



Guild Update

Changes to Location Rules

In March, the Guild advised members of a number of amendments to Pharmacy Location Rules.

While it is common for people to not give an issue a great deal of thought until it actually impacts on them personally, all pharmacy owners are advised to familiarise themselves with these changes.

The Australian Community Pharmacy Authority (ACPA) cannot recommend approval to establish a new pharmacy or relocate an existing one if the relevant criteria in the Pharmacy Location Rules are not met.

The changes apply to applications made after 17 March 09, and include:

- a definition of "full-time", as it relates to prescribing medical practitioners, means 38 hours per week;
- amendment of the definition of "large medical centre" to require that it operates 70 hours per week;
- an update the definition of PHARIA to reference the 2008-09 version;
- clarification of the requirement for pharmacies relocating within the same rural town;
- a requirement that pharmacies recommended for approval (but not yet trading) are considered approved premises when assessing subsequent applications in the same area;
- removal of the "shortest lawful access route" as an alternative measurement of distance where there was a "genuine barrier" to access;
- clarification of the requirements for an additional pharmacy in an urban locality (Item 108 3(b)) or rural locality (Item 107 3(c));
- changing of Item 113 from new pharmacy (general) to new pharmacy (urban) and require that the proposed premises must be located in PHARIA 1;
- clarification of the requirements for compliance with State or Territory laws relating to land development (Item 201(b)); and
- reflecting recent amendment to the primary legislation to remove the reference "or from" as it relates to proposed premises.

An updated version of the 'Applicant's Handbook' is available at: www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/pharmacy-acpa-handbook-contents



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Flu vaccine now in stock

CSL Biotherapies has advised that following unprecedented demand for seasonal influenza vaccine it's ramped up production, with additional supplies now available on the PBS and private market.

The company said the boosted demand was due to heightened interest in influenza due to the Swine Flu outbreak, but also warned that "it is important to remember that seasonal flu is also very serious."

CSL Biotherapies general manager Mary Sontrop said the company's local facilities mean Australia has more capacity to produce flu vaccine than any other country in the world per head of population - and will also allow CSL to continue producing seasonal flu vaccine and commence

Govt targets STIs

THE Federal Government is looking to reduce the rate of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), launching a new campaign last week which targets young people and indigenous Australians.

Almost \$10 million has been committed to the National STI Prevention Program, which features the slogan "STIs are spreading fast - always use a condom."

The program, which features radio, magazine, billboard and online components, encourages people who have engaged in unprotected sex to see a doctor about getting tested.

It was launched in response to a rise in chlamydia, HIV/AIDS and syphilis infections in Australia, and following research suggesting that 16-29 year olds are not well informed about the benefits of using a condom.

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manufacture of a novel strain vaccine in parallel.

"With the extra supply of Fluvax vaccine now available, pharmacists can confidently place Fluvax orders with their usual wholesalers in order to meet this increased demand," Sontrop said.

MEANWHILE there's been a big jump in confirmed cases of influenza A (H1N1) overnight, with more than 400 across Australia.

The Health Department says all Australian states and territories now have at least one confirmed case, with the majority (306) in Victoria.

The illness "continues to be relatively mild in its impact," the govt said, with the virus affecting predominantly school aged children.

FDA approval

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Bausch & Lomb's Besivance (besifloxacin ophthalmic suspension 0.6%) for the treatment of bacterial conjunctivitis in patients aged one year and older.

Pharmspace full page

TODAY'S Pharmacy Daily has two pages of news plus a full page promoting the upcoming Pharmspace online virtual Careers Fair & Expo - **see p3**.

Flucloxacillin genetic link to liver injury

THE US Food and Drug Administration together with the International Serious Adverse Event Consortium have together identified a genetic link associated with liver injury in some people who receive the antibiotic Flucloxacillin.

A report to be published next month in the *Nature Genetics* journal will show that drug-induced liver injury (DILI) occurs in a small subset of patients, with a person's genes contributing to their likelihood of developing problems.

The FDA said the findings provide the research community with "novel genomic data on DILI events" and should help scientists "evaluate predictive biomarkers for adverse events such as DILI."

They found that the HLA-B*5701 genotype was associated with Flucloxacillin-related liver injury.

The Serious Adverse Event Consortium is a non-profit partnership of ten international pharmaceutical companies, the Wellcome Trust and academic institutions focused on research relating to the genetics of drug-induced serious adverse events.

Flucloxacillin isn't available in the USA but is widely used in Europe and Australia.

See www.saeconsortium.org.

WIN A PACK OF LITTLE FINGERS NAILS

CONGRATULATIONS to Marie of Warrandyte Pharmacy in Vic, who was the winner of yesterday's competition.

The Little Fing'rs range offers a wide variety of nail products including artificial nails, self-adhesive nails, nail art and accessories for young girls.

Little Fing'rs has teamed up with *Pharmacy Daily* to give subscribers the chance to win a pack of Fing'rs self-adhesive nails everyday this week.

This fun range of nail products is best suited for girls and includes nails in small sizes, quick drying glues and many self-adhesive nails, which are great for younger buyers.

The Fing'rs range of nail art is the easy way to create individual nail looks for all occasions.

