

Guild Update

This week's update
from the Guild

Colgate training

New online training program for your pharmacy assistants

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia is proud to launch a new generation of IT enabled online training.

The new online training is fresh, interesting and engaging and it meets the needs of a modern workforce.

The Guild has made a significant investment in this technology, as we recognise the benefits that customers gain from knowledgeable and proactive pharmacy staff.

To maintain this high level of excellent customer care, it is essential that all staff update their product knowledge on a regular basis, to ensure they have the confidence and experience when assisting customers.

This new training is initially being piloted in Victoria with plans to roll out nationally and add more courses.

Colgate Partnership

We have recently partnered with Colgate Palmolive Australia to develop a new training course for pharmacy assistants about oral health care.

This course is specifically developed to provide pharmacy assistants with:

- Knowledge of a healthy mouth and conditions which cause mouth, gum and tooth disease
- Identifying products in the pharmacy that assist customers treat or prevent specific conditions

The program is sponsored by Colgate, and every time your pharmacy assistants complete training they will earn points (via the *Pharmacy Reward* program) that can be redeemed for great rewards, such as iPods™, digital cameras, Playstations™ or spa treatments.

The first 1000 Victorian pharmacy assistants to enrol will receive a bonus 500 reward points.

There is no cost to complete the online training, and it should only take about 30 minutes to complete each course.

Please encourage your pharmacy assistants to enrol in this new program online at

www.guildtraining.com.au.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Guild welcomes new PHCOs

THE government has announced the establishment of new Primary Health Care Organisations (PHCOs) across Australia as part of its revamp of the health system.

The PHCOs will be made up of the existing network of GP divisions managed by the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN), and will utilise the skills of health care professionals, including GPs and pharmacists, to help patients transition out of hospitals.

They will also facilitate allied health care services for people suffering chronic illness and help to identify parts of the community which may currently be missing out on health care services.

The Guild said it has a strong and long-running relationship with AGPN which includes close collaboration to administer the Home Medicines Review Program and working together in the National Primary Health Care Partnership.

Guild President Kos Sclavos said the new PHCOs would see better integration of health services, which would in turn help to reduce hospitalisations and provide greater convenience to patients.

The Guild also said it sees the

FDA on Triclosan

THE FDA is investigating the most up to date data covering antibacterial agent triclosan (which commonly found in soaps, toothpastes, cosmetics and body washes) in response to concerns raised over its safety.

At the moment however the FDA has said that it does not have enough evidence to recommend changing consumer use of triclosan products at this time.

However the FDA also said it's found no evidence to suggest that "triclosan in antibacterial soaps and body washes provides any benefit over washing with regular soap and water".

MEANWHILE the FDA has also approved a number of new generic medications including Mylan Pharmaceuticals' bupropion hydrochloride (generic Wellbutrin) and generic Cozaar and Hyzaar (losartan potassium and losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide from TEVA, Mylan, Roxane and Torrent Pharmaceuticals.

eRx electronic prescription system playing an important role in assisting communication between professionals involved in PHCOs.

The first PHCOs are set to be launched around mid-2011, with funding allocated in the upcoming May federal budget.

MEANWHILE The Guild also said that it would continue to lobby the government for an increase in community participation in the delivery of primary health care services across the country.

"The Guild sees pharmacists as having a very significant role in the new primary health care landscape and believes this should be reflected in having pharmacist representatives on clinical boards and governance boards," Sclavos said.

"There will be a rationalisation in the number of organisations when the structure changes and the Guild will support pharmacist participation on the governance boards and the clinical boards/committees as the base broadens beyond a GP focus," he added.

Win with Blackmores

BLACKMORES is giving pharmacists and pharmacy assistants the chance to win a \$25 Myer voucher.

To win, all you have to do is go online and complete Blackmores Nutritional Oils online module and answer one simple question.

For more details see the Blackmores box on **page two**.

Registration approval

THE Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council has announced the approval of the registration standards recommended by the new National Pharmacy Board.

The council has approved standards suggested by the ten new National health practitioner boards, including mandatory registration standards across all professions covering criminal history screening, English language requirements, continuing professional development, recency of practice and professional indemnity insurance arrangements.

However with regard to professional indemnity insurance, the Pharmacy Board has been asked to review its proposed standard "to ensure that it appropriately accommodates all practice settings, including for those pharmacists employed solely in the public sector".

Also approved is a series of board-specific registration standards relating to examinations for general registration and supervised practice for pharmacists.

The Council also approved standards for scheduled medicines endorsements for "suitably qualified and registered optometrists, podiatrists and rural and isolated practice registered nurses".

