



### Guild Update

## Find a pharmacy

IN early 2008, the Pharmacy Guild launched [www.findapharmacy.com.au](http://www.findapharmacy.com.au) - an online pharmacy locator service for Guild members.

The system allows customers to locate your premises, view your opening hours, see what services you provide and even find out the languages spoken within your pharmacy.

It also enables patients to print out a map and driving instructions from their front door to yours - particularly useful for travellers seeking a pharmacy while on the road.

The key to it all is making sure that your information is up to date. If you are a user of our eQCPP tools you will have noticed that we have added a menu option where you can now edit your details.

If you are not currently registered for eQCPP then the Guild will be writing to you shortly to provide you with a login and password to access the edit details page. Look out for it in the mail.

To locate your pharmacy and check that we have your details correct, log into

[www.eguild.com.au](http://www.eguild.com.au) and select the 'FindaPharmacy' option under the 'Membership' tab in the navigation on the left hand side. When the **findapharmacy** tool opens simply enter your suburb and state into the box.

If you have any additional questions contact us at [support@findapharmacy.com.au](mailto:support@findapharmacy.com.au) or call 1300 137 608

The above service is only available to members of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, and is just one of the many benefits of Guild membership. If you would like to enquire about becoming a Guild member, you can find the contact details for your State/Territory branch at [www.guild.org.au/content.asp?id=891](http://www.guild.org.au/content.asp?id=891).



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

## Healthcare card proposal

HEALTH minister Nicola Roxon has confirmed that the govt is considering the implementation of a new opt-in "health care card" which would record patient medical history and allow pharmacists to access full details of medications.

The Guild has backed the move, saying expansion of prescribing rights means there's more potential for interactions - and community pharmacists are the medicines 'hub'.

It's also pushing for involvement in the development of the card, saying that "tens of millions of dollars of public money has been wasted in failed e-health systems" in contrast to the Guild which has a strong track record of success in e-health processes.

The Guild also raised a number of other issues relating to the card,

### New TGA minister

SENATOR Jan McLucas says she's planning to focus on her Qld constituents after stepping down from her role as Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing.

The move coincides with a wider cabinet reshuffle, and came just days after McLucas was criticised for incorrectly accusing pharmacists of discarding unopened vials of chemotherapy medication during Senate Estimates committee hearings last week (PD Fri).

The new Parliamentary Secretary for Health is Mark Butler, who was elected to the SA seat of Port Adelaide in 2007 and is a former union official for the SA branch of the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union where he led campaigns in industries including hospitals and aged care.

The Australian Self-Medication Industry welcomed Butler's appointment, with executive director Juliet Seifert saying "I am delighted that we have someone with firsthand knowledge of the real needs of those in the health system and I look very much forward to working with him."

### Fing'rs winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Felicia Woong from Bott's Pharmacy in Bentley, who was the winner of last Friday's Fing'rs Nails competition.

This week **Pharmacy Daily** readers have the opportunity to win an Aromababy Travel Pack each day - see competition details right.

including options for patient consent and urging that complementary and non-prescription medicines be included.

### NPS adverse review

NATIONAL Prescribing Service has this morning published a review of medication safety issues and possible solutions in the community setting, finding that "medication errors continue to occur at all stages of the medication process."

NPS ceo Dr Lynn Weekes said up to 73% of the events are preventable, with the most commonly reported contributing factor being poor communication "which is highlighted when patients are transferred between hospital and community settings."

The review also found that many interventions don't have a big impact on outcomes, but those which targeted specific conditions and included medication reviews, home visits and/or phone follow ups "do show positive patient outcomes."

Weekes urged a national systems-based approach to address issues arising during the transfer of care.

### It's Rose-Hip Vital!

ROSE-HIP Vital is reminding pharmacies that its 500mg Rose-Hip Vital bottles are now available nationally at all Sigma Warehouses.

Made from 100% natural rosehips, the capsules are essentially taken to relieve arthritis pain, however can also assist with increasing joint mobility and relieving inflammation.

See **pages 3** and **4** for more info.

### APESMA urges no

THE Pharmacists Division of APESMA is urging employee pharmacists in NSW to vote against the Multi Business Agreement proposed by the Guild (PD 29 May).

APESMA said the agreement "is an attempt to avoid paying improved benefits available under the new Award that applies from 1 January 2010" and also claims it will lead to reduced casual loadings and penalty rates.

The association is also urging the pharmacists to "inform and educate the shop assistants in your pharmacy of the disadvantages of voting yes" and is holding a meeting to discuss the changes on Mon 15 Jun - info 0413 759 170.

## WIN AN AROMABABY PACK!



This week **Pharmacy Daily** has teamed up with AROMABABY to give readers the chance to win an AROMABABY travel pack, valued at \$20.

