



Methoxyflurane move

THE Health Department has released a new Emergency Treatment Program which provides for medicines such as Pentrox (methoxyflurane) to be listed as a special pharmaceutical product under section 100AA, for supply as a doctor's bag item for emergency treatment.

Pentrox is methoxyflurane liquid for inhalation 999.9mg per g 3ml (with inhaler) and is not available for prescribing as a general pharmaceutical benefit but is approved for emergency treatment by doctors or in hospital.

"Availability on prescription for supply in the usual way would be inappropriate as it would allow for the direct supply of methoxyflurane to community-based patients and as such has the potential for use without supervision by personnel trained in its use," an official statement said.

The change is effective 01 May and will be administered the same way as other Doctor's Bag items.

eRx Script Exchange

ERX Script Exchange has come out in support of the new e-prescribing incentive payments announced in the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement describing them as a 'win-win' for pharmacy.

"The funding of e-prescribing is terrific news for Australian health care, and we commend the leadership of the Pharmacy Guild and Federal Government in this area," said eRx Script Exchange chairman, Graham Cunningham.

From 01 Jul this year, all pharmacies will receive 15 cents for e-prescriptions dispensed using an approved electronic exchange system such as eRx and the rival MediSecure.

eRx, an initiative of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, has urged all pharmacists who have not yet signed-up to an e-prescribing system to do so before the reimbursement commencement date.

Groups put patients at risk?

MEDICINES Australia has today urged the government to abolish its Therapeutic Groups policy which forces medicines in each group to be priced according to the cheapest drug in the classification.

Speaking at a Senate Community Affairs References Committee enquiry into the policy this morning, Medicines Australia chairman Will Delaat said it "is not at all clear whether these medicines are interchangeable."

He also slammed the mandatory Cabinet approval for new medicines costing the PBS more than \$10 million per annum before they can be listed, saying this policy should be reviewed "so that patients can have earlier access to the medicines they need".

Delaat said the need for Cabinet approval can delay the listings of the medicines for up to 12 months or more - despite the items having

already undergone a comprehensive cost effectiveness assessment by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

"So the Cabinet approval process doesn't make sense," he said, urging that at the very least the \$10m threshold should be doubled.

"As a direct result of this policy, patients may experience deterioration of their condition before gaining access to their medicine - even premature death," Delaat fumed.

As far as the therapeutic groups go, Delaat said there were patient safety concerns about whether the medicines covered are "truly interchangeable on an individual patient basis."

Diabetes patents

THE US Patent Office has granted 'preclinical stem cell engineering company' ViaCyte three patents for methods it has developed for use in possible stem cell treatments for diabetes.

The patents extend to its 'Methods for Increasing Definitive Endoderm Production', 'Methods of Producing Pancreatic Hormones' and the company's 'Definitive Endoderm' production procedure.

Certified technicians

THE US State of Idaho is enforcing new legislation which requires all pharmacy technicians to be officially certified.

The state's Board of Pharmacy said the move was a response to national pharmacy chains which have begun hiring fewer pharmacists and relying more on technicians to assist with dispensing.

Idaho is one of the last US states to require technician certification.

Three pages today

TODAY'S packed issue of **Pharmacy Daily** includes a full page of photos from the Pharmacy Guild's member briefing session in Perth earlier this week - see p3.

ASMI opportunities

THE Australian Self-Medication Industry has released details of sponsorship opportunities for its 2010 Conference and Exhibition which will take place in Sydney on Thu 18 Nov 2010.

Current sponsors include J&J Paciic and Nurofen, and the conference last year attracted more than 300 delegates from the consumer healthcare industry as well as pharmacy, government, patient groups and healthcare professional bodies - asmi.com.au.

WIN AUSTRALIS EYESHADOWS



Australis has teamed up with **Pharmacy Daily** this week, giving readers the chance to win Australis Intensifeye Wet/Dry eyeshadows.

