

# Pharmacy DAILY

Wednesday 6th May 2009

PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

## NPS flu guidelines

**NATIONAL** Prescribing Service has released an article on 'Rapid tests for the diagnosis of influenza' from the Jun edition of *Australian Prescriber* early as part of its response to the flu crisis.

The article is now available online at [www.nps.org.au](http://www.nps.org.au) along with guidelines regarding antivirals for the treatment of swine influenza.

Current recommendations for Tamiflu (oseltamir) or Relenza (zanamivir) are that they should only be prescribed in the event of close contacts of confirmed or probable cases within 48 hours of contact, or for suspected cases within 48 hours of contact until influenza A is excluded or an alternative diagnosis is made.

There is no recommendation for oseltamivir to be used as a prevention by overseas travellers unless they're visiting Mexico.

The NPS site also has links to information from the US Centers for Disease Control and the WHO.

**UNDISCOVERED,  
UNSPOILED,  
UNBELIEVABLE.**

9 night Niue  
holidays staying at  
the Matavai Resort  
from only  
\$1,769pp\*  
ex Mel, Syd or Bne

For more info  
contact  
Coral Seas Travel  
on (02) 8913 0793  
or  
1800 641 803

\*Conditions Apply

**NIUE**  
undiscovered unspoiled  
unbelievable AIR NEW ZEALAND  
[www.niueisland.com](http://www.niueisland.com)

## Tamiflu shelf life extended

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved a two year extension of the shelf life for Tamiflu (oseltamir) from five to seven years, as long as the product is stored below 25°C.

Earlier this week *Pharmacy Daily* highlighted the varying expiry dates of Tamiflu in different markets, ranging from 2 to 7 years (PD Mon).

The TGA said it was making the move following the submission of data by Roche demonstrating "adequate safety, efficacy and stability of the medicine, when stored under appropriate conditions, for a further two years beyond the original expiry date."

The extension applies to Tamiflu capsules only, with the approved shelf life for Tamiflu bulk powder and powder for suspension remaining at two years.

A story in today's *Financial Review* points out that the extension will mean Roche can recycle the 1.6 million courses which were returned from the government stockpile due to reaching the expiry date, as well as a further 1 million courses which will also be returned to Roche under its pandemic

## There's no business like snow business

**MEDICI** Capital has launched its annual Pharmacy Snow Business Conference which will take place at Mt Buller, Victoria from Sun 30 Aug to Thu 03 Sep 2009.

There's also a Pharmacy Study Tour in Aspen, Colorado to be held 16-23 Jan 2010, with Medici saying the events "provide an ideal balance of pharmacy focused conference sessions, combined with plenty of free time to enjoy these two spectacular locations."

More info on the conferences at [www.medic.com.au/study-tours](http://www.medic.com.au/study-tours).

## GC skin meeting

**THE** Australian College of Dermatologists will hold its 42nd Annual Scientific Meeting on the Gold Coast this month, with topics covered including the link between diet and acne, vitamin D and the role of cosmeceuticals in dermatology.

Also under discussion will be the basics of skin cleansers, natural skin care products and emerging acne treatments.

**Pharm IT** is an independent provider of Pharmacy IT software and hardware sales, support and training. The difference will surprise you. [www.pharmit.com.au](http://www.pharmit.com.au)

**p**  
pharmit

sales service support  
1300 554 694

## Buying or selling?

**THE** NSW branch of the Pharmacy Guild is holding a seminar on 'Buying and Selling as Pharmacy' at its office in St Leonards from 6.30pm on 20 May.

Attendance costs \$30 and participants will learn all aspects of buying and selling including pitfalls and advantages, financing and bank lending practices, corporate structures and regulatory requirements.

Bookings on 02 9467 7170.

## Just you and your hand

**HAND** Hygiene Australia has launched a new national initiative which aims to reduce the incidence of antibiotic-resistant 'superbug' patient infections in hospitals.

The world-first initiative is a step-by-step program for health professionals, which follows Aussie research showing that using alcohol-based hand rub is the single most effective way to control *Staphylococcus aureus* blood infections including the Methicillin-resistant MRSA or 'golden staph'.

"If all health professionals used the 15 second alcohol-based hand rub regime, the rates of blood stream infection will be halved resulting in the potential to save lives," said health minister Nicola Roxon, with the govt providing \$4m over three years to support Hand Hygiene Australia.

The program includes an online education program and there's also more info, covering hand hygiene and swine flu, at [www.hha.org.au](http://www.hha.org.au).

stockpile replenishment contract.

**MEANWHILE** Roche has confirmed that ongoing shortages of Tamiflu due to excessive demand have meant that it will "temporarily suspend the commercial supply to pharmaceutical wholesalers."

Hospitals will be provided with limited supplies of Tamiflu, while doctors are able to contact Roche to obtain the drug in order to treat confirmed flu cases.

Roche said that over the last few weeks it's supplied pharmacy wholesalers with about 20 times the usual annual volume of the medication since the potential swine flu pandemic grabbed attention.