Launched more than twelve years ago as the first natural & organic baby brand of its kind, AROMABABY has been used in select hospitals and received by celebrity parents around the world including Kate Moss, Princess Mary and local mums Tracey Spicer, Natarsha Belling and Simone Warne.

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This fabulous AROMABABY travel pack includes the ever popular multi-use Barrier Balm, Bath Wash, Moisture Lotion and Pure Rainwater Cleansing Bar\*.

For your chance to win, simply send your answer to the following question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

### TODAY'S QUESTION:

What can barrier balm be used for?


This great prize will go to the first correct response, so check out [www.aromababy.com](http://www.aromababy.com) and get those entries in quickly!

\*Image is indicative. Items may change at the discretion of AROMABABY.



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## Gum disease link to rheumatoid arthritis

US researchers have found that sufferers of both gum disease and rheumatoid arthritis can relieve both conditions by improving their mouth hygiene.

A paper published last week in the *Journal of Periodontology* report said there was a close association between the ailments, and patients who had dental treatments such as scaling also saw a significant improvement in arthritis symptoms.

## Opposition slams chemo cut

THE Federal Opposition has joined the chorus of criticism of the government's proposed changes to chemotherapy treatment funding, which have been deferred for implementation until 01 Sep.

Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Health Administration, Mathias Cormann, on Saturday echoed comments by the Community Pharmacy Chemotherapy Services Group (PD Fri), expressing concern about now former TGA minister Jan McLucas accusing pharmacists of discarding "whole unopened vials of expensive drugs".

Cormann said he had been quizzing the government about the impact of the chemotherapy measures in Senate Estimates since October last year.

"Departmental officials had no idea then how they would implement the measure...[and] they still have no idea of how to go about it, because things just don't add up," he said.

The budget describes the changes as 'more efficient arrangements for the payment of benefits for chemotherapy drugs' but Cormann claimed that "in practice it is nothing more and nothing less than a \$100 million budget cut to crucial chemotherapy treatment which will end up hurting patients."

He said that he had pressed the government to ask pharmaceutical manufacturers to adapt vial sizes in order to minimise waste, but been told this was "too hard"

"The bottom line is that based on the government's current approach, if they won't pay for the portion of the drug that has to be discarded, somebody else will have to.

"That will be either the patient or the pharmacist," he said - and with the government now undertaking to protect patients by legislating against any increase in out-of-pocket costs "that means it will be the

pharmacist who will have to cover the cost, which has been estimated at \$600 per dose per patient.

"The whole budget cut is based on the wrong premise, that there is significant avoidable waste in the way the drug is administered in Australia. The reality is there is not.

"The current 'wastage' is a function of the vial sizes and the different physiological requirements of different cancer patients.

"It is high time the Rudd government got its head around that fact, instead of persisting with a measure that will end up hurting vulnerable cancer patients," Senator Cormann said.

## Gongs for pharmacists

YESTERDAY'S Queen's Birthday honours list included awards for four Australians involved in the pharmacy industry.

Queensland pharmacist Peter Brand was named as a Member of the Order of Australia, with the citation: "for service to the pharmacy profession as a practitioner and through representative and educational roles."

Veterinary expert Peter Holdsworth was also named as a Member of the Order of Australia "for service to the animal health industry, particularly as a contributor to the development of international standards for the veterinary pharmaceutical sector."

Professor Graeme Blackman, former Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the Victorian College of Pharmacy, was awarded an Order of Australia Medal "for service to the pharmaceutical industry, and to the community through a range of church, heritage and welfare organisations."

And Tasmanian pharmacist Gerald Kay was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his "service to the community of north west Tasmania as a fundraiser".



## DISPENSARY CORNER

TECHNOLOGY is coming to the aid of wandering Alzheimer's patients and their carers, with a US firm specialising in miniature GPS devices fitting tiny satellite tracking equipment into shoes.

"The technology will provide the location of the individual wearing the shoes within 30 feet, anywhere on the planet," said one of the developers, Andrew Carle from George Mason University.

He said a "geo-fence" could be placed around a person's home and an electronic alert sent to a mobile phone or computer when a programmed boundary is crossed.

"Sixty per cent of individuals afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease will be involved in a 'critical wandering incident' at least once during the progression of the disease - many more than once," he said.

INTERGALACTIC space travellers are likely to end up being short, fat and bald, according to a British astrobiologist.

Dr Lewis Dartness says that the lack of effort needed to move around in low gravity, along with the temperature-controlled space cabin environment would mean that "future spacemen and women are likely to become pretty chubby."

He cited other effects, including weakened bones and muscles due to living without gravity which were likely to leave astronauts "stunted and weak".

