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New MHRA alert

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a recall warning over two lots of Abbott Medical Optics Complete multi-purpose contact lens solution.

Abbott Medical is recalling the solution after it was found to have the potential to cause eye infections, due to poor fitting caps on bottles, and the risk of contamination.

The two recalled lots are AH01072 (expires Apr 2012) and AH01225 (expires Apr 2012).

The MHRA is now advising the public to check if their contact lens solution is one of the affected batches, and if so to return it to the place of purchase.

Pharmacists are also being asked to not supply or use the affected batches, and instead return them immediately to Abbott.

J&J hits 11th recall

JOHNSON & Johnson's US wing has been hit by its 11th recall this year, after its artificial joint business was forced to recall two of its artificial joint hip replacement products, the ASR Hip Resurfacing System and the ASR XL Acetabular System.

According to reports the recall follows evidence that one in eight patients fitted with the products had to undergo revision surgery.

NZ Guild faces up to recall

THE New Zealand Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority Medsafe has advised of a patient level recall of one batch of Novo Nordisk's GlucaGen Hypokit 1mg injection.

Indicated for the treatment of hypoglycaemia the GlucaGen Hypokit 1mg injection requires patients to reconstitute the injection before use.

The recall was instated by Medsafe after it received reports of cracks in some of the syringes that are used for reconstitution.

These cracks have the potential to result in leakage or microbial contamination, Medsafe said.

The affected batch number is YW60362 and has an expiry date of Nov 2011.

Medsafe is urging NZ community pharmacists to contact all patients who have had the affected batch dispensed to them, to get them to return the product immediately for a replacement.

Approximately 1,588 units are estimated to be in distribution.

MEANWHILE, despite his ongoing medicine recall litigation, Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand President Ian Johnson has advised pharmacists to not delay the recall process in favour of discussions

regarding recompense.

"Community pharmacists' primary concern is patient safety," said Johnson.

This is the fifth medicine recall in NZ for 2010, and in line with its argument that pharmacists should not have to work extra hours for free and take time away from their own business to fix others mess, the NZ Guild is advising members to keep a record of their time and costs chewed up through the recall, and to send a bill to Novo Nordisk for "the recall service provided at the company's request".

"Expecting the work to be done for free is nonsense," said NZ Guild Chief Executive, Annabel Young.

PSA responds to ban

PHARMACISTS need to be totally aware of what they are dispensing and the circumstances under which medications are dispensed, according to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

The comments come on the back of yesterday's decision by swimming authority FINA to ban Aussie Commonwealth Games hopeful Ryan Napoleon from competing for three months, after he tested positive for the banned substance formoterol (PD yesterday).

Later inquiry blamed Napoleon's pharmacist after he allegedly mislabelled his asthma puffer.

The ban, according to the PSAs Acting President, Grant Kardachi, highlighted the need for pharmacists to have access to resources by which they can check on the medications they dispense, as well as to be able to check whether certain substances are banned by sporting institutions.

Kardachi then went on to spruik the Society's reference work, APF21, which "provides information to assist pharmacists in their dispensing and other aspects of their pharmacy practice" adding that "the section, Drugs in Sport would have been especially helpful in this case as it details the processes that a pharmacist should go through when dispensing any medicines for athletes subject to doping control testing.

"APF21 has been designed to ensure the efficacy and robustness of processes and procedures in pharmacy practice," he added.

New PSA executive

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has appointed Lisa Goldsmith as its newest Vice President of the Queensland Branch Committee.

One of the youngest executives seen at the PSA on a state or territory level, Goldsmith comes to the position as an ex-NAPSA President and Chair of the Qld Branch Early Career Pharmacist Working Group.

Goldsmith takes over the position from Dr Julie Stokes who has served as Branch Vice President for the past 12 months.

In announcing Lisa's appointment Nissen took the time to thank Dr Stokes who made the decision earlier in the year to step down from the role, saying "Julie's contribution has been significant and I'm thrilled that she remains on the Committee providing her enthusiasm and expert knowledge and skills."

