

## Liver drug listed

A NEW treatment for unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), Nexavar (sorafenib tosylate), will be available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from 01 February.

Nexavar is the only systemic treatment proven to significantly improve overall survival in advanced HCC2, a type of primary liver cancer, and the first to be registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for the treatment of advanced HCC.

Nexavar is to be administered as an initial treatment of advanced HCC in a patient with a WHO performance status of 2 or less and Child Pugh class A1.

## Flu vaccine spray

ASTRAZENECA has applied to market a nasal spray influenza vaccine in Europe.

The new drug application is based on data from 73 studies conducted in 38 countries.

The spray is already marketed in the United States as FluMist and was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2003.

"We are hopeful that the future availability and product characteristics of this novel nasal spray influenza vaccine will contribute to an increase in vaccination rates and reduce the spread of influenza around the world," said Dr Alex Zukiwski, chief medical officer of MedImmune, a subsidiary of AstraZeneca.

## PBS subsidy for nurses?

PRESCRIPTIONS written by nurse practitioners at a chain of private clinics would qualify for Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme subsidies, if a new proposal is approved by the Federal Government.

The Revive Clinic, which has opened a nurse-run clinic in Perth and has plans for 20 more nationwide, proposed the pilot scheme in its submission to the Preventative Health Taskforce and has also applied for permission for its consultations to be covered by Medicare.

Under WA law, nurses at the clinic can treat patients and prescribe S4 drugs for minor conditions, such as coughs, cold, flu, nausea, ear infections and bladder infections.

## GE goat drug

THE US Food and Drug Administration has held its first-ever advisory committee meeting on a product from a genetically engineered animal.

The anti-clotting drug, made from the milk of GE goats, has been deemed safe and effective by the FDA.

ATryn, developed by GTC Biotherapeutics, is already approved for use in Europe for patients with a rare hereditary disorder that makes them vulnerable to life-threatening blood clots.



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## DISPENSARY CORNER

THE kidney is mine!

A New York doctor is demanding that his former wife pay him A\$2.07 million to compensate him for the kidney he gave her...or give it back.

Dr Richard Batista told the *New York Daily News* that he gave his kidney to Dawnell Batista in 2001 after she had two failed transplants, and four years later she filed for divorce.

Their marriage became volatile after his estranged wife allegedly had an affair.

The case is now being heard in a Supreme Court in New York, however medical ethicists say that the case is a non-starter.

AN obvious case of baby brain.

A 35-year old Lincoln woman on shoplifting and drug charges faked birth pains as she was being arrested.

Police were called to The Empire Mall earlier this week when staff reported she'd stolen a key chain.

When officers arrived and carried out a search, they found pain pills without a prescription in Erica McNally's purse.

Whilst being arrested for shoplifting and possession of a controlled substance, McNally told police she was going into labor, and was rushed to hospital by ambulance.

Doctor's advised she was not in labour, nor was she pregnant.

And to add to her punishment, police have informed McNally that she'll have to pay for the ambulance ride as well as the hospital visit.

## SASMAR lubricant

SASMAR has introduced Conceive Plus, the only lubricant that includes calcium and magnesium ions.

It is formulated to meet the pH range and osmolality defined by the World Health Organisation as the optimal conditions for sperm survival and migration.

Sasmar Conceive Plus will be sold only in pharmacies.

## Kids check-ups

FAMILIES will be sent invitations this month to take their children to the doctor for health checks.

The Federal Government's \$26m program of voluntary checks for pre-schoolers - one of its pre-election promises - has had poor take-up around the country.

Only 5% of the checks planned in 2008-09 have been billed to Medicare in the first five months of the program.

## Sleep for your heart

ONE extra hour of sleep can cut the five-year risk of coronary artery calcification by 33%, according to new research.

The five-year study used wrist monitors, rather than self-reporting, to test 500 healthy, middle-aged Americans.

The benefits of sleep remained even after adjusting for age, smoking and other cardiac risk factors.

## HOT Travel Deals

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature.

Each week we plan to highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

Looking for a sizzling summer escape these holidays?

The Gold Coast's popular Mantra Sun City has completed a major refurbishment, with the fresh look hotel including new leisure facilities, dining options and furniture.

To celebrate the exciting new look of the resort, special rates are available from \$166 per room per night which includes breakfast for two.

For bookings phone 13 15 17 or see [www.mantra.com.au](http://www.mantra.com.au).

Continue to make the most of the summer months on Fraser Island with Kingfisher Bay

Resort's 'Pay 2, Stay 3' special, available before the end of Mar.

Hotel accommodation starts from only \$99 per person, per night twin share.

Phone 1800 FRASER for more.

Why not enjoy an island getaway with a french twist?

Just two and a half hours from Sydney, New Caledonia is on sale offering 2-for-1 prices.

Three night escapes including airfares, transfers and accommodation start from \$1099 + taxes for the first person.

The second traveller must pay for taxes - for full details see [www.newcaledoniaholidays.com.au](http://www.newcaledoniaholidays.com.au).

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