

Clopidogrel on PBS

PATIENTS will no longer have to suffer two heart attacks before they can access clopidogrel plus aspirin, the optimal treatment for acute coronary syndromes (ACS).

Clopidogrel (Plavix and Iscover) will be listed on the PBS for the treatment of ACS from 1 Feb.

Taken in conjunction with aspirin, clopidogrel is used in the treatment of ACS events, such as heart attacks and unstable angina; the combination has been shown to reduce the risk of a second heart attack, stroke or death by 20 per cent compared to aspirin alone.

The listing makes clopidogrel accessible to patients when they suffer a first heart attack whether or not they were on aspirin, but before they have suffered a subsequent event.

Immediate access to the combination treatment will prevent an estimated 12,400 heart attacks, strokes or deaths over the next five years, compared to the current PBS listing.


Strong Christmas for API

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries yesterday reported that the key Christmas trading period saw sales growth of about 4%, with the record performance putting the company on target for a 10% improvement in first half net profit.

Chairman Peter Robinson told shareholders at the firm's annual general meeting the sales came through very late (with a strong performance in the days after 25 Dec), with global conditions creating significant uncertainty.

He also said API was continuing to invest in products and services to support independent pharmacy, and there had been strong growth in the franchised Priceline store model, with more franchised than company-owned stores now.

"This is indicative of the demand that pharmacists have shown to join Priceline when they are looking for a compliant retail brand," he said.



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US\$637,000 fine for Wal-Mart

AMERICAN pharmacy giant Wal-Mart has paid US\$637,000 to the state of Texas in settlement of numerous alleged violations of rules relating to record-keeping for controlled drugs.

The payment was made without admission of liability and followed an audit of five Wal-Mart and Sam's Club pharmacies in Texas by the US Drug Enforcement Agency.

The pharmacies inspected didn't have the required records to "prevent diversion of controlled substances", meaning that the audits revealed inconsistencies in the drugs on hand.

The DEA said this meant a variety of substances were "lost or stolen and possibly diverted."

HRT brain shrinks

SOME forms of hormone replacement therapy can slightly shrink the brains of post-menopausal women, a US study has suggested.

The findings may help explain previous work linking HRT to an increased risk of memory loss and dementia.

A team led by researchers at Wake Forest University carried out brain scans on 1,400 women who took part in an earlier HRT trial.

But UK experts queried the study, published in *Neurology*, as researchers admitted they were unable to carry out brain scans before the women began taking HRT.

The results also suggested shrinkage was most pronounced in women who may already have started to develop memory problems before they started taking hormones.

Bayer butterflies

BAYER Australia has donated \$60,000 to Mission Australia to help the homeless.

The company donated \$1 for each butterfly created by Australians, including *Pharmacy Daily* readers, in a fundraising campaign last year.

The overall top performing state for the most butterflies was NSW.

Drug treatments

A RECENT study has asked high-school students to use their mobile phone to provide info about their alcohol use.

CounsellingOnline, a live chat site, attracted thousands of users.

QuitCoach, a new internet-based screening and intervention program for smokers, is also featured in the special issue.

RGH Pharmacy

Due to popular demand the
RGH Pharmacy
Anticoagulation Handbook
is now available to the
pharmacy industry across Australia.

The handbook gives patients important information about warfarin treatment and has a chart to record INR results.

Repatriation General Hospital is making it available for purchase for \$2.80 per booklet, reduced to \$2.40 for PSA and SHPA members.

More information
chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au



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A natural beauty

Riding the wave of worldwide interest in Australian beauty, Natio is set to release the Natural Beauty collection. The timeless colours create soft, feminine eyes, cheerful cheeks and dewy lips. A gift-with-purchase is offered from February 25 - customers who buy two items will receive a full-size Illuminating Primer and a Little Natural Beauty Book.

RRP: \$10.95-\$18.95

Stockist: Natio

Tel: (03) 9415 9911



DISPENSARY CORNER

AUTHORITIES in France are investigating a scheme in which a woman from Paris allegedly duped thousands of Chileans into buying "magic cheese" kits to be used in French beauty products.

The complicated pyramid scam involved Gilberte Van Erpe telling buyers that the fermented mass produced by the kits was in strong demand from cosmetics manufacturers in France.

"We call it the 'case of the magic cheese'", said investigator Sylvie Gagnard, who will register lawsuits for thousands of victims.

Van Erpe is in custody in France, accused of fraud and money laundering.

Reports say she claimed the 'cheese' was a special ingredient for moisturisers and shampoos, and charged investors about \$600 for the kits, which were actually worth about \$6.

A 72-YEAR-OLD man in the USA has raised US\$1600 for charity by offering people a chance to trim his eyebrows.

Si Burgher had never had his shaggy brows cut before, with some of the wiry hairs reportedly up to 8cm long.

In fact his eyebrows were so long he used to brush them before leaving the house, with locals keen to line up to have a snip.

"I don't care if they ever grow back," he told the *Bloomington Herald-Times*.

"My wife says I look 20 years younger," he added.



Secrets from the spa

Hide the effects of a late night (or a long life!) with the new Age Defying Spa Concealer. It instantly revitalises and brightens while concealing imperfections. Stone therapy minerals and vitamin C help give a glowing look, while the acai berry protects skin from the signs of ageing. The soft luxurious brush provides a spa-like experience, according to Revlon.

RRP: \$24.95

Supplier: Revlon

Tel: 1800 025 488

It's getting hot in here

Hotteeze are stick-on heat pads that are attached to undergarments (not the skin) and stay warm for up to 12 hours. No need to heat up in a microwave, the self-adhesive pads become hot when removed from the packaging. Suitable for period pain and to provide warming comfort for aches and sore muscles, or to help stimulate the immune system.

RRP: \$24.95 (10-pack)

Stockist: Hotteeze

Tel: 1800 098 780



A star is reborn

The original rose-star anise composition of Very Irresistible Givenchy has made way for a blooming floral with a middle note based on jasmine. Surrounded by five sparkling scents - green mandarin, orange, red berries, spicy red pepper and warm heliotrope, it creates a captivating signature.

RRP: \$75 - \$125

Stockist: Parfums Givenchy

Tel: (02) 9695 4800

Perfectly polished

Summer calls for smooth and radiant skin, and Innoxia has released the SkinSpecialist range to work alongside your regular regime to help achieve this goal. The five fragrance-free products include an exfoliator, purifying mask, plumping lip crème, plumping lip gloss and gentle eye make-up remover.

RRP: \$19.95

Stockist: Innoxia

Tel: 1800 025 607



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