And to top it all off, he predicted that "with no need for hair to insulate the head or eyelashes to flick dust from their eyes, future humans may become completely hairless."

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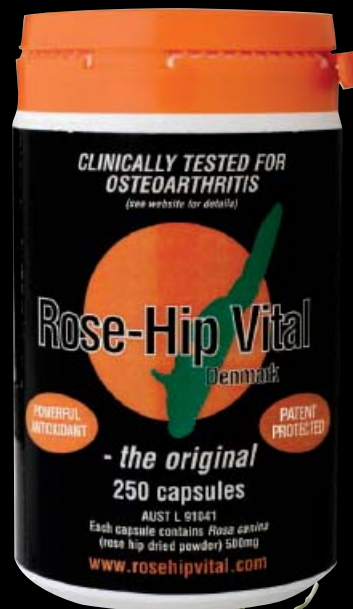
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## FAQs

**Q. What makes the ingredients of Rose-Hip Vital different to a Vitamin C tablet?**

**A.** Rose-Hip Vital is one of the few products worldwide using pure rosehips with a patented process of drying and powdering. Galactolipids (GOPO®) delivers a natural anti-inflammatory effect. Clinical trials show that Rose-Hip Vital's natural Vitamin C is absorbed more effectively than the synthetic version due to its high concentration.

**Q. How long will it take to work?**

**A.** Most people may experience significant benefits within two to three weeks from starting on Rose-Hip Vital.

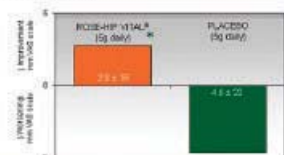
**Q. How much Rose-Hip Vital should I take?**

**A.** Each Rose-Hip Vital capsule contains 500 mg of rosehip powder. The recommended daily dose is five capsules once per day and can be doubled as required.

**Q. What evidence is there that Rose-Hip Vital may assist?**

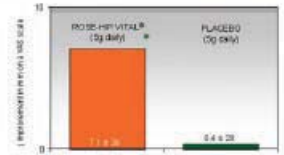
**A.** Over 40 scientific studies have been done on Rose-Hip Vital internationally across a range of credible research organisations, most recently in *Phytotherapy Research* in 2008.

IMPROVEMENT OF DAILY ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DAILY HOUSEWORK DURING ROSE-HIP VITAL® AND PLACEBO TREATMENT (n=54)



Rose-Hip Vital® resulted in improved activity when evaluated as daily housework. (\*p=0.0039 vs placebo).

IMPROVEMENT OF DAILY ACTIVITIES SUCH AS PICKING UP SOMETHING DROPPED ON THE FLOOR (n=54)



While on Rose-Hip Vital® daily activities such as picking up something dropped on the floor improved as compared to placebo. (\*p=0.037)

## Clinically Tested Arthritis Relief

### SEE THE RESULTS OF A CLINICAL TRIAL

**AIM** To study the reduction of pain and stiffness of Osteoarthritic joints to see whether Rose-Hip Vital would improve daily activities or quality of life of patients.

**METHOD** 112 patients with Osteoarthritis of the hip, knee, neck or wrist were randomly allocated treatment with either Rose-Hip Vital or a placebo for a total of six months. In this double-blind cross-over test, Group A received five placebo capsules twice daily for three months, then switched to capsules with Rose-Hip Vital for another three months; Vice-versa Group B.

**CONCLUSION** Data suggests that Rose-Hip Vital significantly reduces pain and stiffness and augments general well-being in patients with Osteoarthritis. Results also suggest the relief from Rose-Hip Vital may be continuous.

See many more clinical studies and results on [www.rosehipvital.com.au](http://www.rosehipvital.com.au)

Test conducted by: Rein E, Kharazmi A, Winther K, at the Dept of Clinical Research, Kolding; Dept of Clinical Microbiology, Rigshospitalet; Dept of Clinical Biochemistry, Copenhagen County Hospital; and University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

What people are saying about

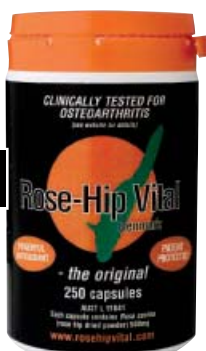
### Rose-Hip Vital

Rose-Hip Vital helped my condition, very promptly. Within one week of using it I find that my arthritis condition has improved by between 70% and 80%. **CW, Mosman**

I have used various products for relief of arthritic pain in my hands and feet for years with only some success... After one month of taking Rose-Hip Vital capsules I have had far more relief than hoped for. I can now walk easily and am back playing tennis! Great stuff. **EM, North Turrumurra**

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