



PAGE 1 Editor: Bruce Piper email: info@pharmacydaily.com.au
DVD winners

CONGRATULATIONS to the final winners from last week's *Surfer Dude* DVD competition.

Doug Smith of King Street Chemist in Thirroul, NSW will get a DVD for this entry:

We have an elderly lady in a local nursing home who was slowly going downhill.

She rang up one day and requested we deliver some "Tampax" - which we did - only to get another phone call soon afterwards querying what we'd delivered.

It turns out she actually wanted her "Zantacs".

And Sarah Mross will also receive a DVD for this entry:

I had a young male customer coming in for tampons for his girlfriend (obviously).

I asked if he had instructions for a particular brand.

He said no, just a very small size... I'm not sure what he was trying to tell me!

And we've also decided to award a bonus *Surfer Dude* DVD to Sandy Holland from Springfield Amcal, who was the first to point out that 'incontinence condoms' do actually exist (PD Thu).

Sandy said the incontinence condom is called a Uridome, and is a condom with a tube on the end which allows urine to be collected into a bag.

PSA, Guild hit back at 7

THE Pharmacy Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society insist that Project STOP remains the best vehicle in the war against 'ice', despite claims made yesterday on channel 7's *Sunday Night* program that pharmacy was failing to stop 'pseudo runners'.

A former Bandidos bikie gang member claimed the system wasn't working, and the program did its own 'mystery shop' buying pseudoephedrine-containing cough

New PBS listings

SEVERAL new PBS listings and new medication strengths will benefit patients with hypertension.

From March 1, amlodipine with valsartan (Exforge) is available for patients with hypertension who are not adequately controlled with either amlodipine or valsartan monotherapy.

There are also new listings of valsartan (Diovan) and valsartan with hydrochlorothiazide (Co-Diovan), and new strengths of telmisartan with hydrochlorothiazide (Micardis Plus® 80/25 mg) and trandolapril with verapamil hydrochloride (Tarka® 2/180 mg).

Several eye preparations for the treatment of glaucoma will also be listed in the optometrical section of the PBS Benefits

These medicines will be available through the PBS if there is a 'shared care' arrangement involving an authorised optometrist, an ophthalmologist and the patient's GP.

Other changes include extensions to the PBS listings of risperidone to allow for the continued treatment in patients aged 18 years and older with severe behavioural disturbances associated with autism who have already commenced treatment; and the expansion of PBS restrictions for transplant patients to access tacrolimus (Prograf) to include people who have pancreas cell and liver cell transplants.

mixtures and Sudafed at a series of pharmacies in Western Sydney.

At many, but not all, of these pharmacies, their ID was checked and details taken but they were not challenged when they visited the next pharmacy.

PSA president Warwick Plunkett said it wasn't clear if these pharmacies were registered for Project STOP.

"With NSW having the lowest uptake of the scheme in Australia at just under 50%, the likelihood of the pharmacies not being part of the program is high," he said, urging pharmacies not currently in Project STOP to register now.

Guild President Kos Sclavos said the program confirmed the urgent need to make Project STOP mandatory across all states.

He said the report was the first time police and govt agencies had been made aware that liquid products containing the compound were being abused.

Urgent PBS alert

THE Health Department on Fri warned of some errors in the display of Restriction, Authority and/or note text in search results on the PBS website, making some items appear to be unrestricted even when this wasn't the case.

The problem was related to updates being applied to the site and was observed in old versions of Microsoft Internet Explorer.

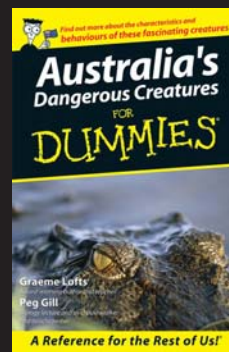
It's now been resolved but pharmacists who accessed item details on Fri are urged to view them again to confirm that the information was accurate.

Contraception info

A NEW information booklet about contraception has been tailored for the Aboriginal community by Family Planning NSW and John Hunter Hospital.

Hey Sister! Hey Brother! uses simple English and sketches to explain contraception options, including pills, condoms, sterilisation and natural family planning.

WIN A COPY OF THIS BOOK



Did you know the second most dangerous creature in Australia is the honey bee?

Each day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers the chance to win a copy of *Australia's Dangerous Creatures for Dummies*.

Valued at \$29.95, this book is a fascinating portrait of unique and deadly animals down-under, providing detailed descriptions of each creature, its habitat and its typical behaviours.

