# Pharmacy



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Asbestos awareness

Monday 30th November 2009 PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU



This month we will look at some of the issues customers will be seeking advice on for treating their baby.

This week we focus on:

### Choosing a baby formula

THERE is no question that breast milk provides the best possible nutrition for infants.

However for many varied reasons some mothers may not choose to breastfeed their babies; in this case the only suitable and safe alternative is a scientifically developed infant formula.

Infant formula is specifically designed to provide the nutrients required for growth and devlopment until babies are old enough to drink cows milk (at about 12 months).

Most baby formulas are based on cows milk which has been modified to resemble breast milk as closely as possible. The protein in cows milk can be broken down into curds (casein) and whey.

There are two types of infant

Starter Formula: is usually whey based, with a similar ration of casein: whey as breast milk, and is suitable for infants from birth. Follow On Formula: is usually

casein dominant and takes longer to digest. It is designed for babies from 6 months.

An alternative to cows milk based formula is soy-based formula. It is made from soy beans with added vitamins, minerals and nutrients. It is only recommended for use on the advice of a health professional.

Customers must always use formula as directed on the pack.

**Quease**Ease

### New national misuse strategy

A NEW groundbreaking National Pharmaceutical Misuse Strategy is set to be developed by the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy in consultation with the 'Australian Health Ministers Conference' and several other 'expert' groups.

The decision was made last week at a Ministerial conference in Canberra, where it was agreed that the growing concerns over the vastly increased rates of pharmaceutical drug misuse, and the associated cost to the public purse therein needed to be directly addressed.

It was agreed that a consolidated national response would be developed, addressing prevention, the reduction of supply, education about drug use and related harm and ways to improve access to quality treatments.

Of the other topics discussed throughout the meeting, the ministers also agreed that they would post the National Drug Strategy 2010-2015 consultation paper on the National Drug Strategy website this Friday, in the end of February 2010.

#### Relprevy on PBS

THE long-acting form of Zyprexa, Zyprexa Relbrevv (olanzapine pamoate) will be listed on the PBS from tomorrow for the maintenance treatment of schizophrenia in adult patients sufficiently stabilised during acute treatment with oral olanzapine.

Patients can receive Zyprexa Relevy fortnightly or even monthly, which may assist those who struggle to take a daily tablet.

## order to seek public comment until

THE government will contribute \$5m to the new Bernie Banton Centre, which is the world's first dedicated asbestos research institute, with the announcement made during Asbestos Awareness Week which aims to commemorate those whose lives have been affected by asbestos-related conditions and highlight the dangers of the substance.

Australia and the UK have the highest rates of asbestos-related cancer deaths in the world, with 13,000 cases of mesothelioma expected here by 2020.



**COLGATE** recently presented Diabetes Australia with a \$34,000 cheque, with money raised through a consumer promotion in conjunction with Woolworths.

The donation, awarded on World Diabetes Day, marks the first step of a new long-term partnership between the Colgate and Diabetes Australia, forged on the back of new research linking gum disease and diabetes.

According to the studies people

with diabetes have an increased risk of developing periodontal (gum) disease.

The research also found evidence suggesting that untreated periodontitis can adversely impact glycaemic control in people with diabetes

Pictured above are Greg Johnson, acting chief executive of Diabetes Australia receiving the cheque from Jenny Rogers, oral care business manager at Woolworths.



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#### Diabetes to double

**NEW** research from the University of California has found that the number of diabetes sufferers throughout the US is set to double to over the next 25 years.

Researchers have also found that whilst the overall numbers of sufferers will double, the number reliant on Medicare will rise at a greater rate, from 6.5 million to 14.1 million - quadrupling the US's annual spend to US\$171 billion in 2034.

"Medicare spending alone will represent just over 50% of direct spending on diabetes in 2034," the report's authors said.

The estimates were based on the 'natural progression' of the disease taking into account factors including obesity.

"Obesity is a significant driver of future increases in the number of Americans with diabetes," said the authors.

#### RGH E-Bulletin

THIS week's edition of the Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy E-Bulletin gives an overview of pharmacological therapies for androgenetic alopecia, including Minoxidil and Finasteride - free copies from chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au.

## First NSW Revive Clinic open

THE Australian Medical Association has condemned the Pharmacy Alliance/Revive Clinic joint venture (PD 31 Jul), after the opening of the first NSW outlet in the outer Sydney township of Richmond on the weekend.

