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EU guides adopted

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has adopted eight new European Union guidelines for use in Australia.

The adoptions include guidelines on 'Similar Biological Medicinal Products Containing Monoclonal Antibodies'; 'Biotechnological/Biological Products Subject to Changes in their Manufacturing Process' and 'Clinical Evaluation of Medicinal Products Used in Weight Control'.

Other newly adopted guidelines cover 'Medicinal Products Intended for Treatment of Systematic and Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus'; 'Products in the Treatment of Lipid Disorders'; 'Products in the Treatment of Hypertension'; 'Radiopharmaceuticals Based on Monoclonal Antibodies' and 'Transgenic Animals in the Manufacture of Biological Medicinal Products for Human Use'.

The 'Comparability of Medicinal Products Containing Biotechnology-Derived Proteins as Active Substance' guide has also been replaced by the 'Comparability of Biotechnological/Biological Products' which was adopted by the TGA in May 05.

NPS language workshops

OVER the next three months the National Prescribing Service is hosting a series of around 150 in-language workshops across Australia, designed to help senior citizens garner a better understanding of medicines use issues.

Conducted in Cantonese, Mandarin, Greek, Italian, Arabic and Vietnamese by bilingual health professionals, the free workshops will cover two topics; 'Safe and wise use of medicines' and 'Sleep and ageing'.

"We know that the risk of adverse events increases with the number of medicines people take, and it's further heightened for people with low English proficiency," said NPS ceo Lynn Weekes.

"The reasons for this include misunderstanding instructions given by a health professional, fear of or resistance to questioning the health professional, and cultural differences, which may include different definitions of what is a medicine.

"These workshops can prove invaluable for seniors with low

English proficiency," Weekes added.

Building on the knowledge base provided in the NPS 2008 series of senior workshops the 'Safe and wise use of medicine' provides current detailed information about safety and medicines, whilst the 'Sleep and Ageing' workshop covers the importance of sleep and explains healthy sleep practices and information regarding sleeping medications.

The workshops will be available to participants aged 50 years and up with low English proficiency.

For info on workshop dates and times call (02) 8217 8756 or email multilingualqum@nps.org.au.

Rogues on Facebook

THE Kenyan Pharmacy and Poisons Board has approved a plan to have customers use the Facebook social networking site to report pharmacists who sell counterfeit or sub-standard medications.

The move comes as part of the organisation's bid to clean up and regulate the nation's pharmacy industry and protect the general public.

The specially set up Facebook page will allow patients to report adverse drug reactions as well as refer counterfeit products and unregistered practitioners to the Board for disciplinary action.

Pharmacy certificate

THE Queensland branch of the Pharmacy Guild is offering senior pharmacy staff the opportunity to undertake a Certificate IV in Community Pharmacy.

The initiative, in conjunction with the state and federal govts, is part of the Productivity Placement subsidy scheme, allowing pharmacy staff to obtain the required training with a payment of just \$700.

Developed by pharmacy staff to meet the specific needs of their peers as well as the business and operational needs of pharmacies, the Certificate IV in Community Pharmacy covers leadership and management, pharmacy and pharmacist only medicine, sales service and delivery management, recruitment and merchandise management and store presentation components.

For more information see the Guild Training tab on the Guild's website at - www.guild.org.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

MAYBE he should have put down the bottle at say, the fifth beverage?

A 55 year old American citizen has reportedly been charged with public drunkenness after being busted trying to perform mouth to mouth and CPR on road-kill.

The good (albeit drunk) samaritan was approached by police in full CPR swing, and according to police was "extremely intoxicated".

Unable to revive the long passed possum, the man was taken to the local police station to cool his heels and sober up!

THE Jakarta Post this week published a detailed article on so-called "healthy smoking", urging officials to "find out how to grow healthy tobacco".

Written by former Australian diplomat, Murray Clapham, the story claimed that tobacco isn't to blame for many health issues.

"Let's ban unhealthy cigarettes and promote healthy smoking," he suggested, adding that this would mean that "pro-smokers can have their cake and eat it without fear, while anti-smokers are likely to have a new cheap readily-available healing tool".

A 30-year old woman in the UK suffering from an inoperable brain tumor is making the most of her last days by auctioning herself off for dates for charity.

Lisa Connell has set up a website at www.rentadateforcharity.com, where bidders can make an offer for a "date night" with her.

So far the enterprising Brit has raised an impressive £18,000 to be divided between several brain tumour charities, with reports saying that one generous Arabian prince bid £4000 for a date.

"Knowing I'm not going to be around for long has changed me," said Connell.

"I tell people what I want and how I feel...I haven't got time for games or for timewasters

"I've had some negative comments from some who say it's like prostitution without the sex...but I am so proud of it," she added.

NEON BRIGHTS NAIL POLISH UP FOR GRABS



Every day this week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers the chance to win 1 nail polish from the latest Neon Brights range, courtesy of Total Beauty Network.

Exclusive to the Designer Brands Nail Care range is Neon Brights, a kaleidoscope of the hottest neon colours that are chip & fade-proof, quick drying and long lasting! Get a professional finish with the

exclusively designed brush for the perfect application.

For your chance to win a Neon Brights nail polish this week, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

Name the two shades of blue in the Neon Brights 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 **Tracey Walters** of **Mater Pharmacy Services**.