The authors provide tips on observing these creatures safely as well as a comprehensive first aid section in case your observation or encounter ends badly!

To enter today, simply send your answer to the following question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

TODAY'S QUESTION:

What deadly spider, curls up into a ball and feigns its own death?

This great prize will go to the first correct response, so for your chance to win, make sure you send in your entry NOW!



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Night for Nat

FRED Health is holding a gala fundraising evening to assist with treatment costs for its executive assistant, Natalie Edwards, who has been diagnosed with Stage 4 melanoma cancer and has been fighting the disease since 2007.

Tickets to the Melbourne event cost \$100 including a three-course dinner and drinks, with entertainment and a silent auction on the night.

The event will be held on 19 March at Red Scooter, Balaclava.

Bookings and more information at a special website set up for the event at www.anight4nat.net.

RGH E-Bulletin

THIS week's edition of the Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy E-Bulletin is titled 'Anticholinergic agents, cognition and heat-related illness.'

The bulletin deals with drug-induced adverse effects in geriatric medicine, and is available at no charge from chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au.

Independent pharmacy push

PHARMACIES are being told they can stay independent and still compete with banner groups and discounters, through the merger of Pharmacy Alliance and Independent Pharmacists of Australia Group (IPAG).

The deal to merge the two companies was announced in Dec, and has resulted in a firm with 381 member pharmacies and a combined yearly member turnover in excess of \$600m.

A spokesman for Pharmacy Alliance told *PD* the group wanted to emphasise its offer to independent pharmacies, "as other groups have been making unsubstantiated public claims" about the company.

Pharmacy Alliance founder Simon Reynolds said the merger was a natural fit "as both businesses are champions of the independent pharmacist."

"All independent pharmacies Australia-wide now have a legitimate non-banner aligned or



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DISPENSARY CORNER

NEXT time you're on a cruise ship, don't be offended if the captain doesn't shake your hand.

Last night one of the world's most luxurious liners, *Crystal Serenity*, left Sydney bound for Melbourne with passengers on board given "important information about gastrointestinal illness," which can spread like wildfire if not contained.

The cruise operator implements various practices including making guests sanitise their hands each time they board.

And the captain said that "while I am very much looking forward to meeting all of you at my Welcome Aboard and Farewell parties... I must refrain from shaking hands in the receiving line."

Passengers on board will also be able to keep fit at the "2009 World Cruise Games" - an Olympics-style event which will see keen competition from 'athletes' in such disciplines as chess, darts, backgammon, bridge and Sudoku.

A VIAGRA-fuelled orgy has ended in the death of a 28-year-old man in Moscow.

Sergey Tuganov bet two women about \$6000 that he wouldn't be able to satisfy them during a "non-stop half day sex marathon," according to the London *Sun* tabloid newspaper.

He was reportedly determined to win the wager and took about 30 Viagra tablets.

Several minutes after winning the bet he died of a heart attack, with one of the women saying "We called emergency services, but it was too late, there was nothing they could do."

discount-oriented option in the increasingly competitive and price-focused pharmacy market," Reynolds said.

"We believe that independent pharmacists should be able to stay independent and be able to compete with the banners and discounters.

"That was the philosophy of both businesses before the merger and nothing's changed," he said.

IPAG founder Paul Sidhom said the combined group gives independent pharmacists a complete solution, combining state of the art retail systems with a low cost buying group.

FDA adds warning for metoclopramide

THE US Food and Drug Administration has ordered that manufacturers of gastrointestinal drug metoclopramide must add a boxed warning to labels warning about risks of taking it long term.

Mirixa visits FNQ!

THE Pharmacy Guild's national Mirixa roadshow arrived in Cairns last Thursday night, with about 60 attending the Far North Queensland event.

Guild President Kos Sclavos told *PD* that this week the roadshow will head south to Hobart, Bendigo and Melbourne, as well as being presented to attendees at the Australian College of Pharmacy Practice and Management conference in Victoria's Yarra Valley 04-08 Mar.



ABOVE: At the Cairns Mirixa roadshow, from left: Mario Calanna, Calanna Pharmacy; Hilary Swimming, Kuranda Pharmacy; Nick Loukas, V Pharmacy Smithfield; John Wadley, Priceline Pharmacy Mareeba; and Phil Quibell, Calanna Pharmacy.

RIGHT: Also in Cairns, John Daniels, GlaxoSmithKline; Elizabeth Eales, Alive Pharmacy; Frances Butler, Payless Chemist Cairns; Jalenta McCully, Payless Chemist Cairns; and Peter Bland, Alphapharm.



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