

Happy Christmas!

THIS is the final issue of *Pharmacy Daily* for 2009.

We'd like to thank our more than 6200 readers for your ongoing support and wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

PD will return on Monday 11th January 2010 for another big year of bringing you all the latest in pharmacy industry news.

Price disclosure details

THE PBS website now includes a new list of documents relating to price disclosure, including drugs currently under price disclosure.

The pages list drugs where a brand of a pharmaceutical item is subject to price disclosure requirements, with the aim of helping responsible persons to identify the relevant reporting periods and due dates for the drugs.

Also included are details on price disclosure requirements, lists of items exempt from price disclosure requirements, information on how to submit price disclosure details and templates, examples and forms for price disclosure.

See www.pbs.gov.au.

NDPSC cough/cold agenda

THE National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee has released the agenda for its next meeting in Feb, confirming that it will be considering a proposal to restrict all cough and cold medicines to Schedule 3 when intended for use in children aged 6-12 years.

The proposal also envisages making the cough and cold preparations Schedule 4 when for use in children aged under 6.

The meeting will be held 16-17 Feb 2009 and the NDPSC is inviting public submissions.

Other matters to be considered include the scheduling of nicotine, including a proposal to amend the current scheduling by replacing the specific exemptions for chewing gum and lozenge dosage forms with a more general 'buccal preparations' exemption.

The NDPSC will also look at possible changes to the scheduling of flurbiprofen, including exempting from scheduling all topical oral flurbiprofen preparations (except when for the treatment of children aged 12 years or less, or

alternatively to further restrict this proposed exemption to only apply to divided preparations containing 10mg or less of flurbiprofen per dosage unit.

Also on the agenda is a proposal to amend the current scheduling of paracetamol combined with phenylephrine and guaiphenesin from the current Schedule 2 paracetamol entry to allow a preparation containing paracetamol, phenylephrine and guaiphenesin to also qualify for this exemption.

Public submissions are also invited on a proposed new entry in Appendix H for Adrenaline which would limit this entry to auto-injector preparations containing up to 0.3mg of adrenaline for use in emergency treatment of acute severe allergic reactions.

There's also a proposed new entry in Appendix H for proton pump inhibitor pantoprazole, while the committee will also consider the scheduling of prescription medicine certolizumab pegol (Cimzia) which is used for the treatment of Crohn's disease.

Stirling generic move

STIRLING Products has announced that it will launch a "broad range of OTC and generic prescription drugs" to pharmacies across Australia under the 'Stirling Pharma' brand early next year.

The company said the range would be marketed by "a proven national pharmaceutical marketing team" who will take up their roles at Stirling in late Feb.

Stirling Products md Peter Boonen also announced a new working relationship covering several "business initiatives" with Indian-based pharmaceutical firm Cipla.

Better breast support

THE govt has confirmed that thirteen BreastScreen Australia equipment priority projects totalling \$10 million will receive funding this financial year, with a digital upgrade program to provide new mammography equipment as well as enabling electronic transfer of images between services, reducing the time taken for images to be sent from remote locations for analysis.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A US man with a 12cm knife sticking out of his chest shocked workers in a restaurant when he walked in and ordered a coffee.

He told staff he was waiting for an ambulance, after apparently having being stabbed because he refused to hand over cash to a mugger.

"It was like out of a movie. It kind of freaked us all out here," said restaurant employee George Mirdita, who said he couldn't believe how calm the victim is.

Police confirmed the story and said the man was now recovering in hospital, while his attacker is yet to be found.

THE latest British move in healthy eating is a new recipe book in which every single dish features the dreaded ingredient of Brussels sprouts.

Widely reputed to be many people's least favourite vegetable, the book aims to change that perception with inclusions such as a sultana and Brussels sprouts cake, Brussels sprouts curry and even Brussels sprouts ice-cream.

"Other people couldn't understand why I was getting all passionate about sprouts," said author Deborah Kershaw.

"But I think they've had a raw deal over the years with people just steaming them and boiling them to bits," she added.

FEELING the breeze indeed.

Police in New Zealand have issued a stern safety warning to two naked men after they were spotted on a late night bike ride.

Senior Constable Cathy Dudder stopped the pair in the coastal town of Whangamata at around 10pm last Sat night, and said they told her they were wanting to experience "total freedom" by riding unclothed.

She responded by telling them she didn't have a problem with their nudity, but ordered them to at least put helmets on.

"It was dark and there was no one else around. They were jovial young men who had not intended to cause offense," she said.

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.

THIS is an absolute bargain.

UK-based cruise operator

FRED.OLSEN CRUISES has slashed prices on the upcoming world cruise for its *Balmoral* ship.

Balmoral will visit Australia for the first time, and to fill the last remaining cabins on the San Francisco-Sydney 27-day sector the price has been cut to start from just \$1995 - that's just \$75 per day including all meals and entertainment, port charges and government taxes.

That's for an inside cabin, but even a Balcony Junior Suite is priced from \$3495 - down from the original price of \$11290.

The trip departs the US on 05 February 2010 - details from

Cruise Abroad on 1300 669 369.

A price war has broken out on flights to Fiji, with the launch of new services by **V AUSTRALIA**, set to be followed in April by Jetstar.

Fares are now available for just \$199 one way including all taxes, and if you want to treat yourself V Australia also offers Premium Economy from \$469 one way and Business Class from \$649.

Blue Holidays also has a range of Fiji packages including five nights accommodation at the luxury Sofital Fiji Resort & Spa from \$1245 per person for two including return flights ex Sydney, champagne and daily breakfast.

V Australia flies daily to Fiji - more details blueholidays.com.au.

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