levels through their partners' moves.

"It would seem completely unsurprising to me that since middle-age men have passed their natural reproductive age- and probably have a family already-evolution would act to ensure they are no longer attractive to 18 year old girls," Lovatt said.

There is hope for aspiring Fred Astaires however - the research found that once over retirement age, when testosterone levels usually drop, older gents tended to dance more gracefully, pulling off simple moves with aplomb.

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