## Weight loss alert

**NUTRITION** Systems has advised that the Australian and NZ formulation of weight loss products Hydroxycut are "different in key ingredients and overall formula" from Hydroxycut items which have been recalled in the USA.

The US FDA has warned consumers to immediately stop using the products which have been associated with "a number of serious liver injuries" including one death due to liver failure.

Nutrition Systems said all its Hydroxycut products in Australia "underwent pre-market listing with TGA prior to market release" and due to this "stringent pre-market listing process" it will continue to distribute the formulations.

## WIN AN EVOKE BODYSPRAY



Evolve has teamed up with *Pharmacy Daily* this week giving readers the chance to win a can of Evolve Bodyspray.

Knock 'em dead with the bold range of Evolve body sprays, perfect for girls who dare to live on the wild side.

With killer fragrances and a hot, edgy look, the Evolve perfume body mists are a

must-have for any girl who just wants to have a whole lotta fun!

For your chance to win your very own bodyspray bottle, simply send through the correct answer to the following question:

How many Evolve body sprays are there?

Email your answer to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

The first correct entry received each day will win!

Hint: Visit the Evolve Bodyspray website at: [www.playtruthdare.com.au](http://www.playtruthdare.com.au).

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Denise Hope from Griffith University on the Gold Coast.

evolve



## Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au).

### How's your liver feeling?

Modern lifestyles put our livers under considerable stress, with unhealthy eating, excessive consumption of alcohol and dehydration. Herron's new 100% Pure Milk Thistle aims to help re-establish healthy liver function by breaking down and eliminating toxins. The active ingredient, Silybum marianum, has been used as a herbal remedy for livers since ancient times, according to the manufacturer.

RRP: \$24.99

Stockist: Sigma

Web: [www.herron.com.au](http://www.herron.com.au)



### DISPENSARY CORNER

HERE'S a great way to reduce shoplifting in your pharmacy.

A bakery shop in Split, Croatia has ended a spate of burglaries by placing a poster of movie star and karate expert Chuck Norris in the window.

The shopkeeper has added a caption to the life-sized picture of the star of many films - including the immortal *Lone Wolf McQuade*: "This shop is under the protection of Chuck Norris."

A spokeswoman for the bakery said: "To be honest we just started it as a joke but it really has worked."

"Every one around her has seen his films and he's quite a popular character, even among criminals, so they've decided to leave us alone," she said.

The only problem has been demand from customers wanting the movie star's autograph.

"They really believe he is sitting in our storeroom out the back ready to pounce on any burglars."

PITY the Afghanistani pig.

The only known pig in the war-torn Middle-Eastern country has been locked away from visitors to Kabul Zoo because of fears it could infect them with swine flu.

Muslim Afghanistan has outlawed pork and other pig products, meaning the pig in the zoo is quite a curiosity.

However apparently some zoo guests raised concerns.

"For now the pig is under quarantine; we built it a room because of swine influenza," said zoo director Aziz Gul Saqib.

For the record, it's human to human transmission of influenza A (H1N1) that's of concern - but that hasn't stopped millions of prank emails like the one below circulating the globe.



### Keep those customers shopping

Vectron Systems' Pharmacy Pagers can turn waiting customers into shoppers, allowing them to walk away from the prescription counter without worrying about missing their name being called. Pharmacy paging systems are a cost-effective way to help pharmacies differentiate and increase sales and can be easily trialled with just a few pagers to start with.

Stockist: Vectron Systems

Tel: 03 9328 8222

Web: [www.vectron.com.au](http://www.vectron.com.au)



### Aussie skincare lotion

Pelactiv Body Lotion is a cream full of revitalising extracts and antioxidants to fight and reduce environmental damage, increase hydration and restore the skin's lustre. Pelactiv is a 100% Australian made and owned skincare brand, and was developed by leading cosmetic chemists and skincare therapists to go beyond merely repairing the skin by boosting collagen, elastin and new cell production.

RRP: \$43.00

Stockist: Pelactiv

Tel: 02 9417 1822 Web: [www.pelactiv.com.au](http://www.pelactiv.com.au)



### A magnetic fragrance

Escada Magnetism is described as "a captivating oriental perfume that enchants the senses". Notes of basil, freesia, plumberry and jasmine evolve into a seductive heart of muguet, blond woods, iris and almond blossom, with the fabulous fragrance coming in a multi-faceted jewel bottle.

RRP: \$65/\$95/\$122

Stockist: Cosmax

Phone: 02 9695 5614

### Day moisturiser with SPF

John Plunkett Essentials Protective Day Moisturiser is a rich cream containing antioxidants for dry and mature skin. As well as sunscreens it has avocado oil, calendula oil, hyaluramine and vitamins C, E, and F. It's ideal for use under make-up - just apply each morning to the face and neck area to restore hydration balance and delay photo-ageing.

RRP: \$25.95

Stockist: Plunkett Pharmaceuticals

Phone: 02. 9979 7333

