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Final CPD Guidelines

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has released the official version of its Guidelines on Continuing Professional Development, which outlines the specific requirements that need to be met by pharmacists when undertaking Continuing Professional Development programs as part of the Board's annual CPD requirements.

The Guidelines state that both accredited and non-accredited CPD points may be credited towards a pharmacist's annual requirements, but that in relation to accredited CPD pharmacists who meet the annual quota may simultaneously meet the Boards CPD standard and the CPD requirement for renewal registration.

In terms of self-directed learning the Guidelines advise that pharmacists must ensure that they keep detailed records of all CPD activities undertaken and that these details can be verified and a learning plan can be produced upon request.

Records of CPD participation must be kept up to date by the pharmacist or providers on behalf of participants and must include the date of activity, source or provider details, type of activity, topics covered during the activity, accreditation status and CPD credits.

The Board also recommends that pharmacists undertake a wide range of CPD activities available across a selection of CPD 'Activity Groups', and that pharmacists who will be absent from practice for up to one year have no CPD requirement but that pharmacists who rack up absences of between one and three years must complete a minimum quota of one year's CPD activities relevant to their intended scope of practice.

The Board has said that practitioners who are absent for more than three years must meet the Board's recency of practice registration standards.

See www.pharmacyboard.gov.au.

GMIa revises its new Code

THE Generic Medicines Industry Association has revised its proposed Code of Practice, taking into account objections raised by the industry to its previous version (PD 13 Apr).

The revision has seen a change to the make up of the Code of Complaints Committee- from an even ratio of member company representatives to independent members, to five independent members from across a range of disciplines and three member company representatives.

The Committee will comprise an independent chairman (with experience in trade practices); as well as consumer, pharmacy and medical representatives plus three member company representatives (including a GMiA board member).

Company reps sitting on the board must declare any conflict of interest before their 'ad hoc' appointment to the Committee.

Despite industry objections, GMiA has also held firm to its position that under the Code members would not have to report "educational benefits" provided to pharmacists.

Whilst it did concede that a "small benefit" of greater public transparency would be gained by reporting pharmacist events, it argued that this would be outweighed by a greater "public detriment" created by possible

public misunderstanding of pharmacists' motives when recommending medications that transparency would create.

"The public may gain the erroneous impression from educational event reporting that a particular educational event may have influenced a pharmacist to recommend a particular generic medicine, when in actual fact there were a range of other factors which contributed to that decision" it said.

The association said transparency would not reveal the "true nature" of relationships with pharmacists because of other factors such as corporate and brand awareness, product quality, certainty of supply, returns policy, trading terms, packaging and labeling, possibility of patient confusion, substitutability, price benefit to patient, and additional supplier support programs offered - unlike the situation for prescribers where the relationships are more defined.

GMiA also argued that tracking pharmacist event costs would cause extra costs which were likely to be passed onto consumers.

New ED drug approved

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Staxyn, a new formulation of Levitra (vardenafil HCl), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction.

The first ED medication to be approved in the US in an erodispersible formulation, Staxyn 10mg is designed to disintegrate on the patients tongue without the use of liquid.

Bayer has already applied for marketing approval in Europe with the expectation that it will be okayed later in the year, whilst it is expected that Staxyn will be available on the US market within the next few months.

Glaucoma education

THE Department of Veteran Affairs MATES service has released a new information brochure which aims to increase awareness of the eye disease, Glaucoma.

The education module covers topics including what Glaucoma is, its treatments, associated conditions and how to get the best from glaucoma medications.

For more information see www.veteransmates.com.au.

WIN WITH NUROFEN FOR CHILDREN



To celebrate the launch of their new age-specific range, Nurofen for Children are encouraging Australians to delight in the joys of storytelling and the role it plays in learning and discovery.

Children need a medicine that is easy to take and reduces their pain effectively and safely. That is why the new Nurofen for Children range (available in Baby + 3 months; 1-5 years; 5-12 years) has been developed

to make dosing more convenient for babies and children as they grow. It provides effective relief from fever from 15 minutes onwards and lasts for up to 8 hours, which means no more sleepless nights for parents and children.

For your chance to tell your own story with one of four prize packs containing a Nikon COOLPIX Camera and professionally produced hardcover Photo Book, simply answer the daily question below:

How quickly does Nurofen for Children provide relief from fever?

Send your entries to: nurofenforchildren@hausmann.com.au

Hint! Visit: www.nurofenforchildren.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: David Cheung from Kingaroy Pharmacy.

