

Just one click away from keeping up to date with all the breaking news as it comes to hand...



Guild Update

This week's update from the Guild

GuildSuper

Manually writing cheques and completing paperwork for super contributions can be a time-consuming process, yet the Cooper Review of superannuation recently found that 60 per cent of employers still pay some or all of their super commitments using cheques.

Pharmacy employers can take advantage of free online payment services from GuildSuper that can reduce the time and paperwork involved in paying super contributions.

MercerSpectrum Clearing House solution can help to ease the administrative burden.

You make a single payment and the clearing house makes all the necessary contributions to your employees' chosen super funds.

Unlike the Medicare Clearing House service introduced recently by the Australian Government, GuildSuper's MercerSpectrum Clearing House service is not limited to employers with less than 20 staff – and it's free (for an unlimited number of staff) for employers with GuildSuper as their default fund.

Additionally, it gives employers the ability to upload payroll and other electronic files containing contribution payment data, so that manual data entry isn't required.

GuildSuper has produced a free demonstration CD to show how easy it is to make online contributions and highlighting how you can save time.

Contact GuildSuper on 03 9810 9875 or email gfsadministration@guildgroup.com.au for a free copy.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

HMRs heading for shake-up

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is advising pharmacists, that although the Home Medicines Reviews (HMR) and Residential Medication Management Reviews (RMMR) will continue to be funded under the Fifth Community Agreement, there may yet be changes to the service.

At present the Guild has said it is the process of consulting with both stakeholders and the Department of Health over proposed changes to the HMR services which include the possible introduction of the Medication Use Review (MUR) to the service.

The introduction of the MUR may lead to improved targeting of HMR services as patients who are eligible for the latter may find a MUR more suitable, the Guild said.

Other proposed changes include the development of a HMR model that allows GPs to send referrals directly to the accredited pharmacist of the patient's choice and the potential development of a model of HMR that allows patients who have been recently discharged to access an urgent HMR, which would be provided within a short period of time.

In terms of proposed changes to the Residential Medication Management Reviews the Guild has said that changes being considered focus on funding best practice review services and include funding QUM services separately from the review component; and increasing the focus on collaborative reviews.

Whilst consultation negotiations are ongoing the Guild is advising

pharmacists to continue to work with GPs "in the usual manner" to provide HMR and RMMR services to their patients.

In line with annual indexation, the HMR service fee for pharmacists will be \$194.07 for claims paid after 01 Aug.

Although timeframes pertaining to the proposed changes to both services are not yet known, the Guild has said that it will communicate any changes to both the HMR and RMMR as they "they become available to pharmacists, general practitioners, and aged care facility managers".

Tylenol recall expands

PHARMACIES in the US are beginning to remove selected Tylenol, Benadryl and Motrin products of their shelves, following the expansion of the voluntary recall of McNeil Consumer Healthcare products to include more batches in the US, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

Included in the list of voluntarily recalled products is Concentrated Tylenol Infants' Drops, Children's Tylenol, Children's Tylenol Plus Cough & Sore Throat, Children's Tylenol Plus Cough & Runny Nose, Children's Tylenol Plus Multi-Symptom Cold, Children's Tylenol Plus Cough & Allergy, Children's Benadryl Allergy, Children's Motrin and Children's Zyrtec.

In issuing the voluntary recall alert McNeil said that some of the products may contain a higher concentration of active ingredient than specified; others may contain inactive ingredients that may not meet internal testing requirements; and others may contain tiny particles.

McNeil also said that whilst the risk of serious harm is remote, adults should discontinue their child's usage of the recalled products immediately.

TGA Iressa approval

THE TGA has approved IRESSA (gefitinib) as a first-line treatment in patients with EGFR gene mutation positive advanced non-small cell lung cancer.

IRESSA (gefitinib) provides longer progression-free survival for patients and reportedly has significant advantages over standard chemotherapy amongst newly diagnosed advanced NSCLC patients.

As a result of the approval, clinicians are now calling for routine EGFR gene mutation testing in order to determine the best treatment for patients.

"Although gefitinib has been available for a number of years in Australia, this news means we can now treat patients who have an activating EGFR mutation, with a medicine that provides them with the best progression-free survival as soon as they are diagnosed," said Dr Nick Pavlakis, Head of Dep. of Medical Oncology at Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital.

"However, to ensure patients receive the most effective treatment for their type of lung cancer, EGFR gene mutation testing must become a critical component in the diagnosis of NSCLC," he added.

GF market to grow

THE global market for gluten-free products is set to grow by \$1.2 billion over the next five years, according to market analyst Datamonitor, with predictions that the GF market in Australia will be worth US\$98.6 million - growing at one of the highest rates in the Asia-Pacific region.

