

Guild Update

This week's update
from the Guild

QMA payments

THE end of the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement on 30 June 2010 may affect some pharmacies' eligibility for the Quality Maintenance Allowance (QMA) under the Quality Care Pharmacy Program (QCPP).

It is vital that QCPP pharmacies complete all accreditation processes by 31 October 2010.

This includes:

- If you are a **new (to QCPP) pharmacy** or a **lapsed pharmacy**, you must be assessed before 1 July 2010 by a QCPP Assessor. To receive the QMA payment, you must complete any remedial actions, submit the Legal and Professional Obligations Declaration (T1A form) and pay your QCPP membership invoice by 31 October 2010.
- If you are currently **QCPP accredited** and are due to be assessed before 1 July 2010, you must book an assessment within the allowable time frame, complete any remedial actions, submit your T1A form and pay your QCPP membership before 31 October 2010.
- If you are **QCPP accredited** and your anniversary falls before 1 July 2010 (that is the second year of the two year cycle) you must submit your T1A form on your anniversary date and pay your QCPP membership by 31 October 2010.

The sooner you complete your QCPP accreditation, the sooner you will receive your 2009/2010 QMA payment.

If you would like to confirm your accreditation due date or discuss your pharmacy's situation, email the Administration Helpline at help@qcpp.com or call on 1300 363 340.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

TGACC advertising seminars

PHARMACY owners and managers are being invited to attend a series of seminars on consumer advertising of therapeutic goods, to be held around the country and hosted by the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code Council.

The information sessions will cover the "opportunities and pitfalls" associated with consumer therapeutic goods advertising.

"Therapeutic goods have a special place in the world of advertising and are governed by a range of regulatory controls, including the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code," said Judith Brimer, TGACC executive officer.

"These forums explain what can and can't be done in line with all of the requirements for responsible marketing and advertising of therapeutic goods," she added.

The workshops consist of a one-

Crestor extension

THE US Food and Drug Administration has granted approval to AstraZeneca to market its Crestor (rosuvastatin) cholesterol pill as a preventive measure against heart attack and stroke in patients with healthy cholesterol levels.

The move follows the 2008 Jupiter study of almost 18,000 patients funded by Astra-Zeneca which showed Crestor reduced cardiovascular incidents in 44% of patients who had normal cholesterol and slight risks of heart disease.

The approval is for men aged 50 and older, and women 60 and older, who have elevated levels of C-reactive protein - an indicator of inflammation which can lead to clogged arteries.

To be approved for Crestor patients must also have at least one risk factor for heart problems such as high blood pressure or smoking.

More than six million additional patients are estimated to be eligible for Crestor under the new ruling.

AstraZeneca sold around US\$4.5 billion worth of Crestor last year across the globe, and is facing a patent challenge in the US which will be heard in court this month.

Adverse Medicines ph

THE TGA has advised that the Adverse Medicine Events phone number is 1300 134 237 (PD Fri).

12 FREE
Months
Standard Membership!
Offer ends March 31. ACT NOW!
Click here for more information
DAVID PATTON: 0432 515 717

Chemsave

**7.5% PBS
DISCOUNT!
COST -0.5%**

Location rules petition

HEALTH Minister Nicola Roxon is considering relaxing the pharmacy location rules for a pharmacy in the Sydney suburb of Wattle Grove, which isn't approved for PBS dispensing because it's not far enough away from the nearest PBS-approved pharmacy.

The pharmacists at Wattle Grove, a Mr and Mrs Chen, have submitted a petition from nearby residents.

Roxon has a discretionary power to approve the pharmacy, where the application of the location rules "will result in a community being left without reasonable access to a PBS approved pharmacy."

Roxon said she appreciates the strong interest and support from the local community "and their representations will be taken into account as part of my consideration of this issue."

day introductory seminar canvassing the fundamentals of therapeutic advertising as well as a half-day advanced course for participants who have completed the fundamentals workshop.

Advertising of medical devices and self-medication products will be covered, including OTC and complementary medicines, herbal remedies, vitamin and mineral supplements, homeopathic medicines and traditional medicines.

Workshops will come to Sydney on 31 March and 23 June (fundamentals) and 21 April (advanced); Melbourne 14 May (fundamentals) and Brisbane 18 June (fundamentals).

For more info or to book go to www.tgacc.com.au/events.

WIN AN EMU SPIRIT PACK



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving readers the chance to win one of four gorgeous Emu Spirit packs, courtesy of Emu Spirit.

Valued at \$125, the Emu Spirit pack contains a Moisturising Soap, Arthritic and Muscular Rub, Oil of

Emu, Day Crème Refresh & Renew, Night Crème Repair & Restore, Advanced Hand & Body Crème and a genuine Emu Egg!

Emu Spirit is an all Australian company established in 1993 which strives to offer natural products for inflammatory conditions with their Emu Spirit therapeutic and skincare range.

Emu Spirit's patented rendering process, OilTek™, devised by one of the world's leading oil chemists, Mr Andy Baker, is exclusive to Emu Spirit and Emu Spirit's products.

For your chance to win an Emu Spirit pack, simply send in your answer to the weekly question below to:
comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

In 50 words or less, tell us why you would like to win this Emu Spirit pack.

We'll announce the winners in Friday's issue. One of yesterday's entries was from **Kaye Hazel** from **Angel Medicine** in Bundaberg Qld, who wrote:

I've developed allergies to many skin care products, so am very cautious with what I use, and am continually looking for good products. I prefer natural products, especially ones that contain soothing and calming essential oils which also smell nice. The Emu Spirit range appears to be perfect for me.

