

7% PBS
DISCOUNT!
COST+0%

ON PBS PRODUCTS
ORDERED DAILY THROUGH
YOUR WHOLESALER!

Chemsave

One of the 7 reasons why
Chemsave is the CLEAR CHOICE
for ALL pharmacies!

Click on this banner
for more information!

Guild Update

Pharmacy Industry Award 2010

THE industrial landscape for community pharmacy will change significantly in 2010 with the introduction of the Pharmacy Industry Award (PIA).

The development of the PIA 2010 has been a long and complex saga – and it hasn't finished yet. The issue is further complicated by the fact that the new Award will have different impacts in each of the States and Territories.

To help measure the impact of these changes, the Pharmacy Guild has created a Pharmacy Industry Award Impact Scorecard and will be distributed it to its members.

Members are urged to complete the scorecard and contact their Branch for further information.

The PIA 2010 is scheduled to commence from 1 January 2010, with the start of transition to new Award rates, penalties and loadings from 1 July 2010. While the penalty and loading arrangements will be phased in up to July 2014, their full impact will affect each and every pharmacy at that time.

Incorporated companies, and pharmacies in ACT, NT and Victoria

If a pharmacy operates as an incorporated entity (with an ACN), or is located in the ACT, NT or Victoria, it is covered by the new Award immediately.

Pharmacies in Queensland, SA and Tasmania

Pharmacies in Queensland, SA or Tasmania are advised that their State Governments have indicated that they will "refer" their powers to make workplace relations laws to the Federal Government, effectively making all private sector business come under the new Federal workplace relations system. The timeframe for this to occur is not yet clear, but it is expected to be early in 2010.

Pharmacies in NSW and WA

In NSW and WA, the referral of State workplace relations powers may not occur as quickly as in Queensland, SA and Tasmania.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Huge Chemconsult savings

AN ANALYSIS of 12 months of operation of Health Corporation's Chemconsult online medication counselling system has found an intervention rate by pharmacists of almost 40% to prevent potentially adverse outcomes for patients.

The company estimated that if expanded Australia-wide the program could save the health system up to \$1.8 billion a year and significantly cut hospital bed days.

An executive summary of the use of the system in more than 21000 consultations at 20 Health Information Pharmacy community pharmacies in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne from 01 Aug 08-31 Jul 09 shows Chemconsult picked up more than 8500 issues (39%) including incorrect dosing (6294), drug interactions (1190), taking medication wrongly in regard to food (380), side effects (272),

"Soda tax" plan

HEALTH activists in the USA have proposed a new 1c per ounce tax on fizzy drinks and other sweetened beverages, in an attempt to boost funding for the battle against obesity.

The plan was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* citing studies showing higher rates of obesity and diabetes among women who drank more of the sugary beverages.

Previous proposals to tax sodas have fallen flat due to opposition from the beverage industry.

H1N1 commitment

PRIME Minister Kevin Rudd has confirmed that Australia will join a coalition of nations supporting the rollout of H1N1 vaccine to needy groups in developing countries.

The group is led by US President Obama, and will see up to 10% of Australia's 2009 H1N1 pandemic vaccine committed to the World Health Organization.

Rudd said the move recognises the challenges developing countries face in accessing vaccines for the pandemic response, with Australia's participation supporting health systems and priority groups in Pacific Island countries, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and possibly some Southeast Asian nations.

Other countries participating include the US, UK, Brazil, France, Italy, NZ, Norway and Switzerland.

improper alcohol use (264) and medication allergies (124).

About 500,000 Australians experience adverse effects from medication each year, with an estimated 70,000 avoidable hospital admissions.

The report includes a preface from Professor Gregory Peterson of the University of Tasmania, who said the Chemconsult system "is helping to improve the outcomes of Australian consumers and navigate community pharmacy from a product-based profession to a patient-care, service-based profession".

MEANWHILE sanofi-aventis Consumer Healthcare is the latest pharmaceutical manufacturer to join the consulting program.

