



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

This week's update from the Guild Educational resource for PMP Program training

The Pharmacy Guild continues to strongly encourage full and ongoing participation by all community pharmacies in the new professional services being funded as a part of the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

It is very important that pharmacy shows its commitment to the delivery of professional services; and the collection of data for the assessment of appropriate and sustainable remuneration models for these services.

There is a vast array of resources supporting these services and programs including Pharmacy Readiness Kits, online resources and training materials.

The Guild is in the process of distributing a CD-ROM resource that supports the Patient Medication Profile (PMP) Program. This resource has been developed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia to complement training materials now available on the PSA website.

This training is mandatory for pharmacies participating in the program. The CD-ROM contains video presentations of a PMP service being implemented. It also contains helpful information, checklist and tools to help you with various aspects of the program.

If you are not yet involved in the program, or have not completed all of the evaluation data reports, it is not too late to become involved or renew your involvement. Incentive payments continue to be available for participation.

For more information, visit the Guild website at www.guild.org.au under the "Professional Pharmacy Services" section or email professional.programs@guild.org.au.

Self care focus applauded

THE Pharmaceutical Society has praised the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission draft report (PD yesterday) for its focus on people taking responsibility for their own health.

"Pharmacists are ideally positioned to assist people with informed health care," said PSA vice president Shane Jackson, adding that the PSA recognised this priority 22 years ago when it

Gong for FRED

FRED Health has been named as Microsoft's 2008 Retail Vertical Developer of the Year, recognising the firm's "groundbreaking integration of Microsoft Dynamics Retail Management System POS to deliver business value and customer benefits."

Fred ceo Paul Naismith said the firm won the award "based on the very real benefits that we were able to achieve for pharmacies and patients."

The award was announced at the opening of new larger Sydney premises for Fred which offers dedicated demonstration and training facilities for 50 people.

Egyptians strike

PHARMACISTS in Egypt have gone on strike to protest efforts by authorities to enforce a new tax law, which requires them to include all merchandise sold — not just medicines — in tax returns.

The pharmacists argue that medicines are not a profit-making enterprise and should have a lower taxation than other goods.

The Health Minister has ordered all state-owned pharmacies to stay open 24 hours, to counter any effects of the private-sector strike.

established the successful Pharmacy Self Care program.

He confirmed that in its Budget submission for 2009/10 PSA had called for the program to be rolled out nationally because it "will help deliver substantial savings to the Australian government."

Jackson also said pharmacists should have a broader role in any expansion of primary care, adding that "enhanced pharmacy services should ideally be accessible to the public from within the proposed comprehensive primary health care centres."

Cerebral palsy link

WOMEN who develop infections while pregnant have an increased risk of having a child with cerebral palsy, according to a Danish study.

The research found that common conditions such as urinary tract and vaginal infections, increased the risk of cerebral palsy by up to six times.

The study, which will be presented at a Cerebral Palsy Conference in Sydney tomorrow, suggests that better detection and treatment of maternal infections may reduce the number of babies born with the condition.

Network solution

THE Nova Pharmacies/Priceline group have implemented D-Link's VPN network solution to connect its 60 national outlets and head office in Melbourne.

The system allows all outlets to securely transmit confidential information, including time clock data for around 1000 staff, and applications such as payroll and time clock synchronisation can now be centrally managed.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A 64-YEAR-OLD Chinese man has created a fitness plan for elderly people which involves just a rope and a tree.

Huang Fugui said he created the program after recovering from a serious illness, saying "I thought of exercising to improve my health."

The regime involves climbing the tree, swinging upside down and bouncing on branches, and Fugui insists many older people could benefit.

"It can make elderly people have a brave heart and good health," he said, adding that: "I feel I can do something for elderly people nationwide."

Health experts in China described the tree/rope calisthenics as "impressive" but warned that it "should absolutely not be promoted because it's too dangerous."

PERHAPS an incontinence pad would have been a better idea.

An Italian driver who stopped his car to answer a call of nature was forced to watch helplessly as the vehicle slid over the edge of a cliff.

50-year-old Antonio Gallo says he put on the handbrake, but failed to notice the slope he was parked on was covered with ice.

The vehicle - with his wife and children inside - rolled down a slope before crashing into a tree about 50m below.

Luckily Gallo's family escaped unharmed from the incident.

A police spokesman said "He hasn't been charged with any crime, but he's definitely going to get a life sentence of backseat driving from now on".

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