The new Clinics are a joint initiative between the Pharmacy Alliance Group and Nurse Practitioner company Revive Clinics and trade under the healthetc brand, with outlets now in WA, the ACT and Qld as well as NSW.

The nurse practitioners can consult with patients in store, prescribing and treating ailments including common colds, the flu and urinary tract infections, as well as administering vaccinations.

According to the Pharmacy Alliance the clinics are designed to alleviate the pressure on the health

#### Lite doesn't help quit

A NEW study has found that switching to 'low tar' cigarettes may halve a smokers change of quitting.

Experts commenting on the results have suggested that despite the greater motivation to quit, swapping to 'lite' cigarettes may ingrain smoking behaviour making it harder to quit.

#### care system, with Healthetc md saying "Demand is quite high.

"There are a lot of ailments which people go to their GP for or go to the emergency department for which could be easily treated by a nurse practitioner in a pharmacy.

"Healthetc is about delivering a service to the community where there is a shortage of doctors or where the community is in need."

However the AMA said the clinics pose a pose a threat to public health, with "the potential for more serious conditions to be overlooked," according to AMA vice-president Steve Hambleton.

"A service like this will undermine the healthcare system," he warned.

#### Agriflu approved

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Novartis' Agriflu for people aged 18 years and older to prevent disease caused by influenza virus subtypes A and B - but not intended to protect against 2009 H1N1 flu.

The single dose injection was approved using the FDA's accelerated approval pathway.

#### Arthritis approval

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Adnministration has approved a new biologic therapy 'Simponi', for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis.

The new once monthly, selfadministerated subcutaneous biologic injection utilises golimumab - a new monoclonal antibody targeted to neutralise the tumour necrosis factor-alpha.

"The availability of Simponi should make a difference to many of our patients who battle everyday with relentless pain, extreme fatigue and loss of mobility," said Melbourne rheumatologist, Dr Stephen Hall.

Common side effects incl upper respiratory tract infections, sinusitis, tingling in the extremities, dizziness, bronchitis, cold sores, fever and injection site reactions, whilst rare side effects include infections such as tuberculosis and sepsis.

Simponi is not recommended for people suffering tuberculosis, bacterial infections and hepatitis B.



AN URGENT call of nature proved to be the undoing of a Mexican criminal mastermind, after he was caught short during a robbery.

The thief, known as "El Tigre", was arrested while on the toilet at a house he had broken into, after police officers who'd been called to the scene "heard noises coming from the bathroom".

They tried to open the door, "but the man told them he was busy" according to a number of online sources.

El Tigre was charged with theft and property damage, while the homeowner declared he would now replace the toilet, saying "I don't think it will be used again."

TAIWANESE authorities say they're horrified at a case of insurance fraud, in which a man hired thugs to chop off his hand in order to pay off debts.

38-year-old Chiang Chi-Wei told police he'd been attacked by two men who chopped off his left hand in the city of Chunghe.

However officers became suspicious because the wound was very neat and there appeared to be little evidence of violence.

Further investigations showed the victim was heavily in debt and had bought insurance policies worth around \$800,000.

A 55 YEAR-OLD Vietnamese man missed his dead wife so much that he dug up her corpse and slept beside it for five years, according to the Vietnamnet, vn online newspaper.

Le Van is reported as saying that after his wife died in 2003 he slept on top of her grave, but after more than a year found it too cold and wet during bad weather, so he decided to dig up the remains and thake them home.

He apparently moulded clay around the corpse to create the figure of a woman, put clothes on her and then placed her in his bed so he could hug her at night.

Le Van was quoted as saying "I'm a person that does things differently. I'm not like normal

#### GLOW WITH ALL ABOUT GLO



THIS week All About Glo has teamed up with Pharmacy Daily, giving readers the chance to win an All About Glo Multiwave Bronzing Powder.

Launched in 2009, All About Glo is an Australian owned brand that provides a healthy solution to looking sunkissed and glowing.

Valued at \$29.95, the All About Glo Multiwave Bronzing Powderscreate a convenient, on-the-go, all-in-one kit that

can be used as an all-over bronzer, blush, highlighter and eyeshadow. This beautiful mineral-packed powder provides a healthy sun-kissed look all year round.

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