



## NAB pharmacy event

AN UPCOMING pharmacy industry forum to be held in Sydney will examine the changing market and how it will impact on pharmacy sale, purchase or succession planning in 2009.

Speakers will include Michelle Roache of the Pharmacy Guild Sales & Valuations, Craig Moore of National Australia Bank as well as legal and investment experts.

The event will be held from 2.00-6.30pm on Wed 27 May at NAB House, 255 George Street Sydney and costs \$85 - more information from [cropper@cp-law.com.au](mailto:cropper@cp-law.com.au).

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## CPD compulsory for rego

PHARMACISTS and other health professionals will be required to demonstrate that they have participated in continuing professional development in order to renew their registration, under the new National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions.

A national gathering of state and federal ministers on Fri reached consensus on how the new scheme will work, after considering feedback from a consultation process.

The decisions will see a number of changes made to the original proposals - including the extension of the scheme from 2012 to other professions including practitioners in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, Chinese medicine and medical radiation.

These are in addition to the ten professions already agreed for inclusion in the national scheme - pharmacists, chiropractors, dentists, doctors, nurses and midwives, optometrists, osteopaths, podiatrists, physiotherapists and psychologists.

The Ministerial Council agreed that the accreditation function will be independent of governments, with standards to be developed by the independent accrediting body for each profession.

Existing external accrediting bodies such as the Australian Pharmacy Council are expected to continue, the Council said.

### Caringbah contact

THE correct phone number for Caringbah South Pharmacy, which has offered 2 x boxes Aranesp injections 40mcg exp Aug 09 for \$250 each through our Stock Exchange column (PD Thu, Fri) is **02 9524 6237**.

### Comp winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Con Koskouris of Sigma Pharmaceuticals in Melbourne, who was the winner of an Evoke body spray in last Fri's competition.

The ministers also agreed that national boards will be required to register students in the health professions, with boards deciding at what stage of courses students will be registered, depending on the level of risk to the public.

National boards for each profession will be appointed by the Ministerial Council, with at least half but not more than two thirds of members being practitioners and at least two people appointed as community members.

The law will also require all national boards to contain at least one practitioner member from each of Qld, NSW, Vic, SA and WA and at least one drawn from Tas, ACT or the Northern Territory.

At least one member of the national board for each profession must be from a rural or regional area, the ministers agreed.

A further round of consultation will be undertaken later this year with the release of the draft bill covering the national scheme, aimed to be effective from 01 Jul 2010.

### Pandemic availabilities

THE Pharmacy Guild has updated its website to reflect the latest availabilities of key items for the potential Swine Flu pandemic.

Although commercial supply of Tamiflu (oseltamivir) has been suspended as of 2pm on 05 May, there's still stock of Relenza (zanamivir) available which should be targeted for overseas travellers who wish to take a supply with them.

"In the event of a pandemic, the government stockpile supply will be activated and distributed according to State and Commonwealth pandemic plans," the Guild said.

Flu vaccines are available on a two day wait, while orders for masks will be filled within 5 working days, and in the event that a pandemic is declared the govt stockpile of masks will also be distributed to the public.

More details at [www.guild.org.au](http://www.guild.org.au).

## RGH E-Bulletin

THIS week's edition of the Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy E-Bulletin gives an overview of studies into the impact of statins on stroke risk in patients with a history of cerebrovascular disease, which have raised concerns about a possible association between statin use in some patients and an increased occurrence of haemorrhagic stroke.

The bulletin is available free from [chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au).

## Sorry for fake journals

MEDICAL, scientific and trade publisher Reed Elsevier has issued a formal apology confirming that between 2000 and 2005 its Australian office published a "series of sponsored article compilation publications, on behalf of pharmaceutical clients, that were made to look like journals and lacked the proper disclosures."

The "journals" included the so-called *Australasian Journal of Bone and Joint Medicine* which was sponsored by Merck & Co, and contained articles allegedly favouring Vioxx and Fosamax, without disclosing who had sponsored the publication.

"This was an unacceptable practice and we regret that it took place," said Elsevier Health Services chief Michael Hansen.

He said the company was currently conducting an internal review, but believes "this was an isolated practice from a past period in time" with the individuals involved having long since left the company.

Elsevier hasn't revealed the identity of other pharmaceutical clients involved in the publications, with the Merck involvement coming to light through the ongoing Vioxx litigation in the Federal Court.

Publishing giant Reed Elsevier is also the parent firm of Reed Business Information, which publishes trade journals including *Pharmacy News* in Australia.

## Dangerous pesticides still in use here

**CONSUMER** group CHOICE has warned that chemicals used in many freely available household pesticides used in Australia - including in some head lice treatments - are no longer registered for use in Europe.