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Guild

Disease matching

THE US Alzheimer's Association has launched a new confidential matching service, which is designed to recruit and connect people with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia to clinical trials and the latest trial information.

All listed trials are review-board approved and the Alzheimer's Association has said it will also help match patients to trials via a national 24-hour helpline.

"If patients are not enrolling in trials, there can be no advances in diagnosis, treatment and prevention, making the lack of study participants a significant public health issue," said William Thies, Chief Medical and Scientific Officer at the Alzheimer's Association.

"Alzheimer's Association TrialMatch provides a first-of-its-kind service in Alzheimer's by delivering a user-friendly and individualised guide to clinical trials for people with Alzheimer's, their healthcare professionals, caregivers and healthy volunteers," he added.

See www.alz.org/trialmatch.

Weight Watchers nod

A GLOBAL 12-month study has found that the 'Weight Watchers' diet plan is of similar efficacy to GP weight management care.

Spanning three continents (incl Australia, China, Spain, Germany and the UK) the research project found that 61% of those that participated in the Weight Watchers program achieved weight loss of 5% or more of their initial weight, compared to a recorded 32% who received standard care from a GP.

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

One month grace period

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia is advising pharmacists who have neglected or forgotten to renew their registration that due to a change in State legislation, they have until 31 July to renew.

This one-month grace period was enacted by the Qld govt to address the risk that the approx 3% of practitioners who (although intending to practice) had not renewed their registration by 30 Jun, would not transition to the new National Scheme safely.

MCG information

THE TGA has updated its website information on the Monitoring and Compliance Group.

Responsible for the ongoing monitoring of Australian-approved therapeutic products the MCG includes The Office of Product Review; the Office of Laboratories and Scientific Services and the Office of Manufacturing Quality.

Details at www.tga.gov.au.

As part of the grace period, all pharmacists who did not renew registration before 30 Jun have been transitioned to registration under the National Scheme for the period to 31 July 2010 to allow all un-financial registrants to renew registration under the new law.

Currently the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency is advising all un-financial registrants that if they intend to practice after 31 Jul they need to apply for renewal online or through a paper-based application before the end of the month, and that until 31 Jul they will remain legally registered and entitled to practice.

AHPRA has also said that until 31 Jul that un-financial registrant details will remain on the publicly available national register, and that in order to renew registration they will have to pay the national registration fee and meet all national requirements.

See www.pharmacyboard.gov.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

FAECAL fuel.

The UK Ministry of Defense has announced that it will fuel its new Horse Artillery Barracks with bio-fuel pellets derived from, you guessed it, horse poo.

According to reports, it is estimated that the recycled waste will provide enough clean fuel to provide the Barracks heating and lighting requirements.

The UK government has said that this eco-friendly shift is demonstrative of its commitment to sustainable development.

CLIMATE change gone crazy?

A three-metre crocodile had a whale of a time roaming the streets of Frankfurt in Germany.

The crocodile shocked passing drivers, with most writing off the wandering reptile as a trick of the light.

One driver however reported the wayward croc, after he witnessed it happily sunning itself on the side of the road.

Rather than a sign of climate change, it was soon discovered that the crocodile was in fact a 65-year old reptile park resident, who had slipped out of his keepers care whilst in transit to a special reptile show.

HEAT stress here!

A road in China has melted into its original liquid state, after a day of excessive heat caused the tarmac to heat up to a massive 70°C.

According to reports, the road, located in the Henan province of Zhengzhou, had begun to show signs of problems earlier in the day, with hundreds of cars and busses reporting that they were sticking to the tarmac.

"After getting out of the car to check what the problem was, I found both front wheels were covered in melted tarmac," said one unfortunate driver, Lao Yang.

"I had to lift the car with a jack, and take off the tires to remove the asphalt," he added.

Eventually authorities had to lay thick plastic covering over the goo to keep traffic moving.

WIN A KOHL PENCIL



Every day this week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers the chance to win a kohl pencil from the latest Honey Comb pencil display, courtesy of Total Beauty Network.

Exclusive to Designer Brands is a range of makeup pencils for eyes and lips offering the hottest fashion colours in creamy, yet defining formulas.

Designer Brands Lip Pencils are luxuriously soft, offering incredible definition without bleeding.

Designer Brands Kohl Pencils glide on gently, allowing great eye definition or easy blending for sexy, smoky looks.

For your chance to win your very own kohl pencil this week, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

What 4 pencil varieties are available in the Designer Brands range?

Send entry to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

The first correct entry received each day will win.

Hint! Visit www.tbn.com.au.

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: **Marsha Gomez** from **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia**.