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Caffeinated relief

A NEW meta-analysis study has concluded that greater pain relief may be achieved when paracetamol is combined with caffeine.

The study derived its conclusion by looking at the overall effect of adding 130mg of caffeine to 1000mg of paracetamol to treat moderate to severe pain.

"The balance of evidence supports the view that the combination of paracetamol and caffeine is effective and suitable for use in the management of acute pain if paracetamol alone is insufficient," said author Professor Ric Day, Director of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney.

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.

07 Jul: Pharmacy Guild of NSW, Guild Clinical First Aid Training Session, 20 CPD points, 9am-5pm, St Leonards, Sydney - 02 9467 7132.

28 Jul, 30 Jul: One day intensive conference on Pharmaceutical Law - Melbourne (28th) and Sydney (30th) - 02 9224 6011.

28 Aug-02 Sep: 70th FIP World Congress, Lisbon, Portugal - www.fip.org/lisbon2010.

11-12 Sep: Australasian Conference for Compounding Pharmacists - www.accp.net.au.

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 - expressions of interest at www.psa.org.au.

TGA proposes PI changes

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is seeking feedback on a new approach to Product Information, which will see a single PI document approved and published for each prescription medicine product.

The move is hoped to cut down on confusion arising from the current availability of "published" product information and "registered" product information.

The current policy stipulates that "a sponsor must have a PI for all registered medicines, however, not all registered presentations may be marketed.

"A sponsor may choose to have and maintain two PI documents, one for all registered product presentations or non-marketed product presentations and another for marketed product presentations."

This ruling means that sponsors may include on the ARTG website a pack size or container not currently available in Australia,

meaning that the "Registered" PI may include a pack or size not available in the country not covered in a "Published" PI.

This product information discrepancy, according to the TGA has left the door open to product confusion - not only in the minds of the public but in the healthcare sector itself.

The proposed policy intends to ensure the registered PI and published PI are one in the same document, thus abolishing the clause that allows the publication of information relating to documents where pack/container sizes are not marketed in Australia.

If this option is not palatable the TGA has also suggested that the PI may be made to include a standard statement saying "not all strengths/dose forms/pack/container sizes (delete as appropriate) are being distributed in Australia".

Stakeholders are advised to outline any concerns about the proposed approach by 26 Jul.



DISPENSARY CORNER

HYGIENIC drug peddlers?

Two Australian men have been nabbed by police officers after it was discovered that the wheelie bin they were moving was filled with marijuana.

Police, following two trails of the drug along a suburban street in Adelaide, became suspicious of the pair of geniuses when they dumped the bin and took off after merely catching a glimpse of the patrol car.

The subsequent trails then led them to a home where the drug was being hydroponically grown, and the other to a house filled with the drug where the men are alleged to have been living.

The wheelie-bin bandits have subsequently been charged with drug trafficking.

DEEP vein thrombosis is certainly not a problem for the umpire of a marathon tennis match at Wimbledon this week.

The three-day first-round battle between John Isner and Nicolas Mahut stretched over a record three days, with a total game time of 11 hours and five minutes.

Umpire Mohamed Lahyani sat on his courtside perch throughout the game, but afterwards attributed his powers of endurance to years of flying.

"I travel economy, so seven hours sitting still on court is nothing," he said.

The final score in the epic match was 6-4, 3-6, 6-7, 7-6 with the final set ending after an 8-hour tiebreak 70-68.

A CAT which was left behind when his Uzbekistani family moved house more than 3000km has used up almost all of his nine lives to track his owners down.

The feline named Karim was left in the care of neighbours - replete with his favourite armchair, cushion and food bowl.

But that wasn't enough, with the cat disappearing shortly afterwards and thought to be lost.

In an amazing tribute to animal instincts he turned up at the new home of his previous owners this week - more than two years later.

WIN A NEW YORK NIGHTS PRODUCT



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving readers the chance to win a Designer Brands product from the latest New York Nights range, courtesy of **Total Beauty Network**.

Metallic colours to bring out the wild side in you!

The New York Nights range is full of dark, sultry colours dedicated to the night.

Nail Polishes are toluene and formaldehyde free, quick drying with a high metallic finish.

The mascara included is the Pro V5 keratin formula with the Nu-30 brush that lifts and extends. All products on the range made for a long lasting formula a high metallic finish.

For a chance to win your very own New York Nights product, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

The New York Nights eyeshadow is to finish

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: **Denise Potiphar** from **Symbion Pharmacy Services**. The correct answer was: Metallic .