

Mums confused about antibiotics

MANY young mothers believe antibiotics are good for an infant's common cold, according to a survey by the National Prescribing Service.

The survey of women aged 18 to 34 years found that 26% still believe antibiotics are effective for a cold and 44% said antibiotics were also effective against viruses.

42% of women said they got their information on medicines from their doctor.

GPs didn't perform too well in the NPS survey either - about one in three did not know amoxicillin is the most appropriate first line choice for acute sinusitis, and almost half gave incorrect responses to a clinical scenario involving a patient with diabetes.

The report raised concerns that about half of GPs believed the NPS was not giving independent advice on drugs and was influenced by the government.

Desvenlafaxine for depression

THIS weeks edition of the RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin looks at the use of desvenlafaxine, the latest anti-depressant to be subsidised under the PBS.

For a free subscription email chris.alderman@health.sa.gov.au.

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Ownership laws backed

A US study has found that requiring pharmacies to be owned by pharmacists provides improved services to consumers compared to company-owned stores.

The US Institute for Local Self-Reliance conducted the survey which compared pharmacy in North Dakota to other states.

"North Dakota, largely as a result of its unique Pharmacy Ownership Law, outperforms other states in every key measure of pharmacy services," the authors of the study wrote.

North Dakota is the only US

Bigger babies

AUSTRALIAN babies are getting bigger, with a report in the *Medical Journal of Australia* saying there are 15% more newborn girls weighing over 4kg.

The corresponding figure for baby boys was a 10.5% increase, with researchers citing factors such as less smoking during pregnancy and a rising rate of mothers with gestational diabetes.

They were also concerned the higher birth weights could reflect the up-sizing of the population.

Analgesics & anti-inflammatory meds

ENROLMENT is now open for the Pharmacy Guild's latest online course for pharmacy assistants.

Identify, locate and sell analgesics and anti-inflammatory products covers the causes of pain and inflammation and teaches assistants how to deal with direct product requests.

"We know that our frontline pharmacy assistants do a fantastic job in recommending medicines to treat symptoms but that's not always the case if a customer requests a particular product," Guild president Kos Sclavos said.

Details and registration info at www.guild.org.au/training.

NUROFEN JUST GOT FASTER

THAN STANDARD NUROFEN

TWICE AS FAST

*ABSORBED UP TO TWICE AS FAST AS STANDARD NUROFEN



DISPENSARY CORNER

THIS baby will probably have beautiful skin.

A woman in China is producing so much breast milk that she's reportedly bathing her infant in the excess.

The mother, from Chongqing province, said there's enough for the baby bath even after her husband and mother-in-law had all had a drink of the extra milk.

BE careful who you sell manicure products to.

Six high-security prisoners in Canada escaped from prison last year after laboriously chipping their way to freedom using nail clippers.

The details of the successful escape bid were revealed in a report into the incident in Saskatchewan, showing how the inmates took four months to pick away at the wall.

They eventually broke through and then used braided sheets to climb a wall and escape.

A BRITISH woman who's just turned 100 claims chocolate is the secret of her longevity.

Peggy Griffiths says she eats 30 bars of chocolate each week, with London's *Sun* newspaper estimating she's scoffed 70,000 Cadbury's Dairy Milk bars during her lifetime - or more than four tonnes in total.

Her 69-year-old daughter said that Peggy ran a sweet shop in the 1930s but it went broke because she "ate all the profits." "When mum was a little girl, her mother told her that sweets were bad for you but chocolate was good.

"She's a chocoholic and her diet agrees with her," she said.

Reports of the birthday celebrations don't specify how much the centenarian now weighs.

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