To receive your pack for FREE, simply be the first to send through the correct answer to the following question:

Name a product from the Fing'rs girlie nails range.

Send your answers into comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.
Hint! Visit the website at www.fingrs.com for answers.



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 Guild

Stop smoking award

THE Commonwealth Department of Health And Ageing yesterday received the World Health Organization's World No Tobacco Day 2009 Award, in acknowledgement of Australia's efforts in "consistently developing stronger and more effective health warnings."

Many of Australia's pioneering efforts in tobacco packaging have now been adopted abroad in countries including Canada, Singapore and New Zealand.

The department said a recent report had found that among those who had stopped smoking, more than half nominated the graphic images of lung or mouth cancer on cigarette packs as a factor which had prompted them to quit.

Further government efforts to reduce smoking rates are expected as a key outcome from the National Preventative Health Taskforce, which has targeted tobacco as a priority.

Baxter pump warning

THE UK Medicines and Health Products Regulatory Agency has issued a Medical Device Alert relating to Colleague single and triple-channel volumetric infusion pumps manufactured by Baxter.

Affected models include Mono and CXE, with product codes 2M8151K, 2M8153K, 2M8161K, 2M8163K, 2M9161 and 2M9163.

The MHRA said there was a risk of interruptions to infusions due to software faults as well as increased 'damaged battery' messages.

It said a back-up pump should be available at all times when these Baxter Colleague pumps are used.

Guild reminder

THE NSW branch of the Pharmacy Guild has reminded members that annual subscriptions are due and payable on 01 Jul.

Invoices for 2009/10 were posted to members late last month.

New PBS listings for June

THE government has confirmed that effective this month it will subsidise a number of new forms of drugs already listed on the PBS.

Additions include a new formulation of pantoprazole which has been listed for the initial treatment of peptic ulcer.

The new granule formulation is an alternative to the currently listed 40mg tablet, and has been added under the same listing conditions at the same price.

The Health Dept said it may be suitable for use in patients who are unable to swallow tablets, or for

AIHW on oral health

THE Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a new report examining the oral health of health cardholders in the public and private sectors.

The results show that health cardholders in each system have similar levels of oral health and receive similar levels of care, although it said this may reflect "a general level of disadvantage common to all cardholders."

Where differences did exist, people who visited the public sector had poorer oral health or less desirable service patterns.

PGTC training course

NSW pharmacy students are being invited to enrol for the Pharmacy Graduate Training Course, which provides interns with a structured program of learning experiences, to support training received in the workplace.

It also gives "valid and reliable evidence" of competencies for entry-level pharmacists as specified by the Pharmacy Board of NSW.

Enrolments for the PGTC for 2009/2010 must be submitted by 17 Jul 2009, with a fee of \$1500 which can be paid in full or in three instalments.

See www.psa.org.au.

those who are tube fed.

It's available as a restricted benefit listing for the treatment of patients with gastro oesophageal reflux, scleroderma of the oesophagus and Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome.

There are also changes to psoriasis treatments, with Adalimumab (**PD 27 May**) listed as an alternative to etanercept.

Etanercept will be made available for continuous treatment in patients meeting the criteria for chronic plaque psoriasis.

Currently the PBS listing allows for 12 weeks of etanercept followed by a treatment-free period of at least 12 weeks, but with the change prescribers will now be able to treat selected patients for 24 weeks with etanercept with no treatment-free period.

Efalizumab (Raptiva) which had also been listed on the PBS since 2006 for the treatment of chronic plaque psoriasis, has been delisted at the request of its sponsors due to safety concerns.

Tomato pill for heart disease

A PRESENTATION at the British Cardiovascular Society this week will describe a natural supplement made from tomatoes which is claimed to stave off heart disease.

Dubbed Ateronon, the pill contains lycopene which is claimed to block LDL cholesterol.

It's been developed at Cambridge University, with preliminary trials involving about 150 people with heart disease indicating it can reduce the oxidation of harmful fats in the blood to almost zero within eight weeks.

The product will be launched in the UK as a dietary supplement, with experts saying further trials will be carried out to determine its efficacy.



DISPENSARY CORNER

LOTS of Wet Ones will probably be needed by a US comedian, who's announced plans to stay on a commercial airliner for a whole month without a break.

Mark Malkoff says he's trying to overcome his fear of flying, and will be travelling on budget carrier Airtran which is allowing him to travel almost non-stop.

Malkoff will blog and video himself throughout the airborne marathon, with reports online at www.markonairtran.com.

He said he's facing issues such as "how am I going to clean myself without showering."

LISTENING to football games while driving can be bad for your health, according to research published in the UK last week.

Scientists at the University of Leicester found that motorists risk having accidents during exciting moments in matches, with goals, penalties and red cards causing fans to drive more erratically as they lose concentration.

They estimated that two million UK drivers had had an accident or near miss while listening to sport on the radio.

THE unkindest cut of all.

A 25-year-old Egyptian man has literally emasculated himself to protest at his parents' choice of bride - and the wedding is now off.

Police said the man from the village of Sheikh Eissa was taken to hospital in a stable condition after performing the surgery at his home.

"He was in love with a woman but his parents rejected her and told him to marry another woman he didn't want. He took a knife and cut off his penis in his room," a spokesman said.

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