Goldsmith now joins fellow branch executive members University of Qld Professor, Dr Lisa Nissen, President and accredited pharmacist and community pharmacy owner, Bruce Elliot, Branch Vice President.

"I believe this is a strong foundation for us to work from to help PSA members and the profession now and into the future," Nissen said.

"The balance we have is a really good one with the breadth of the profession represented," she added.

Speaking about the new committee make-up Nissen said that she felt it was a "positive reflection of the enthusiasm of Early Career Pharmacists and their desire to contribute to the profession at the highest levels."

See www.psa.org.au.

WIN AN EXPRESS KIT



Every day this week, *Pharmacy Daily* is giving readers the chance to win a Designer Brands Express Kit courtesy of Total Beauty Network.

Designer Brands are delighted to launch the LIMITED EDITION Cosmetic Kits for 2010. Just in

time for Christmas shopping, last year the demand was so high stock ran out within a month!

Don't miss out, great quality cosmetics is what Designer Brands is all about taking all the ingredients, colour and quality from design label cosmetics and make them available at a more affordable price.

Name 2 other kits on the Designer Brands website

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

The first correct entry received will win!

Hint: Visit: www.tbn.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: Felicia Woong from Priceline Pharmacy Burwood.

Pharmacy Daily Pharmacy Job of the Day!

Jobs4Careers is Australia's leading source for pharmacy jobs ... click here to find out more and see the Pharmacy Daily Job of the Day ...

jobs4careers.com.au

Menactra extension

THE US Food and Drug Authority has granted Sanofi Pasteur's application to expand the indication of the Menactra Vaccine (Meningococcal [Groups A, C, Y and W-135] Polysaccharide Diphtheria Toxoid Conjugate) to infants and toddlers.

The first-ever quadrivalent conjugate vaccine in the US for use in the prevention of meningococcal disease, Menactra was previously only indicated for use in people aged between two and 55 years.

The new approval was based on multicentre trials involving 3600 infants and toddlers who were given two doses at nine months and 12 months of age (concomitantly with either measles-mumps-rubella-varicella vaccine, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, or Hepatitis A vaccine).

The trials found that both the straight Menactra and concomitantly administered vaccines elicited a robust immune response against the vaccines serogroups.

CPD Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* Continuing Professional Development Calendar, featuring upcoming events and opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

- 11-12 Sep:** Australasian Conference for Compounding Pharmacists - www.accp.net.au.
- 23-23 Sep:** Australian Asthma & Respiratory Educators Assn Symposium, Canberra - 02 4340 8822.
- 15-18 Sep:** Pharmacy 2010, the Pharmacy Management Conference on Hamilton Island - www.pharmacyconference.com.au.
- 28-31 Oct:** PSA's Pharmacy Australia Congress in Melbourne - details www.pac10.com.au.
- 11-14 Nov:** The 36th National SHPA Conference, Medicines Management 2010 in Melbourne - mm2010shpa.com.
- 01-10 May 2011:** The PSA's 2011 Offshore Conference in Venice, Italy and Salzburg, Austria - www.psa.org.au.

Get the Forum/PAC10 edge

THE Pharmaceutical Society is encouraging pharmacists to sign up for the The Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy Accredited Pharmacists' (AACP) Forum as part of a full registration for PAC10, saying it will give pharmacists a "business and professional edge".

This year's Forum at PAC10 is themed on 'Clinical and Practical Skills for MMRs, Building your Portfolio' and is set to include a targeted program of clinical presentations, therapeutic updates, clinical controversies and all important practice pointers.

Discussing the program, current AACP ceo, Grant Martin, said this year's Forum would be particularly important following the introduction of mandatory CPD by the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

In addition to its own AACP accredited pharmacists, Martin also said that all pharmacists are welcome to attend the Forum which 'has a solid reputation for delivering a quality clinical seminar at PAC.

