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UK palliative move

BRITAIN'S medicines regulator has published the outcome of a consultation relating to proposals to "regularise the position" of people mixing and administering medicines in palliative care.

Under current UK legislation, mixing drugs together creates an unlicensed medicine - even though in palliative care it is usual to mix two or medicines in a syringe driver prior to administration.

The MHRA said it recognised that the legal position had the potential to obstruct the provision of effective pain relief and symptom control, and last Sep issued a statement saying it wouldn't be acting against doctors, nurses or pharmacists who were engaged in the "long-standing accepted practice" of mixing drugs.

The report published overnight has recommended that regulations be amended to allow the practice.

WA Guild sale

THE Western Australian branch of the Pharmacy Guild is disposing of a number of disused assets, and has issued a tender document inviting offers, to be submitted by 5pm on Fri 17 Jul.

Items up for grabs include a number of computers and other office equipment, as well as a 2004 Subaru Outback.

More info 08 9429 4185.

Qld website down

THE Pharmacists Board of Queensland has advised that its website will not be available this coming weekend (11-12 July) due to maintenance.

This means that access to on-line payment and restoration of registration will not be available on those days, with normal services to resume from 9am Mon 13 July.

NPS misadventure message

THE National Prescribing Service is today urging health professionals to teach patients how to identify the active ingredient in their medicines, as a key way of avoiding mix-ups and adverse events.

The move follows a recent NPS literature review which found that 6% of hospitalisations were due to adverse medicines events - climbing to almost 30% in the elderly.

"Some people identify their medicines by colour and shape, which gets them in trouble if they have to switch brands," said NPS ceo Dr Lynn Weekes.

She said NPS had developed

tools which can be used in any pharmacy to help with the issue, including the online NPS Medicine Name Finder.

When a brand name is entered into the name finder, the active ingredient appears (and vice versa), and users of the system can record their medicine details and print them out to discuss with their health professional.

Links are also provided to CMI leaflets and the Name Finder can also be saved as a Google Gadget for easy access for iGoogle users - www.nps.org.au/activeingredient.

Propoxyphene alert

THE US Food and Drug Administration has issued new regulations requiring manufacturers of products containing propoxyphene to strengthen warning labels, particularly emphasising the potential for overdose.

Affected medications include Darvon and Darvocet, with the move taken because of data linking propoxyphene with fatal overdoses.

The FDA is also requiring a new safety study to assess questions about the effects of the compound on the heart at higher than recommended doses.

Sigma under fire over GP cruise offer

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals is in the news today over an advertisement in the *Australian Doctor* magazine offering to take general practitioners on a luxury cruise in the Mediterranean.

A story in today's *Daily Telegraph* slams the cruise as leading to the perception of a conflict of interest for participating GPs, as well as breaching the Medicines Australia code of conduct.

However Sigma isn't a member of Medicines Australia and has no obligation to comply with the code.

The ad bills former Victorian premier Jeff Kennett as the keynote speaker, and also offers extensive educational sessions.

What the *News Limited* article doesn't say is that pharmacists are also invited to participate on the same cruise which takes place 8-18 Oct aboard the *Seven Seas Navigator* - the same vessel used for the previous Sigma cruise, also in the Mediterranean in 2007.

Pharmacy scam alert

PHARMACISTS are being warned of a spate of fraudulent internet requests inquiring about price and availability of common pharmaceutical items.

It's a variation of a well-known scam which has been around for some years in other industries, with the fraudsters appearing to be targeting Australian pharmacy due to the expansion of online connectivity over the last few years.

A number of *Pharmacy Daily* readers have forwarded the fake requests this week, one of which purports to be inquiring about an order of 200 bottles of "omega 3 fish oil" with shipping via air mail to Nigeria - and also asking for

The scammers offer to pay for the items by credit card and are generally happy to have the goods shipped by an expensive express service - because of course the credit cards they're using are stolen.

Once they receive the goods they generally resell them - while it takes a week or two for the bank to realise that they shouldn't have approved the transaction and issue a chargeback to the pharmacy's account, by which time the items and the scammers are long gone.

Pharmacists are advised to just delete any such scam emails.

WIN REVLON EYELASHES!



Add red carpet glamour to your look with the Revlon Fantasy Lengths and Lash Flares fake eyelash range.

Revlon has teamed up with *Pharmacy Daily* this week, giving readers the chance to win a packet of glue on eyelashes each day.