Check out the Emu Spirit website at www.emuspirit.com.



H1N1 campaign

A NEW month-long campaign which aims to encourage parents to take up the free H1N1 vaccine for their children, prior to the commencement of flu season, has been launched by NSW Minister for Health, Carmel Tebbutt.

The campaign will be waged in print and radio media outlets, as well as via a poster which is set to be distributed to 3400 childcare providers and 150 councils in NSW.

"With many children now beginning or returning to daycare, preschool or primary school, it is the perfect time for parents to get their child vaccinated," said Tebbutt.

As part of the campaign, the state government has also stationed dedicated vaccination nurses in each of the three major children's hospitals in NSW over the next six months to "target vulnerable children who attend as out-patients or are admitted as in-patients and their families," Tebbutt added.

National Palliative Strategy

THE new collaborative, phase one National Palliative Care Strategy update report has been released.

Focused on creating a national standardisation of policies, services and strategies, the Palliative Care Strategy is a joint collaboration between the federal and state governments, palliative care providers and community-based organisations.

The phase one strategy report has highlighted governance, workforce, information management, definition, data sets and end-of-life-care as key areas for consideration.

Palliative Care Australia has welcomed the report's release, saying that the proposed "models and innovations must look of ways of delivering quality care across and between all care settings".

"Now is the time for considerable

investment in consultation and discussion about dying well in Australia," said Donna Daniell, ceo of Palliative Care Australia.

MEANWHILE in the interests of engaging palliative care views from across the health sector, Palliative Care Australia has launched an online survey tool as well as a series of workshops around Australia.

If you are interested in taking part in the survey and/or the workshops see npcsu.communigroup.com.

Health privacy update

THE Office of the Privacy Commissioner will be given new powers to oversee the use of the proposed new Individual Healthcare Identifiers, which are the subject of new laws to be introduced into Federal Parliament this week.

The *Financial Review* says the commissioner will be given the authority to audit use of the identifiers to ensure they aren't misused to breach patient privacy.

Fitness expo

THE Australian Fitness and Health Expo will be held this year at the Sydney Convention Centre between 30 April and 02 May.

Promising to provide "a literal smorgasbord of innovative products and the latest trends", the Expo this year will play house just shy of 300 exhibitors including Zumba Fitness, Attitude Technology Solutions and Mani Sports and Fitness Australia.

Details www.fitnessexpo.com.au.

Gates opened on charity

MICROSOFT billionaires Bill and Melinda Gates have donated \$3 million towards Medicines in Need, an organisation which researches solutions for health problems in developing countries.

The donation will go towards advancing technologies which allow a live attenuated malaria vaccine to be manufactured, transported and stored at a significantly reduced cost.

Gates has provided ongoing support to several malaria research programs, and has highlighted the sad fact that more money is spent on research into remedies for baldness than for the insidious tropical mosquito-borne disease.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A SLIPPERY customer in the US has failed to make a clean getaway after he stole 75 bottles of body lotion by shoving them down his trousers.

30-year-old Chamil Guadarrama was arrested after a brief chase, with a police spokesman said the miscreant was wearing ordinary pants, but had tied string around his ankles to stop the containers from falling out.

"They could not fit Mr Guadarrama into the cruiser because his pants were bursting at the seams and he could not bend over," he said.

The thief's thighs were also "extremely chafed" when he was taken into custody, with the officer confirming that "he needed the use of some of the stolen items."

YOU'VE heard of the risk of second-hand smoke - but what about third-hand?

US scientists have undertaken tests on upholstery, clothing and even the skin which shows that residues from smoking can cause negative effects on health.

They said that even though sending smokers outdoors cuts second-hand smoke, the significant levels of toxins on smoke-exposed materials still come back inside and this "third hand" smoke can be harmful.

HOLLYWOOD actress Jessica Alba says she's distressed at reports that a Chinese woman is planning to undergo surgery to make herself look more the *Fantastic Four* star.

Apparently the 21-year-old woman, described only by her first name Xiaoqing, recently broke up with her boyfriend who was completely obsessed with Alba.

Now she hopes to get back with her ex by having an extreme makeover, with staff at the Shanghai Time Plastic Surgery Hospital offering to do the work for free to showcase their skills.

Alba said she didn't think the operation was a god idea, saying "if somebody loves you, they'll love you no matter what."

Minfos celebrates milestone



PHARMACY software specialist, minfos, has recently celebrated installing its 700th software system.

The milestone installation took place at the Con Varela Pharmacy in Murwillumbah, NSW.

"We've seen excellent growth in Minfos in recent years and it's fantastic to reach this milestone - there's no doubt that minfos is now a major player in the pharmacy software market," said Mimfos manager, Matt Lalor.

"The way we see it, the more customers we have the greater the opportunity for feedback and we've certainly had great input from our

pharmacists in the past few years which is resulting in some exciting new initiatives," he added.

Pharmacy owner Con Varela decided to have minfos installed as part of a major pharmacy refit.

"The staff couldn't be happier with the change - and they were also pretty happy with the huge hamper of goodies we received from the minfos team for being the 700th customer," Con said.

Pictured above from **left**, excited after having cracked the goodie basket, is Amanda Stainlay, Skye Piggott, Con Varela, Bess Varela, Ashlea Moore and Robyn Livesey.