"We have selected a range of expert speakers who will address topics that will build on the skills base of attending pharmacists and better equip them for the current environment they work in," Martin said.

Speakers set to feature in the

EU approves VPRIV

THE European Union has approved marketing authorisation for Shire plc's new a human cell line derived enzyme replacement therapy treatment VPRIV(R) (velaglucerase alfa).

Indicated for treatment of type 1 Gaucher disease VPRIV(R) will soon be available in 30 European countries.

"Gaucher disease is a rare and often debilitating condition," said Professor Tim Cox from the Department of Medicine, University of Cambridge.

"The European approval of VPRIV is important in that we now have an alternative, licensed therapeutic enzyme.

"For type 1 patients the availability of VPRIV provides further opportunities to individualise treatment options for this complex disorder," Cox added.

Forum line-up include consulting pharmacist Debbie Rigby, Chair, AACP chair; Christine Culhane of the Victorian Psychotropic Drug Advisory Service; Margaret Thorpe from Melbourne's Nixon Hostel; Victorian accredited pharmacist Neil Petrie; Dr Peter Tenni, Manager, Clinical Division of Medscope; Dr Sonia Davison, Endocrinologist at the Jean Hailes Foundation in Victoria; Dr Geraldine Moses from the Drug Information Centre of Brisbane's Mater Hospital; Professor Michael Woodward, Medical Director, Aged and Residential Care Services, Austin Health in Victoria; and Debra Rowett, Service Director of South Australia's Drug and Therapeutics Information Service.

PAC10 Organising Committee Chairperson Alistair Lloyd is also encouraging AACP Forum delegates to sign-up to the full PAC10 program saying that it "complements the AACP Forum in that the presentations have been specially designed to give pharmacy delegates a business and professional edge" - see www.pac10.com.au.

Viral Hep conference

THIS year the Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference will be held in Melbourne between 6-8 Sep.

Highlights of the conference include discussion of Gene Therapy and the discovery of the gene IL28B which allows doctors to predict how well a hep C patient will respond to treatment and also presentations looking into the low levels of hepatitis C treatment uptake in Australia (incl. barriers between people with the disease and treatment, difficulties gaining access to treatment and fresh roles by healthcare practitioners).

Also on the conference agenda is the "often overlooked issue of epidemiology of hepatitis B in the community", as well as 'Moving Forward - Challenges for the Next Decade'.

Hundreds of healthcare professionals including GPs, specialists and members of the pharmaceutical community are set to attend the conference - for information on the program or registration see www.hepatitis.org.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

I WANT world peace and a hearse!

A UK beauty pageant queen has shocked her friends and family after scoring her other "dream job" - as an undertaker.

At just 18 years of age Miss Norfolk revealed that she had already made her decision to look after the deceased, following a stint of work experience at a funeral parlour when she was 15 years old.

Now one may wonder if there are cross over skills between being beautiful professionally and tending to the needs of the deceased and their families, but according to local media there are - both professions have a focus on styling hair and makeup.

SPIDEY'S got nothing on grandma.

Researchers at the UK's Stanford University have said that soon the general public will be able to scale tall buildings just like Spider Man, after the invention of a new 'gecko' material.

According to reports the new textile was modelled on the feet of geckos, whose tiny hairs create a bond between the toes and surface area to which they are walking on or up.

This bond can only be broken if a movement is taken in another direction.

Instead of hairs the material features thousands of tiny polymer fibres.

Having successfully tested the rubber-like material on a small sized robot, the scientists are now eager to create a human-sized suit.

KNOCKED out by a carp.

A US kayaker, Brad Pennington, has had his hopes of winning a Missouri River endurance race smashed, after a 14kg Asian silver carp leapt out of the river and slapped him in the face.

The slap, according to Pennington, felt like a brick in the face, and left him dizzy, with a shocking headache and having to withdraw from the race.

"It's definitely a risk of being out on the river," said a statement from the Fisheries Office.

"Those things can kill you," the statement added.