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Super Clinic in Mt Isa

A NEW \$2.5 million GP Super Clinic will be established in Mt Isa under an agreement between the Federal Gov't and North and West Queensland Primary Health Care.

The deal will see North and West establish a clinic that "will implement new models of health care, provide education and training opportunities for future health professionals and conduct high quality research," the Dep't of Health said in a statement

The clinic will house GP's, nurses, psychologists and a number of other health professionals.

Antipsychotic study

FINNISH researchers have found that second-gen Antipsychotics may lower mortality rates in patients with schizophrenia, despite longstanding safety concerns about the drugs.

The study, which involved over 60,000 patients, found clozapine was associated with a 26% lower risk of mortality.

CSL to start swine flu trials

HEALTH Minister Nicola Roxon has said the Government would fast-track a swine flu vaccine if the virus "took a turn for the worse".

Human trials of a vaccine created by Australian-based company CSL are scheduled to begin next week, but the vaccine is not expected to be made available until Oct.

In the UK a vaccine is set to be distributed next month, but Roxon

said that is because they are not conducting human trials.

"I think we should be confident that we want to make sure the vaccine is safe and effective before we distribute it to a very big chunk of the population," she said.

So far 10,000 Australians have contracted the virus and 22 have died, with Roxon stating today that a 'worst case scenario' would be 6000 deaths if no action was taken.

MEANWHILE in NSW up to six new mothers with swine flu are on life support today after giving birth prematurely to prevent the virus from harming their children.

At least two of the children are also in intensive care.

Net helps insomnia

A STUDY in the July issue of the *Archives of General Psychiatry* has shown significant improvements in insomnia patients who completed an online course.

Patients using the 'Sleep Healthy Using the Internet' program found that insomnia severity scores were slashed by more than half.

The internet program involves a combination of text, animation, games and quizzes to deliver helpful information to sufferers.

MIMS is back at PD!

TODAY'S issue of *Pharmacy Daily* features two pages of news including the latest MIMS update (**below**) and our fantastic Dr Phil competition (**page 2**).

Implanon use in Aus

A STUDY published in the online journal *Contraception* earlier this week has shown that around half of Australian women who use the contraceptive implant Implanon can be expected to have the device removed early.

The clinical audit involved 976 women who accessed Implanon via two family planning clinics in Qld between May 2001 and May 2004.

The results showed that continuation rates were 94% after six months, 74% after a year and 50% after two years, with most women citing dissatisfaction with bleeding patterns as the main reason for the removal.

Implanon is sub-dermal implant inserted into the upper arm that is designed to provide effective contraception for three years.

The study concluded that counselling prior to insertion of the implant should emphasise to women the potential changes in bleeding patterns.

MIMS July prescribing update

NEW PRODUCTS

• Doribax (**doripenem**) is a synthetic broad-spectrum carbapenem antibiotic structurally related to other beta-lactams. It is used for the treatment of nosocomial pneumonia, and complicated intra-abdominal and urinary tract infections. The recommended dose is 500 mg every eight hours by IV infusion.

NEW INDICATIONS

• Gardasil is now indicated in females aged 9 to 45 years for the prevention of cervical, vulvar and vaginal cancer, precancerous or dysplastic lesions, genital warts, and infection caused by human papilloma virus (HPV) types 6, 11, 16 and 18 (which are included in the vaccine).

SAFETY-RELATED CHANGES

• Cases of venous thromboembolism, sometimes fatal,

have been reported with antipsychotics such as **chlorpromazine** (Largactil), **pericyazine** (Neulactil), **prochlorperazine** (Stemetil) and **amisulpride** (Solian). Caution should be used in patients with risk factors for thromboembolism. Also, elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis treated with antipsychotics are at an increased risk of death.

However, whether increased mortality can be attributed to the antipsychotic, as opposed to some characteristic of the patient, is unclear.

• Prolonged treatment (greater than 12 weeks) with **metoclopramide** (Maxolon) should be avoided in all but rare cases due to risks of developing tardive dyskinesia. Both the risk of developing the syndrome and the likelihood that it will

become irreversible are believed to increase with the duration of treatment and the total cumulative dose. Metoclopramide itself may suppress (or partially suppress) the signs of tardive dyskinesia, thereby masking the underlying disease process. The effect of this symptomatic suppression upon the long-term course of the syndrome is unknown; therefore, metoclopramide should not be used for the symptomatic control of tardive dyskinesia.

• **Ciprofloxacin** (Profloxin) should be used with caution in patients with a history of tendon disorders related to quinolones. If the patient experiences pain or inflammation of a tendon, therapy should be discontinued and care taken to keep the affected extremity at rest and inappropriate physical exercise avoided, due to the increased risk of tendon rupture.

• Cases of interstitial lung disease, some fatal, with no infectious aetiology have occurred in patients receiving immunosuppressives including **sirolimus** (Rapamune). In some cases, the interstitial lung disease has resolved upon discontinuation or dose reduction of sirolimus.

• Concomitant Fucidin (**fusidic acid, sodium fusidate**) and statins are now contraindicated. Co-administration may result in elevated creatine kinase level and increased risk of rhabdomyolysis, muscle weakness and pain.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing always refer to the full product information.