The range includes Fantasy Lengths Self Adhesive Eyelashes, Fantasy Length Glue-On Eyelashes and Lash Flares Individual Lashes and is valued at \$9.99 a packet.

The easy to apply lashes are long lasting, comfortable, weightless and suitable for contact lens wearers. So give yourself perfect lashes every time thanks to Revlon.

For your chance to win your very own fake lashes, simply send through the correct answer to the following question:

Name the five sub-categories under "Eyes" on the Revlon website.

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

The first correct entry received each day will win!

Hint: Visit the Revlon website at: www.revlon.com.

CONGRATULATIONS to Kunjan Ganatra of Johnston Rorke Chartered Accountants who was yesterday's lucky winner!

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References: 1. GSK data on file. 2. Nicabate Minis product information. 3. Nicorette product information. Nicabate[®] is a registered trade mark of the GlaxoSmithKline group of companies. WH GSK15657



Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Fix those damaged lips

If your lips have been damaged by the elements then Blistex Intensive Repair is the perfect solution. It provides an effective barrier that helps lips to restore their natural moisture and provides relief from the discomfort of dry and chapped lips. This product delivers a noticeable and immediate cooling sensation, providing relief quickly.

RRP: \$5.95

Stockist: Key Pharmaceuticals 02 8113 6200

Web: www.keypharm.com.au



Get a good night's sleep

Through a unique combination of natural ingredients Nature's Own Complete Sleep helps those suffering from sleep difficulties to get to sleep and stay asleep. Complete Sleep combines Zizyphus, a calming herb used in traditional Chinese medicine, and Lactium, a milk peptide which mimics the calming properties found in mothers milk. As many as 80% of Australians suffer sleep trouble at some point.

RRP: \$29.95

Stockist: sanofi aventis Consumer Healthcare

Web: www.sanofi-aventis.com.au

Don't let a cut ruin your plans

Elastoplast Heavy Fabric is designed to let you get on with your life, providing long lasting durability and protection during everyday activities. These plasters feature a large non-stick pad for would cushioning and protection, and are also gentle on the skin during removal. Their staying power is the result of a 'Sure Stick' formula which guarantees protection.

RRP: \$3.29 for 20 strips

Stockist: Beiersdorf

Info: 1800 103 023



It's a Brave New World

Brave New World is the new Autumn/Winter collection from Max Factor, fresh from the European catwalks. This range emphasises a brave combination of strong plum lips and dark sultry eyes, with colours ranging from the palest whites and greys to violet and toxic purple. It includes eye shadow, eyeliner, lipstick and mascara.

Stockist: The Heat Group

Info: 1800 181 040



Firming foundation and foundation primer

Designer Brands has released a new Peptide + Firming Foundation which can provide youthful looking skin with just one application. The liquid mineral foundation plumps the skin and refines fine lines and wrinkles. The Pre-Foundation Moisturising Primer acts as a barrier between your face and the foundation, rejuvenating the skin while smoothing imperfections and uneven skin tones to make your foundation look fresh.

RRP: \$14.99 each

Stockist: Designer Brands 1300 765 332

Web: www.tbn.com.au



DISPENSARY CORNER

IF YOU'RE just pulling your hair out with frustration, the answer may be a new medication.

The Archives of General Psychiatry has published the results of a new trial to help treat sufferers of trichotillomania - also known as an uncontrollable urge to pluck the hair of the scalp and even lashes and eyebrows.

Many patients end up being bald, and although it's seen as a behavioural problem there are hopes that it may be helped with an amino acid pill.

A group of 50 people with the ailment took part in a 12 week trial of N-acetylcysteine, with a significant reduction in hair-pulling seen by those who used the drug when compared to those who took a placebo.

The same supplement has also shown promising results for treating people with other compulsive disorders.

HARD economic times in the USA have seen a huge surge in people wanting to raise money by donating their sperm or eggs.

Rates of enquiry about donation are reportedly up about 40% so far this year.

Sperm donations can be worth up to \$100 per "collection" while egg donors can get up to \$5000 for a donation.

The coordinator for an IVF clinic in New Jersey said she previously got about 8 calls per week from potential egg donors - and now she gets that many a day.

But the really interesting thing is that she's also taken calls from at least 100 men inquiring about donating their 'eggs'.

"Times are that tough, I guess," she said.

PEOPLE from Scotland are the most likely to contract skin cancer in the UK, according to a study by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

The disturbing study found that rather than applying sunblock, sunbathers from Scotland usually preferred to apply baby oil or - believe it or not - chip fat - to get a deep golden tan.