The alert follows a review of the EU's 'non-inclusion' list for chemicals not approved for use in biocidal products because of safety concerns and lack of data.

CHOICE found that eight pesticides banned or set to be delisted in Europe are still used in products found in most Australian supermarkets, including pyrethrins, organophosphates and carbamates.

Spokesman Christopher Zinn contrasted the strict EU regulation with the review process by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority which he said can "drag on indefinitely while action has already been taken to ban the same chemicals overseas.

"The Australian regulator's permissive, wait-and-see approach to the regulation of these pesticides is behind best practice as seen in Europe," Zinn said.

He urged that the system be changed to put the burden of proof onto manufacturers and importers to show that a chemical is safe rather than giving them the benefit of the doubt.

The European legislation requires producers to provide toxicological assessments for chemicals or face deregistration, on the principle of "no data, no market."

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## New gender test slammed

A **NEW** pregnancy test which claims to predict the sex of an unborn baby has been criticised as likely to drive up abortion rates.

The IntellGender test is being marketed through pharmacies as well as at [www.boyorgirl.com.au](http://www.boyorgirl.com.au), and is described as "the first in-home Gender Prediction Test which works as early as the 8th week of pregnancy."

It's claimed to take 10 minutes to identify a "confidential element" in

### APP robotic success

**PHARMACY** automation provider Willach+Heise says it's been "inundated with enquiries from pharmacists" following the APP conference on the Gold Coast.

The company's international sales director Albert Juenger said the company now has over 70 dispensing systems installed in Australia "and this continues to build. We're getting a strong reaction from a number of groups, with several customers placing repeat orders for other pharmacies within their group."

Juenger confirmed that the firm was strongly committed to its long term growth plans for the Australian market, with new appointments including Paul Mom as State Manager NSW and Uwe Schafer as State Manager WA.

### BP 2009 adopted

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised that on and from 01 June 2009 the definition of "British Pharmacopoeia" in the *Therapeutic Goods Act 2009* shall be the *British Pharmacopoeia 2009*.

the hormones of a woman pregnant with a girl, and has been sold in the US since 2006.

The secret chemical is apparently found in very low levels in women pregnant with a boy or not pregnant at all - but isn't backed by scientific evidence, according to president of the Royal Australian College of Obstetricians, Ted Weaver.

"The concern we would have is that people would then terminate pregnancies on the grounds of sex selection," he said, adding that he found it hard to believe a urine test could be 90% accurate at 8 weeks.

"We're all about women having choices, but we want the choices to be valid," he told the *Sunday Telegraph*.

### Another superclinic

**THE** Health Department has announced a new contract for the establishment of a new GP Super Clinic in Sorell, Tasmania.

The clinic will provide "high quality integrated healthcare services to meet the local needs and priorities" with consultation planned over the coming months to "ensure the Sorell region has the right mix of health practitioners."

### HPV vaccine works

**MELBOURNE** Sexual Health Centre has released a study showing a rapid decline in diagnoses of genital warts, since the national Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Program was implemented in 2007.

The figures show a decrease of more than 50% in women under 28 years in just 12 months, with expectations of further improvement.

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**A JUDGE** in Italy managed to quickly clear his courtroom when he coughed a few times and told lawyers he'd just returned from a holiday in Mexico.

More than 30 attorneys in Rome have told Judge Giovanni Baresi they will now boycott his court and adjourn their cases because of fears of swine flu.

"I've never seen so many lawyers agree on anything in court so quickly," said one of the frightened legal practitioners.

The judge has agreed to see a doctor and is now in quarantine.

**THE** British outcry about a surcharge for larger brassieres being applied in department stores (**PD** Fri) has been deflated after retailer Marks & Spencer admitted it had "boobed".

More than 13000 people signed an online petition initiated by activist group Busts 4 Justice, protesting against a £2 surcharge on bras bigger than a DD cup.

The company took out full page advertisements saying that from Sat all bra prices would be the same regardless of the cup size, adding that "they'll still be made to the same high standards so you get the best support on the high street."

**A LEGAL** storm is brewing in Sweden, where a couple has appealed against a decision banning them from naming their baby son "Q".

The first court case ruled that Q was "not an appropriate name for a child," backed by Swedish law which forbids names consisting of just one letter.

However parents Rickard Rehnberg and Thitathorn Sukjit have written to Sweden's Supreme Court asking it to reverse the ruling, saying "There is now a child who answers to the name of Q."

"What does Sweden gain by forcing him to take on a new name?" they said.

The pair have previously told authorities they named the boy Q after the eccentric inventor from the James Bond films.

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