Lung cancer success

ROCHE has announced that new data from its phase III SATURN study shows that Tarceva produces a statistically significant improvement in overall survival when used immediately after initial chemotherapy in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer.

Tarceva is already used to combat lung cancer after the failure of chemotherapy.

The new data will be presented to the World Conference in Lung Cancer in the US in coming weeks.

Zoe's Place closed

ZOE'S Place, a hospice for terminally ill children in Qld has been placed into liquidation after a meeting of creditors in Brisbane.

The hospice, which has closed its doors, was put in administration last month after claims of unsatisfactory patient care.

WIN TICKETS TO SEE DR PHIL



DR. Phil McGraw, better known as "Dr. Phil", is bringing his live show to Australia in Aug for the very first time, and **PD** readers have the opportunity to win a double pass to the Sydney show on Thursday 6 August at Acer Arena, valued at \$238.

To enter, simply tell us what question you would ask Dr. Phil if you had the opportunity to attend his show.

Email your question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Sue Guth from Homebush Pharmacy said she would ask Dr. Phil the following question -

"What are the three most important things you can do to have a happy, successful long-term relationship?"

Pharmacy forum bags Sheedy

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia (WA) has announced that legendary AFL identity Kevin Sheedy will be speaking at next month's Pharmacy WA 2009 Industry Forum.

Sheedy is slated to speak at the formal closing of the forum, which takes place on 07-08 Aug.

His presence caps off an impressive line-up of speakers, which also includes the chief operating officer of RMIT, Steve Somogyi, chair of the Fair Pay Commission Ian Harper, Guild national president Kos Sclavos and the ceo's of three major wholesalers: Elmo de Alwis, Patrick

GSK to invest in AIDS

DRUG maker GlaxoSmithKline plans to invest nearly \$125 million over 10 years to improve research and access to AIDS drugs in Africa, and has also agreed to allow South African generics manufacturer Aspen Pharmacare to make a cheaper version of AIDS Drug Ziagen (abacavir), the company announced recently.

Davies and Stephen Roche.

Sheedy will address the 'Standing Together' theme of the event by coaching delegates on overcoming adversity and meeting challenges.

The forum will also feature a 'WA pharmacy world cafe,' where pharmacists and industry leaders can take advantage of an informal setting to plan the future direction of pharmacy in WA.

Pleasure and reward

NEW research carried out by the University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Research Institute has potential ramifications in the area of addiction treatments.

The research, which involved feeding sugar to rats, showed that treatments to stop addiction might have to go further than blocking the pleasure centres of the brain.

Instead, they should also target the separate reward anticipation centre in the brain.

The study appears in the most recent *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature.

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

Plan your family get-away now and save up to 40% thanks to the special "all-inclusive" holiday package deal courtesy of **CLUB MED LINDEMAN ISLAND**. Stay at the award-winning Whitsundays' Resort and receive 5 night's accommodation, airfares, transfers, taxes, membership fees, meals and drinks, entertainment and access to all Club Med's services and facilities for as little as \$1254 per adult, \$824 per child (4-11 yrs) and \$954 per teen (12-17 yrs). Offer is valid from 31 Jul until 19 Dec 09. For more info see www.clubmed.com.au or call (07) 5510 8873.

HUSKI FALLS CREEK is offering great rates to celebrate a great

snow season. For the month of July you and three friends can enjoy studio-apartment accommodation for \$450 per night, come and go as you please. Also, book now to stay 5 or more nights and receive a \$100 voucher to spend in the Produce Store Cafe or Day Spa. Call 1300 652 260.

Or if you would prefer a city break, the **GRAND HYATT MELBOURNE** has a 'Winter Wrap Up' package available from \$360 per night. There will be no need to leave your Grand King room, with the deal including valet car parking, a complimentary in-house movie, breakfast in bed and a 100% Merino wool rug for you to take home. For more info see melbourne.grand.hyatt.com.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

THIS could be a long trip!

A farmer from Dalby, Qld has set off on the road trip of a lifetime, travelling 6,000km across the state aboard his father's trusty tractor.

Frank Chiverton's grandson was born with a visual impairment, so Frank is using his journey to try to raise funds for Guide Dogs Qld.

"If I could get enough money to give one guide dog to one person it would be good because that is \$30,000 per dog," he told ABC News.

His trip aboard the 1966 tractor will take around 10 weeks.

IT is about time!

The US town of Needham in Boston, Massachusetts has decided to ban the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products in pharmacies.

Amazingly, it is only the third community in the whole state to take the step.

The town's Board of Health said the sale of such products conflicts with pharmacies mission to promote health and wellbeing.

LOOK officer, no hands!

A man in China has been issued a strict caution from police for riding a motorbike without any arms.

The 27-year-old lost his arms after an electric shock at the age of seven, and at the age of 10 his parents signed him up at a local circus to learn skills, and he trained himself to ride an adapted motorbike.

Police originally pulled the bike over for being overloaded - it was carrying three adults - but were shocked to see the driver.

He admitted that he had been riding the bike for 10 years.

