

Fed govt considers hospital takeover

THE Federal Government is examining options for a takeover of the public hospital system, according to the Hospitals Reform Commission's interim report.

The draft report was given to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Health Minister Nicola Roxon before Christmas, and is due to be published on February 16, according to Fairfax reports.

Before the election Kevin Rudd has said the government would hold a referendum about a federal takeover at the 2010 election if the state governments failed to meet performance targets by the middle of 2009.

Calls for the promise to be fulfilled follow revelations of disarray in the NSW health system.

Bowel cancer test

BOWEL cancer screening became cheaper yesterday with a new screening test becoming available on the Medicare Benefits Scheme.

The InSure FIT (Faecal Immunochemical Test) is described as a 'user-friendly faecal occult blood test' which has 87% sensitivity and 98% specificity.

It's superior to older guaiac tests because no special diets or restrictions on medications are required, and faecal handling is minimised - info 1800 556 575.

New Orphan drug

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has added Roche Product's bevacizumab (Avastin) concentrated solution for injection, used for the treatment of malignant glioma, to its list of Orphan Drugs.

British compliance push

HEALTH authorities in the UK have launched a major move to improve medicines adherence, which has been strongly backed by the country's pharmacists.

The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published new guidelines aiming to provide advice for pharmacists and other healthcare professionals about how to support adherence and involve patients in decisions about prescribed medicines.

The new guidelines apply across all sectors of British pharmacy including prescribing, dispensing and medication review, and aim to put patients at the centre of medicines use.

The Royal Pharmaceutical

New fever insight

VICKS has released a new thermometer which uses an innovative 'traffic light-style' display to let parents know instantly if their child has a fever.

The display on the Fever Insight thermometer turns Green (normal), Yellow (a mild fever) or Red (high temperature) and takes just 8 seconds to produce a result.

More information from Felton Grimwade & Bosisto's customer service on 1800 003 431.

Bedwetting alarm

A NEW Australian-designed bedwetting alarm is being promoted as an easy to use option for families struggling with nocturnal enuresis.

Dubbed WetAlert, it's a body-worn device consisting of a small alarm case pinned to the shoulder of the pyjamas and a sensor fastened to the child's underwear.

See www.wetalert.com.au.



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DISPENSARY CORNER

A CRAZED man in the USA has been accused of stabbing his ex-girlfriend, in an attempt to reclaim the breast implants for which he had paid.

28-year-old Thomas Rowley is on trial in California over the 2006 attack in which the woman survived six stab wounds.

Her treatment reportedly included having the punctured breast implants repaired.

A former roommate of the offender testified this week that the defendant wanted to reclaim what was rightfully his.

"I'm gonna cut 'em out and get 'em back," he allegedly said.

SOME fascinating research in Tokyo has highlighted a great way to fight global warming.

The Japan Toilet Labo research group claims that simply pasting a so-called 'toilet poem' at the eye level of a person seated in the cubicle can cut the use of toilet paper by up to 20% - helping reduce waste and water usage.

Suggested poems include: *That paper will meet you only for a moment.*

There's also *Fold the paper over and over and over again* as well as the profoundly brief *Love the toilet.*

The group says the potty poetry will soon be on display in over 1000 Tokyo public toilets.

Sanofi premiums

EFFECTIVE yesterday amended brand premiums for 24 PBS-listed items manufactured by Sanofi Aventis became effective.

Amendments apply to glimepiride, clpmiphene citrate, glibenclamide, sodium valproate, metronidazole, ketoprofen, codeine phosphate with paracetamol, roxithromycin, dexamethasone with framycetin sulfate and gramicidin, prochlorperazine and frusemide.

More info 1800 732 273.

UK flu stockpile

THE British government has bought more than 10 million doses of anti-influenza drug Relenza, as well as topping up its stock of Tamiflu by 7.6m doses.

The UK has stockpiled Tamiflu since 2005 but the Relenza purchase comes after a study last year raised the possibility of Tamiflu-resistance in the H5N1 strain of avian influenza.

Each 240ml can retails for \$15.99, but to receive your very own can for FREE, simply send through the correct answer to the following question:

Name one sunscreen tip from the Le Tan website.

Send your answer through to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

The first correct entry will win the prize, so be quick!

Hint: Visit the Le Tan website at www.letan.com.au.

WIN A CAN OF LE TAN

Le Tan is over 30 years old this year, and to celebrate it's become the official sponsor of Surf Life Saving Australia. Le Tan has teamed up with **Pharmacy Daily** this week to give readers the chance to win a can of SPF 30+ Coconut Continuous Spray Aerosol.

An easy way to apply sunscreen, Le Tan's favourite delicious coconut fragrance contains Aloe Vera & Vitamin E for moisturising.

Le Tan in a can provides high protection and four hours water resistance, with the mess-free ease and convenience of an aerosol and test-top can.

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