It remains the responsibility of each State and Territory to decide how these endorsements are incorporated into respective drugs and poisons legislation to give practitioners legal authority to prescribe or supply medicines.

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Accu-Chek goes Mobile

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved a new all in one strip free blood glucose meter, Accu-Chek Mobile from Roche Diagnostics.

The device has 50 automatically coded tests on a continuous tape in a test cassette as well as six lancets contained in a drum integrated into the meter.

The test works in four simple steps, takes around in five seconds and only requires 0.3µL of blood.

Individually programmed test reminders are also a feature of the Accu-Chek Mobile as is a 500 test memory capacity.

For more information see-
www.accu-chek.com.au/mobile.

FDA on Triclosan

THE FDA has responded to triclosan safety concerns by saying said that it does not have enough evidence to 'recommend changing consumer use of products that contain triclosan at this time'.

GMIA seeks ACCC code OK

EVENTS for pharmacists hosted by generics manufacturers are not subject to reporting requirements outlined in a new Code of Conduct released by the Generic Medicines Industry Association (GMiA).

The association, with members comprising Alphapharm, Apotex, Hospira, Genepharm and Sigma, has lodged an application with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission seeking authorisation of the Code which was formally adopted last month.

"The Code seeks to formalise the commitment of GMiA members to a system of best practice self-regulation and ethical supply of generic medicines to the Australian community," the GMiA said.

Certain provisions of the Code have the potential to contravene parts of the Trade Practices Act and so the ACCC is being asked for authorisation, with the GMiA

saying the Code provides "significant public benefits and minimal public detriment".

The new Code introduces internal and external complaints handling systems and establishes an independent disciplinary Code Complaints Committee - with a range of sanctions including financial penalties of up to \$75,000 for repeat offenders.

The committee can direct members to take immediate action to discontinue or modify any practice or recall and destroy any offending material which it considers breaches the Code.

The Code also creates a system of Educational Event reporting for members - but the reporting only applies to events for healthcare professionals who prescribe generic medicines.

Thus events held for pharmacists aren't covered by the reporting regime "because the potential anticompetitive detriments arising from the provision of Educational Events only manifests itself at the prescribing level," the GMiA submission to the ACCC said.

"The dispensing decision made by the Healthcare Professional to substitute a patient from one brand to another brand is unlikely to create any change to the health outcomes for the patient, and is likely to create a financial saving for the patient, potentially increasing patient compliance".

Members will be required to report twice yearly on the events they sponsor, with the reports assessed for compliance with the code by an Independent Reviewer.



DISPENSARY CORNER

WHAT solves pre-exam jitters better than a spot of exotic dancing?

The University of Cambridge has introduced pole dancing lessons for students in order to provide a perfect escape from examination stress.

The University Society is charging its union members a mere £2 an hour for the lessons, as part of its bid to create a fun refuge during "a tough exam term".

"The classes are for fitness and well-being, and are not intended to be sexual," a Union spokesperson insisted.

ANOTHER example of why smoking is dangerous.

A woman in the US has been granted the prestigious title of Bloomington Village idiot after she set fire to her hair while lighting a cigarette.

Dani Hamm works at a bar called the Story Inn, and patrons voted her the winner of the questionable annual award because of the incident which apparently happened while she was driving to work.

Moments before stepping into the car she had liberally coated her hair with hairspray, and it was this accelerant that sparked off a small explosion when she went to light her cigarette.

Dani was saved any real harm, after she doused the flames with her hands (still driving) which were also covered in hairspray!

WIN A PURE SPA PACK



Pharmacy Daily is once again giving readers the chance to win an All Pure Spa® baby pack every day this week, courtesy of Aromababy.

Valued at \$45, Pure Spa® offers a simple choice in pure and natural baby skincare and an easy way to care for your precious baby and yourself the way Mother Nature intended.

To win an All Pure Spa® baby pack, simply send in your answer to the question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

In 50 words or less, tell us why you would use All Pure Spa® natural skincare products on a baby.

There are five packs to be won and the lucky winners will be announced in *PD* next Monday.

Visit the Pure Spa website at www.purespa.com.au.

Kirsten Bruce of Viva Communications sent in the following response yesterday:

As a life-long eczema sufferer who has a baby with eczema, I am a huge fan of the All Pure Spa® natural skincare product range for use on babies, especially with sensitive, delicate skin. Inspired by Mother Nature, the organic products are pure, gentle on the skin and most affordable.

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The first 40 correct entries received will win!

WIN!