



### PSA flu update

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has today published a swine influenza (H1N1) update which summarises the global status of the potential pandemic and gives members information to help with public enquiries.

It's now online at [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au).

### New acne treatment

**A NEW** once-daily prescription-only topical acne treatment has become available in Australia.

Epiduo Gel combines a retinoid (adapalene 0.1%) and an antimicrobial (benzoyl peroxide 2.5%) with the two different therapies meaning health professionals are able to treat both the cause and symptoms of acne in a single medication.

Epiduo can also potentially improve adherence and outcomes because it's a single daily treatment.

It's approved by the TGA for the cutaneous treatment of acne vulgaris on the face, chest and back when comedones, papules and pustules are present, and the condition has not responded to first line treatment.

## Warning on fake flu meds

**THE** Complementary Healthcare Council and the Australian Self-Medication Industry have issued a joint warning to consumers, urging them to avoid complementary medicines or medications that claim to treat or prevent swine flu.

The two associations are also urging their member companies to refuse to stock or sell such items.

"The public should be wary of internet sites and other promotions for products that claim to diagnose, prevent, mitigate, treat or cure the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus that have not been proven to be safe and effective for these uses by the Therapeutic Goods Administration," they said in a joint statement.

Many of the products are being

### FDA Fanapt approval

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has announced the approval of Fanapt (iliperidone) to treat adults with schizophrenia.

Fanapt is an atypical antipsychotic which was shown in two placebo-controlled short term clinical trials to reduce the symptoms of schizophrenia.

sold over the internet via illegitimate websites, ASMI and the CHC said, with current fraudulent items presented as supplements, food products or products purporting to be drugs, devices or vaccines.

"There are a number of over-the-counter and complementary medicines that can assist consumers with maintaining their health and concerned consumers are advised to consult a healthcare professional for advice," they said.

The associations said people aware of fraudulent products should alert the TGA.

### SUSDP now online

**THE** Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons is now available in electronic form on the ComLaw website at the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI), which is an authoritative online source of Commonwealth legislation and other instruments.

The naming conventions on the FRLI are slightly different to the way the SUSDP is usually named, with SUSDP No. 23 available on FRLI as Poisons Standard 2008 - with Amendment No. 3 which became effective 01 May listed as 'Poisons Standard Amendment No. 1 of 2009'.

SUSDP No. 23 is effective up until 31 Aug 2009, with number 24 set to be issued in Jul.

Subscription forms are now available for the new edition online at [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

### Lyrica reduced pain

**PATIENTS** suffering from post-traumatic peripheral nerve pain treated with Lyrica (pregabalin) capsules experienced "significantly reduced pain compared to those taking placebo," according to data presented this week at the American Academy of Neurology annual meeting.

Lyrica is manufactured by Pfizer and is indicated for the treatment of neuropathic pain in adults.

### Small business event

**THE** Pharmacy Guild is encouraging members to attend the upcoming National Small Business Summit which will be held in Melbourne on 10 Jun.

Speakers include Federal Small Business Minister Craig Emerson as well as opposition leader Malcolm Turnbull, with the Guild saying it's a good opportunity for the concerns of community pharmacy to be "heard at the highest level in political and regulatory circles."

### Clinical trial pact

**AUSTRALIAN**-based clinical data firm Novotech has announced a strategic joint venture with Indian multinational ETI Klinical Pvt Ltd (part of the Karle Group).

Novotech ceo Alek Safarian said the JV would "leverage the huge opportunities in the growing Indian clinical research sector and drive more global studies to the country."

The new operation will give clients access to 92 prequalified sites across India, covering over 5 million patients and 13,000 beds.

"We approached Novotech because of its proven reputation in the region, its focus on Australasia and its global business development reach and client network," said Karle Group ceo Mr Mahendra Karle.

## WIN AN EVOKE BODYSPRAY



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

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

With killer fragrances and a hot, edgy look, the Evoke 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:

Which new Evoke body spray is the "original illicit musk fragrance"?

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 Evoke Bodyspray website at: [www.playtruthdare.com.au](http://www.playtruthdare.com.au).

Congratulations to **Deanne Berry** from **Health Information Pharmacy** who was yesterday's winner.



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## Bronchitol approval

**THE** TGA has designated Pharmaxis' Bronchitol (mannitol) as an orphan drug, for the treatment of patients with cystic fibrosis to improve lung function and reduce pulmonary exacerbations.

The move follows positive results from a recently completed Phase III clinical trial of Bronchitol in people with cystic fibrosis, which found that it had improved lung function.

Pharmaxis ceo Alan Robertson said "we now know that it can change the therapeutic landscape for many of the 75,000 people with this disease."

## STOCK EXCHANGE

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* Stock Exchange column, where the industry is able to promote close to expiry or surplus items.

Today Caringbah South Pharmacy in Sydney is offering the availability of the following:

- Aranesp injections 50mcg exp Aug 09 for \$500 total, or less than half price.

They're refrigerated items so available only for the Sydney metropolitan area.