Sanofi has agreed to pay upfront and ongoing fees sponsoring the Chemconsult program for 2 years, with Health Corporation ceo Ken Lee saying the agreement "further re-confirms that Chemconsult can and does add value to our pharmaceutical partners businesses."

e-QCPP evolution

THE Quality Care Pharmacy Program is looking for volunteers to test out the next generation of its web-based electronic QCPP tool which helps support and guide pharmacies through QCPP second edition accreditation.

The updated system includes a range of enhancements including faster refresh times to speed up navigation, the ability to easily assign tasks and management of standards to staff and automatic back-up of QCPP documentation.

There's also a new document management system which enables automation of version control processes, printing of custom operation manuals containing only desired documents, storage of TIA forms, the ability to create custom procedures and policies; and a powerful search functionality.

Online seminars demonstrating the new features will be held at 2pm on 24 Sep, 29 Sep, 01 Oct, 06 Oct, 08 Oct, 13 Oct and 15 Oct.

Participants are invited to enrol for training by calling 1300 137 608 or via support@eguild.org.au with a preferred training time.

Enrolment in the trial is open to all pharmacy staff whether they are familiar with e-QCPP or not.

CMEC recommends

THE Complementary Medicines Evaluation Committee of the Therapeutic Goods Administration has released the minutes of its meeting held on 22 May, including a number of recommendations made at the meeting.

The committee endorsed two coded indications as acceptable for medicines making claims in relation to cholesterol:

May help maintain normal [and/or healthy] cholesterol levels and May help maintain cholesterol within the normal [and/or healthy] range and improve the HDL/LDL ratio

The CMEC also endorsed a label advisory statement for use when making indications or claims in relation to blood cholesterol levels:

Not for the treatment of high cholesterol. Blood cholesterol levels should be regularly checked.

Other recommendations included the registration of Calci-Tab 600 tablets, subject to the appropriate labelling requirements.

The committee also recommended that any herbal species confirmed as containing aristolochic acids is not suitable for inclusion as a listed medicine "as there is insufficient justification for any cut-off to be applied to preparations of such species."

It also recommended that *Asarum* spp. are no longer suitable for inclusion of listed medicines due to the increased potential for preparations of this genera to contain aristolochic acids.

And the CMEC recommended to the TGA that there is "currently insufficient evidence to warrant a change to the current regulation and labelling of products containing preparations of *Cimicifuga racemosa*" (Black cohosh), after a United States Pharmacopoeia review of suspected hepatotoxicity related to the use of the herbal medication.

Albury hold-up

A MAN was injured during an armed hold-up at Fifield's Family Pharmacy in Albury, NSW on Sun.

Police were called to the pharmacy after reports the assailant was threatening staff with a blade or scalpel, according to the *Border Mail*.

The offender is alleged to have cut another man in the store before fleeing the pharmacy.

Accounting

Legal

Financing

Investments

Stay across
it all with
advice that
matters.

 Guild

PSWA CPD events

THE Pharmaceutical Council of Western Australia will tonight hold a seminar on 'Fertility - Men and Women' from 7pm at the FJ Clarke Lecture Theatre, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth.

And on Wed 14 Oct a talk on COPD will also be held at the same venue - more information from Lesley Gregory on 08 9388 2886.

HRT learning tool

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has launched a new learning tool to assist health professionals advise patients on the use of hormone replacement therapy choices.

The module includes a number of case studies to help GPS outline to patients the benefits, risks and common side effects of HRT.

It covers low dose oestrogen, transdermal products, tibolone and androgens as well as the role of phytoestrogens.

The training was developed with a grant from Wyeth Australia.

iNova Asian market growth

A NUMBER of key products manufactured by Australian pharmaceutical company iNova are set to be launched in Vietnam and Cambodia under a new licensing agreement announced yesterday.

The partnership with Hyphens Marketing and Technical Services will include select Diffiam lozenge, solution and spray products as well as several iNova prescription medicines indicated for weight management, skin cancer and sexual health therapy areas.

iNova ceo Andrew Howden said the deal brings well-established iNova brands into two new markets where the company has not previously had a presence.

