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Minfos join eMIMS

THE pharmaceutical database, minfos, which integrates dispensary, point of sale, financial, inventory and management functions, has added a new link to eMIMS in its streamlined system.

The new link is now available on current minfos software, and will be available on the updated minfos software, due for release within the next few months.

This addition will allow pharmacists to easily link to eMIMS or eMIMS pharmacy for up-to-date medical information whilst, at the same time, dispensing to customers.

For info see: www.minfos.com.au.

Guild appointment

THE Guild Group has recently appointed George Venardos to its board of directors.

Mr Venardos has 30 years' experience in financial services, most recently as group chief financial officer of IAG.

Upon appointment Venardos said, "The clarity of the Guild Group's strategy and the uniqueness of their business model were major attractions for me in taking up this role."



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Targeted therapies in view

THE Federal Government is considering funding diagnostic tests to target medications at patients and reduce adverse side effects.

Experts expect these "targeted therapies", or pharmacogenomics, will transform drug prescribing in the next decade.

A study prepared for the Australian Centre for Health Research by Deloitte Economics estimates that the widespread introduction of targeted therapy could save the Government more than \$12 billion over five years.

Deloitte says the current approach to drug therapy is based on the expectation of similar

outcomes for all patients, which ignores how patients with a common condition can respond differently to some medicines, including suffering serious side effects, or not respond to the treatment at all.

According to the study, targeted therapies would create a dramatic difference in diseases such as colorectal cancer, and the use of warfarin, to prevent stroke, statins and anti-depressants.

PBS safety net family changes

PHARMACEUTICAL Benefits Scheme Safety Net families can now include same-sex de facto partners, effective since 01 January 2009.

Couples living separately due to illness, infirmity or frailty (for example, in an aged care facility) can also access PBS Safety Net benefits jointly as a family in the same manner as if they were living together.

Small stash please!

A MAN with a knife robbed a pharmacy in New Zealand for \$30 worth of morphine tablets.

Police said he was quite insistent that he wanted the morphine and not methadone or cash.

Staff at Johnsonville Medical Centre Pharmacy gave the ginger-haired robber a small number of the tablets before he fled by car.

Therapeutic update

THE 16th Australasian Clinical Pharmacy Education Seminar will be held in Hobart on 9-11 Feb 09.

Therapeutic Update: Optimising Drug Treatment Through Medication Management Reviews, presented by Jeff Hughes & Peter Tenni, involves 18 hours of direct contact time, with case-based learning in gastroenterology and infectious diseases.

Prenatal Testing

A DANISH biotech company Fetal Cells in Maternal Blood (FCMB) have developed a fetal cell recognition system.

Foetal cells can now be distinguished from maternal cells in maternal blood samples, by the use of a specific marker, a protein found only in the fetal cells.

This could potentially revolutionise prenatal diagnostics, leading to a risk free method of assessing genetic abnormalities, such as Down Syndrome.

New generics label

THE new ancillary label, designed as part of a promotional campaign is to be included as an alternate label 15 in the 21st ed. of the Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and Handbook.

The label was designed in consultation with the PSA, the Pharmacy Guild, pharmacists and consumers as part of the National Prescribing Service's *Generic Medicines are an Equal Choice* campaign.

Larger than the existing 15b label, it includes an area to write the name of the active ingredient of the medicine.



DISPENSARY CORNER

SO you're back from holidays and rueing their loss.

An East Sussex man is over the moon to be back at work after slicing his arm off.

The man, John Stirling, severed his arm with a chainsaw whilst chopping wood, then ran to a neighbour who tried to stem the flow of blood by tying the arm with a belt tourniquet, and putting the severed limb in a frozen pastry bag.

Twelve surgeons worked for 14hrs to save the arm, and in only eleven short weeks John is now able to use his fingers, happy to be able to work.

He said his recovery was "like winning the lottery."

AND in a bit of new years madness, recently born twin boys do not share the same birthday.

Tarrance Griffin said hello to the world at 11.51pm on 31 December 08 and his brother Tariq Griffin was born at 12.17am on 01 January 09.

These twins not only differ in day of birth and month of birth, but year of birth too!

And they are definitely twins, despite what their new birth certificates say.

OBESITY crisis wake up call!

Australia's famous 'Flying Doctor' service are investigating the logistics and cost factors involved in obtaining two larger planes, to accommodate New South Wales growing population.

Despite Australia's sport loving international image, it seems our waistlines just keep expanding, and the current planes, made to carry patients up to 140kgs, now do not cut it.

The two new proposed planes would carry patients up to 260kgs, similar to the weight of a baby elephant.



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