More information from Therese Bailey on 02 9425 6237 or [caringbahsth@optusnet.com.au](mailto:caringbahsth@optusnet.com.au).

**If you have items you'd like to offer through PD's Stock Exchange column please email [stockx@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:stockx@pharmacydaily.com.au).**

## Kid's OTC medicine talks

**THE** Australian Self-Medication Industry has this week arranged for "visiting US experts" to meet with the Therapeutic Goods Administration to discuss evidence supporting the "efficacy and safety of children's over the counter cough and cold medicines."

Cough and cold remedies for children have been under the microscope since the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency said they should no longer be used in children aged under six (*PD* 03 Mar).

ASMI said visitors from the US Consumer Healthcare Products Association aimed to "demonstrate to the TGA the range of measures being undertaken to reassure the

US Food and Drug Administration as it gathers information about children's cough and cold products."

The makers of the medicines in the USA have commenced a wide ranging research and education program to inform regulatory authorities, healthcare professionals and consumers.

"The leading makers of these medicines are working very closely with the FDA to provide the necessary evidence on safety and efficacy of such products," said ASMI Scientific Director, Deon Schoombie.

"These initiatives will be important in ensuring that parents and carers have access to the best available treatments for their families," he added.

The program includes pharmacokinetic studies to confirm the dosing for the eight most commonly used OTC oral cough and cold remedies in children aged two to 12, as well as continued collection and review of available safety data.

## Tamiflu distribution

**THE** World Health Organization has announced it will send 2.4 million treatment courses of Tamiflu to 72 countries deemed to be in need, including Mexico.

Roche donated the stockpiles to the WHO several years ago, with shipments to be made from three "hubs" in Switzerland, Maryland in the USA and Dubai.

WHO spokesperson Fabela Chaib said the organisation would also supplement six regional stockpiles for "contingency" use in countries if outbreaks of swine flu occur.

## Push for pharmacist paid maternity leave

**THE** Pharmacists Division of the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia (APESMA) is urging the introduction of paid maternity leave for pharmacists.

"Given the majority of new pharmacy graduates and registrants are female, a paid maternity leave scheme will provide the opportunity to spend time with their newborn and not have to feel that they must return to work quickly to help supplement the family income," said division president Geoff March.

He said that APESMA along with the ACTU had been lobbying the government to introduce a paid maternity leave scheme as soon as possible, with hopes that such a plan may be announced in next week's Federal Budget.

"A paid maternity scheme also assists employers to retain their skilled employees," March added.

He's urging employee pharmacists to add their support to the push by signing an online petition at [www.rightsatwork.com.au](http://www.rightsatwork.com.au).



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**THIS** man probably won't be sleeping particularly comfortably for some time to come.

A 50-year-old appeared in Sydney Central Court yesterday after he was arrested by Customs and Border Protection officers for attempting to smuggle almost 400,000 cigarettes hidden inside mattresses.

About 2000 cartons of ciggies were allegedly concealed in the bedding which was part of a consignment of cargo from China.

Officials said smuggling tobacco was a serious matter because as well as depriving the community of legitimate revenue, the cigarettes "are typically produced in unregulated factories that may not meet hygiene standards."

We certainly wouldn't want anyone getting sick from smoking unhygienic tobacco.

**PRINCE** Harry isn't doing the hair care industry any favours, with the revelation that the 24-year-old royal hasn't washed his hair for two years.

The UK *Sun* tabloid disclosed the shocking fact as part of a story on a recent night out Harry had with some Army buddies, during which they teased him about his unkempt ginger locks.

"It's been two years since I washed my hair," he told them.

**THE** world's oldest dog is probably a good pharmacy customer.

The Guinness Book of Records has just given 21-year-old Chanel from New York an award marking her longevity.

Chanel's owner, Denice Shaughnessy, said Chanel gets tired easily, wears goggles for cataracts when she's in the sun (pictured below), as well as special booties because of a benign tumour on one of her legs.

"I just take good care of her. I treat her like a person," Shaughnessy said.



## HOT Travel Deals

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature.

Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

**TRAVELLERS** wanting to get off the beaten track might like to consider a new holiday exploring the Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan.

**Student Flights** is offering a 7-day Silk Road journey which travels to Bukhara, Tashkent, Tamerlane and Samarkand.

It's priced from \$1290pp including six nights accom in guesthouses, all transport, daily breakfasts and a tour guide.

More info 1300 554 175.

For somewhere a little closer to home, **Intrepid Travel** is offering a generous \$240pp saving on the 03 Jul departure of its 14-day

'Circle Malaysia' adventure which includes all accommodation, transport, some meals, a half day snorkelling trip at the Perhentian Islands and a long tail boat trip in the Taman Negara National Park.

Total price is \$964pp - more info at [www.intrepidtravel.com](http://www.intrepidtravel.com).

And the bargain of the week would have to be a fifth birthday sale launched by **Jetstar** yesterday which is offering two for one fares right across the airline's domestic and international network.

Domestic flights start at \$24.50 per person; it's just \$84.50 to NZ and other international routes start at \$119.50 - [www.jetstar.com](http://www.jetstar.com).