"A core strategic focus is to expand our product offerings within the Asia-Pacific by partnering with local companies who have the knowledge and expertise to successfully commercialise products in established and emerging markets," Howden said.

He added that iNova's flexible business model and infrastructure enabled it to partner readily with other companies in making its products available in new markets.

The medicines will be manufactured at iNova's Sydney facility which will provide distribution into the new markets.

Vietnam in particular is a growing market for pharmaceuticals, and iNova confirmed that preparations for registration applications were expected to start shortly.

The new deal means iNova's consumer healthcare and specialty prescription brands will now be available in more than 15 countries including Australia, NZ, the Asia-Pacific region and Southern Africa.

Howden also flagged expansion into further new markets, saying "As a high growth company with a proven track record developing, registering and marketing leading pharmaceutical brands, iNova looks forward to further opportunities with companies wanting to enter partnerships to commercialise products."

Chemist Warehouse iPhone app

CHEMIST Warehouse is offering an iPhone application which helps users to find their nearest Chemist Warehouse store, check trading hours and look up product information including pricing.

The app also includes a catalogue viewer with automatic notification of when a new catalogue becomes available.

Smoking bans help

A STUDY published this week in the *Journal of the American Heart Association* has found that imposing bans on public smoking can result in a 17% reduction in heart attack rates.

The research analysed 13 studies correlating cardiovascular incidents with law changes in Canada, Europe and some US states.

"This is a huge, huge effect for a very very low cost," said study co-author Stanton Glantz of the University of California San Francisco.

31 US states now ban smoking in workplaces, restaurants and bars.



DISPENSARY CORNER

AN ILLICIT drug producer in northern Greece has been arrested by police, who allege that he grew cannabis in the middle of the country's busiest motorway.

The illegal plantation was located on the median strip of a highway between Thessaloniki and Athens, with officers acting on an anonymous tip claiming the suspect had planted 42 seedlings which were now 1.8m high.

COWS in Norway are reportedly producing better milk after being offered a "more relaxed lifestyle".

Regulations phased in from 2004 mean cows must be free to roam and given soft places to lie down rather than being kept in stalls all day.

Production has increased by about 6%, and the cows are also experiencing less udder infections as a result of the changes.

THE world's hairiest man says he's planning to undergo cosmetic surgery after missing out on a part in a TV show.

32-year-old Yu Zhenghuan (pictured below) has 96% of his body covered in black hair, and was confident of landing a lead role in a production of the classic Chinese story *Journey to the West*, which relates how a monkey helps his Buddhist master.

"I thought I was the best candidate, as I look like a monkey and my nickname is Monkey Man," he said.

Despite familiarising himself with the story and engaging hairdressers to enhance his hirsute features, "I failed the audition because I am not good looking enough".

Yu said he's now going to have surgery to "make myself look more like a pretty monkey and let the director regret his decision."



No monkey business for Mr Yu!

WARNING: THIS PRIZE STINGS!

CONGRATULATIONS to Julie Smith of Planet Health in Bowral, NSW who was the first **Pharmacy Daily** reader yesterday to tell us the names of the three Omegas contained in OmegaHoney.

Nature's Blend has teamed up with **Pharmacy Daily** this week giving readers the chance to win an OmegaHoney Prize Pack each day containing:

- 1 bottle OmegaHoney 450g
- 3 Toy OmegaBees - Alpha, Lino and Ole
- The OmegaBees Activity Book
- OmegaKids Colouring Cook Book



OmegaHoney is a fun and exciting way for kids and grown-ups to get Omega-3, 6 & 9 fatty acids, with the benefits and taste of honey.

These fatty acids promote Brain Development, Healthy Skin & Hair and Wellness.

OmegaHoney is 100 per cent natural, Low GI, gluten free and cholesterol free. A premium product from Nature's Blend, it has been taste-tested with fussy kids giving it the thumbs-up.

For your chance to win this fabulous prize pack, simply be the first reader to email the correct answer to the daily question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

TUESDAY'S OMEGA QUESTION:

What size bottle does OmegaHoney come in?

Sales enquiries, phone Nature's Blend on (03) 9773 0600.