

Herbal regulation

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) says it's been encouraged by the results of a survey which found that 77% of British adults agree that it is important that herbal medicines are regulated.

Currently in Britain there's a transitional period for unlicensed herbal medicines, which must go through a registration process by 2011 under a new Traditional Herbal Registration Scheme which was launched in 2005.

The MHRA says the previous regime provided the public with "little protection against low grade products," citing recent examples of herbal remedies with "heavy metals, undeclared pharmaceutical substances or the wrong, toxic herb."



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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.

In a parent-perfect offer Qantas Holidays is offering a fabulous Sofitel Fiji package which includes return economy airfares, 3 nights accom in an ocean-facing Resort Room, \$300 food & beverage credit, return transfers, free accom for up to 2 children, 12yrs and under, who use existing bedding with free breakfast and dinner for kids accompanied by their parents at the resort restaurant.

Prices are per person twin share, starting at \$1069 ex Syd. Contact Qantas on 13 14 15 - see www.sofitelfiji.com.fj.

See Ayers Rock without the

expensive price tag with [travel.com.au's](http://travel.com.au) special offer.

Prices start at \$799pp including a return airfare, 3 nights accom, & transfers.

See travel.com.au for info.

Captain Cook Cruises is offering an amazing 'First in Best Room' offer whereby all levels of accommodation are being sold for the same price.

The sale is valid on all Fiji & Murray River 3, 4 & 7 night cruises and on Sydney Harbour's two night Weekend Explorer cruise.

Details on 1800 804 843 or see www.captaincook.com.au.

Mandate urged for STOP

THE Pharmacy Guild is calling for uniform legislation across Australia to make the use of its Project STOP system compulsory.

The system, which fights so-called 'Pseudo Runners' buying pseudoephedrine products from multiple pharmacies for use in making methamphetamines, has

Wound litigation

SMITH and Nephew's Advanced Wound Management division has been temporarily prohibited from commercialising foam dressing kits for negative pressure wound therapy in the United Kingdom.

The move follows a successful injunction by rival wound care manufacturer Kinetic Concepts (KCI), which is claiming that Smith & Nephew has infringed patents on KCI's V.A.C. Therapy.

The patent case will be heard sometime after Mar, with Smith & Nephew saying it was confident of its position in the lawsuit.

Pfizer to cut R&D

PFIZER has announced that it will reduce its research workforce by 800 positions worldwide this year as part of a restructuring.

The cuts will affect workers in the US and UK, with the firm saying the move is "part of Pfizer's overall plan to refocus research in a more efficient way."

Pfizer recently announced it would focus on ten disease areas.



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DISPENSARY CORNER

IF you've started seeing strange things, cut down on coffee.

That's the advice of researchers at Durham University in the UK, who have found that young men and women who had more than seven cups of instant coffee a day were three times more likely to experience hallucinations.

Large amounts of coffee were also more likely to make drinkers think they could sense the presence of ghosts, according to the research published in the *Personality and Individual Differences* journal.

A KIDNEY disease sufferer in China has been forced to drink some of his own urine sample at an airport security checkpoint in Shanghai.

58-year-old Yu Fahai, who received a kidney transplant some years ago, was challenged over a bottle of liquid in his pocket before boarding a flight.

"The checker asked me what was inside, and I told her it was my urine. She said: 'Urine? Drink some to prove it'," he told a local newspaper.

Yu, who regularly tests his urine for infection, has lodged a formal complaint over the incident.

An airport spokesman claimed the security guard had mistakenly heard the word 'urine' as 'beverage'.

been running nationally since Aug 2007 and in Qld since Nov 2005.

Guild President Kos Sclavos said the system has been highly successful, with pharmacists denying sales on 26,000 occasions.

But varying laws across all the states mean reporting requirements for the sales are "confused and confusing," with Sclavos saying it's now time that all jurisdictions mandate its use by all pharmacies.

"This would ensure patients received a consistent professional approach from pharmacy staff and it would allow health and police authorities to capture all data regarding misuse and abuse of these products," Sclavos said.

US pharmacy fined

A PHARMACY in the US state of Connecticut will pay the govt US\$75,000 after its employees stole about 12,000 Oxycontin and Percocet tablets.

The settlement follows the conviction of three staff of larceny, burglary and unauthorised sale of a controlled substance.

Because the thefts were undetected and unreported, the US Drug Enforcement Administration sued the pharmacy claiming it didn't have an accurate inventory of its controlled substances.

Lawyers for the pharmacy said its owners were unaware of the thefts and dismissed the workers as soon as police notified them of the arrests.

Travelling Well comp is back!

EACH day this week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving you the chance to win one of two copies of Dr Deborah Mills' latest book, *Travelling Well*.

The book is a must-have guide to a safe and healthy journey, with detailed advice about pre-trip preparation, how to look after yourself while away, and what to do if you get sick.

Dr Deborah Mills, widely known as "The Travel Doctor" is one of Australia's leading travel health care providers, and has over 20 years experience in the field.

To enter today, send your answer to the following question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What are three common symptoms of heat stress?

This great prize will go to the first two correct responses, so for your chance to win, make sure you send in your entry NOW!

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners **Trine Nielsen**, Newcastle intern pharmacist and **Anthony Harding** of **Tumut Pharmacy**.

