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Micardis Plus listed

MICARDIS Plus 80/25mg will be added to the PBS from 01 Mar.

The medication combines 80mg of telmisartan with 25mg of hydrochlorothiazide and is the strongest version of the Micardis range of antihypertensive drugs.

It's PBS listed for the treatment of hypertension that is not adequately controlled with either telmisartan or hydrochlorothiazide monotherapy.

Whooping cough advice brochure

QUEENSLAND Health has issued a leaflet advising parents on how to protect their babies from whooping cough.

It gives information about the whooping cough vaccine as well as providing background details on the disease including symptoms, treatment and control.

Copies can be viewed online at: www.health.qld.gov.au.

Osteoarthritis trial

THE world's first human trial of adult stem cell treatment for the prevention of knee osteoarthritis after an acute traumatic knee injury is set to start.

Mesoblast Ltd. has received Australian institutional ethics approval for the trial.

The trial's primary endpoint will be safety of the stem cell therapy at 12 months, and its secondary endpoint will be prevention of cartilage loss and knee osteoarthritis during this period.

Lead investigator Andrew Shimmin said: "Little has changed in the prevention and treatment of arthritis over the past 50 years, so the application of Mesoblast's stem cell technology for reducing the progression of this degenerative process in the knee offers a new and exciting direction for the management of arthritis."

New pill to cut 'withdrawals'

A NEW pill containing estradiol is hoped to revolutionise oral contraception for women.

The pill, which is still under trial, alters the amount of hormones throughout the cycle and includes only two hormone-free days.

As a natural form of oestrogen, estradiol may spell the end for "hormone withdrawal" symptoms, such as pelvic pain, headaches, mood swings and sore breasts, *The Daily Telegraph* reports.

The seven-day hormone-free period of other pills is believed to cause pain and discomfort in patients, which many believe is normal or premenstrual tension, said sexual health doctor, Terri Foran.

At least 70% of all women who take the pill suffer symptoms that are commonly mistaken for PMT, but it may be caused by "withdrawals" from the pill's

No PD on Monday

THE next issue of *Pharmacy Daily* will be on Tuesday 27 Jan, due to the Australia Day Public Holiday on Monday.

hormones, according to the report.

Volunteers are being recruited for a six-month landmark clinical trial at Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney, with at least 880 women needed worldwide to test its effectiveness.

More than two million Australian women take some type of contraceptive pill.

JJET takes off

JOHNSON & JOHNSON Pacific is set to launch its JJET program in April, which it claims will revolutionise the way pharmacy assistants are trained.

The new platform allows assistants to advise the "virtual customer" about a range of health issues, to help them build confidence in their recommendations.

Training modules include Body Systems; Conditions; Symptoms & Treatments; Product Training; and Customer Scenarios.

Learners are assessed and earn points that go towards a Rewards Program to receive prizes.

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
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DISPENSARY CORNER

AN astronomical project!

British and Italian scientists are planning to exhume the body of Galileo, the Father of Astronomy, in order to try and test his eyesight!

The group want to conduct DNA tests to determine how Galileo's severe vision problems may have affected some of his findings.

The famed 16th century astronomer was blind for the last two years of his life, and is known to have had intermittent eye problems before then.

By finding out what ailed him, the group hopes to recreate what Galileo actually saw.

DUMBELLS not cutting it for you anymore? How about using humans!

A gym in England has taken the unusual step of offering 'human weights' as a weight-lifting option for their patrons.

"Creating a mental image or intention of what you want to happen or feel is proven to improve physical and psychological performance," said gym owner, Richard Hilton.

The 'human weights' range from 32-year-old dwarf Arti Shah, weighing in at 30kgs through to 'Super Human' 37-year-old Matt Barnard, who tips the scales at a huge 155kgs, with the other 'human weights' fitting somewhere in-between.



Better than lifting dead weight.