Look out lids, you're in for an eye brightening

experience! Colour intense pressed eyeshadows that are high in pigment content for an extreme colour payoff when used both wet and dry. Use wet to intensify the colour pigments and gain longer-lasting colour. The high-end quality, silky-smooth formulation is long-lasting, smudge and crease proof. In a range of perfectly chosen shades for contouring, shading and highlighting in a variety of trios and quads, show-stopping, unforgettable eyes are just a brush away.

For a chance to win your very own Australis Intensifeye Wet/Dry eyeshadows, simply send through the correct answer to the following question below:

Are Intensifeye eyeshadows for contouring, shading or highlighting?

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

The first correct entry received will win!

Hint: Visit the Australis website: www.australiscosmetics.com.au.

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: **Penelope Bachell** from **Alphapharm**. The correct answer was: Wet.

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 Guild

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.

07-22 May: PSA/Janssen Cilag pain management program Brisbane Sydney Melbourne Adelaide and Perth - psa.org.au.

09 May: Drug Interaction Seminar presented by Debbie Rigby and Geraldine Moses, Brisbane - aacp@aacp.com.au.

12 May: Chronic Kidney Disease-Drug Dosing Seminar, AMA St Leonards, Sydney - moyatang@psansw.org.au.

13 May: First Aid Certificate Course, Pharmacy House, St Leonards, Sydney - melenyhui@psansw.org.au.

15 May: Communication & Counselling Workshop, Monash University, Victoria-call 03 9389 4013.

19 May: PSA ACT 'Male Sexual Dysfunction'; University of Canberra, 7pm - 8.30pm - lillian.lesueur@psa.org.au.

19 May: PSA NSW 'Short Course - Chronic Kidney Disease'; AMA Conference Centre, St Leonards - moyatang@psansw.org.au.

26 May: PSA ACT 'Pharmacy Horizons: Career Options for Pharmacists'; 7pm - 10pm - lillian.lesueur@psa.org.au.

26-28 May: The NPS's National Medicines Symposium 2010, Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre-www.nms2010.org.au.

29-31 May: The AACP's annual ConPharm clinical seminar at The Grand Chancellor Hotel in Hobart - details www.aacp.com.au.

04-06 Jun: Pharmacy Expo in Sydney - earn up to 20 CPD points in 3 days. More info www.pharmacyexpo.com.au.

15-18 Sep: Pharmacy 2010, the Pharmacy Management Conference on Hamilton Island - www.pharmacyconference.com.au.

11-14 Nov: The 36th National SHPA Conference, Medicines Management 2010 in Melbourne - mm2010shpa.com.

Sunscreen guideline move

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has published new proposed guidelines for the regulation of sunscreens.

The changes would apply to the *Australian Regulatory Guidelines for OTC Medicines*, with the proposal set to see the document "provide a complete, clear and single source of information on Australian requirements for sunscreen regulated as therapeutic goods".

The revision would replace the current chapter 10 'Sunscreens' in the guidelines and is a 32-page document comprehensively covering a range of topics including definitions of therapeutic or cosmetic subscreens, labelling, SPF testing, stability testing, microbial content and active ingredients.

SPF declared on the label of

FDA combo pill OK

THE US Food and Drug Administration has granted approval to Natazia, which is a combination hormonal tablet for use as an oral contraceptive.

Natazia contains an oestrogen (estradiol valerate) and a progestin (dienogest) and is the first =contraceptive to be marketed in the US which has four phases of variation through each 28-day cycle.

Blackmores workshop

BLACKMORES is hosting a series of Celloid Mineral Prescribers' Workshops across the country between June and October.

The workshops will cover topics including 'Toxins' (what are they and where do they come from?), how toxins affect the body and brain, can the toxicity be fixed, the best patient outcomes and the role of minerals in restoring equilibrium.

Featured speakers include Pauline Roberts PhD BSc DBM and Elizabeth d'Avigdor DMH DipNutr DRM.

Workshop dates include 2 June, Perth; 8 Jun, Sydney; 9 Jun, Adelaide; 15 Jun, