



### US stroller recall

A NUMBER of 'fingertip amputations' has prompted the recall of about 1.5 million Graco baby strollers sold at US retailers including Wal-Mart and Target.

The US Product Safety Commission said it had received reports of five children having their fingertips severed as they placed their fingers in a 'canopy hinge' as it was being opened or closed.

The recall follows the Nov recall of around a million McLaren strollers in the US, again due to fingertip amputations.

### Rose-hip rheumatoid

A NEW study has linked the use of rose-hip powder with greater rheumatoid arthritis symptom management.

Led by Dr. Kaj Winther, head of the Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Frederiksberg Hospital, University of Copenhagen, the six month randomised double-blind, placebo-controlled trial found that of the 89 patients treated with rose-hip powder 'significant improvements' were found in pain levels at the three and six month trial marks.

### PSA calls for more prevention

PREDICTED declines in Australian workforce participation rates due to the ageing population could potentially be arrested by a pharmacist driven focus on preventative programs, according to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

PSA President Warwick Plunkett was responding to comments by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd this week, that by 2050 there would be only 2.7 working-age Australians for everyone aged 65 or over - around half the current level.

"Clearly preventive health is an area that can boost workforce participation and thus improve productivity in the future when there are fewer taxpayers supporting a much larger ageing population," said Plunkett said. "The implementation of targeted and effective preventive health programs through community pharmacy, the most accessible of all health professionals, will play a major role in addressing these issues and in helping the Government deal with the dynamics foreshadowed in the Third

Intergenerational Report," he added.

In line with its prevention suggestion, the PSA has called on the Government to now consider a "comparatively small investment" on an implementation framework to facilitate the uptake and delivery of a number of preventive health programs through pharmacy.

"Programs in the areas of smoking cessation, weight management, health education and minor illness have already been successfully developed by PSA and trialled in pharmacy and shown excellent cost-effective results," he said.

### Quit with Coles

SUPERMARKET giant Coles has launched a new joint initiative with Nicabate targeting the quit-smoking market.

The promotion, heavily advertised on radio this week, offers smokers who sign up at a special website [www.quitwithcoles.com.au](http://www.quitwithcoles.com.au) a 10% discount on Nicabate products, as well as online support as they quit.

MEANWHILE, still on smoking, new research commissioned by pharmacy-only brand Nicorette has found that smokers seeking to quit for the first time will take advice from GPs, family and friends.

However on subsequent attempts to quit, community pharmacy was found to be the number one destination for Aussie smokers.

"If a smoker's first quit attempt is unsuccessful it is encouraging they will seek a discussion with a pharmacist, who is ideally placed to advise on the right smoking cessation method that will maximise their chances of quit success," said Guild President, Kos Slavos.

The research also showed that although almost all smokers believed it was important to address the behavioural or "hand to mouth" addiction of smoking, almost 70% of quitters had never had this discussed with them.

Nicorette's inhaler product aims to tackle this issue in conjunction with working on the physical addiction to nicotine.

Slavos said that with pharmacy at the front line of smoking cessation "it is essential we are equipped to initiate this conversation in a confident and authoritative way."

### Chronic Care launch

A NEW chronic disease care program trial, LINCS (Linking Chronic Disease Services), is set to commence in Darling Downs, Qld.

Aimed at increasing the quality of life and reducing the rate of unplanned hospital admissions for patients suffering chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes and heart disease, the program will place chronic illness sufferers with a Care Coordinator who will undertake a comprehensive health assessment and design a care plan in consultation with the patient's GP.

In turn the Care Coordinator will become the central point of contact for all of the patient's service providers and will coordinate all visits - aided by an online Directory of participating Service Providers.

"This initiative has been recognised as an example of the future of chronic disease management," said Qld Deputy Premier, Paul Lucas.

### Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature.

Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

THE exclusive Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa located in the Blue Mountains, NSW, has released a special two-night 'Timeless Escape' package priced from \$1488pp - just in time for Valentine's Day.

The deal includes two-nights luxury accommodation in a Heritage Suite; daily gourmet breakfast, lunch and dinner; all non-alcoholic beverages and a selection of alcoholic drinks; two on site nature-based activities per day and a 60 minute spa treatment.

The deal is valid from now until 30 April; see [www.wolganvalley.com](http://www.wolganvalley.com).

EUROPEAN river cruise operator Avalon Waterways is offering a series of new earlybird river cruise discounts, representing savings of up to \$2437pp, valid for bookings

from now until 31 March.

The discounts extend to the cruise line's Danube, Rhône and Seine river cruise itineraries and include a Fly Free to Europe deal for selected 15-day Magnificent Europe departures between Amsterdam and Budapest.

For information see your local travel agent or go to [www.avalonwaterways.com.au](http://www.avalonwaterways.com.au).

GAP Adventures has discounted its 15-day 'Colours of Asia' tour, departing 7 March from Singapore through Melaka, Kuala Lumpur, the Cameron Highlands, Penang, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Ko Samui to Bangkok, to just \$1800per person incl all accommodation, transport and some meals.

See [www.travelzoo.com.au/news](http://www.travelzoo.com.au/news).

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## Gov won't foot the bill

**HEALTH** care providers may end up paying for their own IT upgrades to keep themselves in line with the new integrated national electronic healthcare system.

According to the Minister for Health Nicola Roxon, the government "believes there's good reasons [why] healthcare providers and businesses and professionals can pay to upgrade their systems."

"The government will adopt a more hands-off approach in the execution of e-health, acting instead as an overseer and intermediary between providers."

"This isn't an entire government enterprise. It's about government using its role to link the different providers at appropriate times for the benefit of the patient," Roxon added.

## FDA approves heart

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has approved a new left ventricular assist system, HeartMate II.

The new continuous-flow system has been designed to support heart-failure patients who are not eligible for a transplant.

## AMA warns pharmacy nurses

**THE** Australian Medical Association has warned that the opening of a nurse-practitioner clinic within a Tuggeranong, ACT pharmacy may pose serious health risks to patients.

"The scope of practice approved by ACT Health for those nurse practitioners fails to provide any requirement to inform the patient's normal treating doctor of care," said the AMA in a statement.

It claims that this lapse between

### Indonesian generics

**THE** Indonesian Government is set to enforce a ruling that doctors within its state hospitals and clinics only prescribe generic drugs to patients, in order to cut its health spending.

The decree, initially introduced in 1989, was never strictly carried through, however that is all set to change in the coming months with the newly elected Health Minister Endang Rahayu Sedyaningsih vowing to enforce the rule.

Doctors will only be allowed to prescribe branded medicines where there is no available generic option.

care providers may create risks to including "fragmentation of patient care... [and also] increased risk of misdiagnosis and missed diagnosis; [as well as] increased risk of adverse outcomes."

According to ACT Shadow Health Minister, Jeremy Hanson, the nurse-led clinics in the ACT are a "stop gap measure introduced without GP consultation".

Hanson has called on the government and industry stakeholders to hold-off on approving the clinics, until the trial results of a current nurse led clinic located at The Canberra Hospital are revealed.

"Although I support the expansion of nurse practitioner numbers in the ACT I do have concerns with this model which would see them working in isolation from GPs," Hanson said.

"Nurse practitioners can play a vital role as part of the primary health care team and work best when part of a team that includes GPs," he added.

The Tuggeranong pharmacy is the latest in Pharmacy Alliance's healthc initiative in conjunction with nurse practitioner organisation Revive Clinic, which has also urged other pharmacies to consider offering nursing services (PD Mon).

### UK adherence

**THE** Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has urged the UK's Primary Care Organisations to increase their use of community pharmacy services, due to the UK's high levels of poor patient medicine adherence.

RPSGB cites a recent study which suggests that between 30-50% of all medicines taken in the UK may not be being taken 'as intended', in turn creating greater rates of side-effects, ill health and hospitalisation.

"Pharmacists are ideally placed to support patients with information, advice and strategies to improve medicines adherence," a statement from the society said.

"A real opportunity to improve both patient care and drive more efficient use of the NHS resources will be missed, unless PCO's focus on medicines adherence services through pharmacies," the statement added.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**THE** government of South Korea is so concerned about a potentially shrinking population that it's giving workers time off to go home and make babies.

Officials in the capital Seoul have announced that the lights in its health ministry will be switched off early every third Wednesday of the month, to force staff to go home, with the department saying it wants to help public servants "become more dedicated to having children".

Also on offer are cash bonuses for staff who have more than two babies.

South Korea has one of the lowest birth rates in the world, and the government fears the population may begin to reduce within ten years if steps aren't taken to increase rates of reproduction..

**NO**, exercise will not kill you - in fact it may make you smarter!

New research has shown that going for a run stimulates the brain to grow brand new brain cells- which in turn vastly increases the runner's ability to recall memories and learn.

According to the researchers, after just a few days of jogging they found brain cells had increased within participants brains by hundreds of thousands.

As yet however, researchers are still at a loss to explain why exercise has this effect, but have suggested it may be linked to increased blood flow and higher levels of 'exercise' hormones.

**AUTHORITIES** in the southern Italian city of Naples have investigated a huge scam in which hundreds of people faked medical records in order to claim disability pensions.

Detectives looking into the fraud found a massive cluster of health problems - including two streets where more than half of the residents claimed to be either mentally ill or blind.

The fraud which is estimated to have cost the Italian government several million dollars.

## WIN AN AUSTRALIS FOUNDATION



Australis has teamed up with *Pharmacy Daily* this week, giving readers the chance to win an Australis Mineral Purity Powder Foundation.

Valued at \$17.95, the pure mineral powder formula allows you to create buildable even coverage that lasts all day.

The lightweight powder looks and feels like you are wearing no make-up. It contains no talc, parabens or

fragrance ensuring that your skin is free from any irritations. It includes an inbuilt kabuki and mirror.

For a chance to win your very own Australis Mineral Purity Powder Foundation, simply send through the correct answer to the following question below:

**Are you able to layer and build your foundation?**

Email your answer to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

The first correct entry received will win!

Hint: Visit the Australis website: [www.australiscosmetics.com.au](http://www.australiscosmetics.com.au).

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Deb Caldera of Maddington Amcal Chemist who was the first reader yesterday to tell us Australis Mineral Purity should be applied with a Kabuki Brush.