

PSA slams NT laws

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has expressed concerns about newly enforced laws in the Northern Territory which require pharmacists to report sales of contraceptive items and pregnancy tests to people aged under 16.

The laws have been in place for some months (**PD** 24 May) but the PSA yesterday issued a statement saying the govt had "only just ordered health workers to comply".

Acting PSA president Shane Jackson said the govt was "clearly using underage sexual activity as a marker for sexual abuse and this is absolutely the wrong approach."

"There is little doubt the laws will have a negative social impact in that these people may not access appropriate measures for contraception and reduction of STDs for fear of being reported to the authorities," he said.

The laws also force pharmacists and health workers to break patient confidentiality or risk fines of up to \$20,000, threatening to undermine the accessibility and confidentiality of pharmacy visits.

"The PSA fully supports the NT's commitment to reducing harm to children but feels this measure may in the long term create more problems than it seeks to address," Jackson said, with the PSA offering to work with the NT govt to "help amend the legislation to ensure it is workable and efficacious."

Hospital pharmacy criteria

THE Pharmacy Board of Victoria has developed new draft criteria for the approval of pharmacy departments in the state's hospitals.

The move follows a project in which the Board engaged PharmConsult to develop criteria including the range of services to be delivered to clients of pharmacy departments, the human resources required to provide the minimum required service, and corresponding premises and equipment needed.

The draft criteria has been developed in consultation with the directors of pharmacy from a range of Victorian hospitals as well as other professional and public bodies including the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited and the Nurses Board of Victoria.

Recommendations include a

ASMI nominations

THE Australian Self-Medication Industry is calling for member nominations for its 2009 Sales & Marketing Awards, which recognise QUM innovation, marketing best practice and consumer focus.

Stock Exchange

THE item on offer from Caringbah South Pharmacy (**PD** yesterday) is 2 x boxes Aranesp injections 40mcg exp Aug 09, for \$250 each or \$500 total (less than half price) - 02 9425 6237.

sliding scale of minimum floor space, as well as guidelines for signage, counselling areas, public access, dispensing and distribution, inventory management, dose administration aids, compounding and clinical pharmacy services.

In particular a necessary criteria for approval of a pharmacy department by the Board would be provision of a 'basic clinical pharmacy service' during normal business hours, including identification and pharmaceutical review of patients at risk of medication adverse events.

It also suggests staffing levels based on a Pharmacist Daily Workload of 150 dispensed items and/or provision of basic clinical pharmacy services based on the bed to pharmacist ratios specified in the *SHPA Standards of Practice for Clinical Pharmacy Services*.

The Board has released the criteria for public consultation and is inviting comments by 12 Jun - see www.pharmacybd.vic.gov.au.

Patent change push

THE Generic Medicines Industry Association is urging changes to Australian patent laws including shortening the current 25-year protection period to 20 years.

Tim Oldham, Asia-Pacific head of US generic manufacturer Hospira, which bought Mayne Pharma in 2007 and has plants in Vic and SA, said that due to the availability of earlier market-entry dates in other countries it will be "left with no choice but to make its next new product outside Australia."

He said that up to \$150b worth of medicines could come off patent globally by 2015, and if Australian-based companies want to make these medicines for the world "they need to start planning to make them somewhere else."

UK influenza move

BRITISH health authorities have authorised the temporary distribution of unlicensed flu drugs.

The authorisation covers unlicensed oseltamivir (Tamiflu) powder as well as an unlicensed oral liquid formulation of oseltamivir for administration to infants under one year of age in the prevention or treatment of influenza.



DISPENSARY CORNER

LONDON tabloid *The Sun* is supporting an aggressive campaign aiming to force department stores to remove a surcharge for brassieres sized DD or larger.

The 'Hands off our Boobs' campaign follows a decision by Marks & Spencers to impose a £2 charge on larger ladies, which outraged 26-year-old Beckie Williams, who wears a 30G.

Williams started a Facebook group called Busts 4 Justice, urging "busty ladies to join forces to end this blatant discrimination."

And the *Sun* is supporting the push with expert commentary from "page three favourite" Keeley Hazell, who wrote: "Women with big bums don't get charged more for buying bigger knickers, so why should those with big boobs be treated differently?"

"To start taxing boobs in these tough times is ridiculous. It's difficult enough to stay afloat in the current climate without this," the topless model pontificated.

OBESITY is continuing to plague the community - the international animal community, that is.

US research nutritionist Jill Cline is currently touring NZ on a speaking tour, warning pet owners that "a fat puppy may be a cute puppy but it's not a healthy puppy."

Cline works for pet food maker Purina, and said that up to 50% of American dogs are obese - not far behind the staggering 60% rate for US adults.

THERE was no monkeying around in a New Zealand dental surgery this week during a complex procedure to remove a badly broken tooth from a chimpanzee.

The 20-year-old primate was given a general anaesthetic for the three hour operation at the Hamilton Zoo veterinary facility.

"It was crucial that we had an experienced veterinary dentist carry out this work as the large size of chimpanzee canines, which have a total length of 60mm, meant part of the jawbone needed to be removed to allow access to the tooth roots," said zoo director Stephen Standley.

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:

What game are the girls playing in the TV ads?

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

The first correct entry received each day will win!

Hint: Visit the Evoke Bodyspray website at:

www.playtruthdare.com.au.

Congratulations to Elisa Gavin from Regional Pharmaceuticals who was yesterday's winner.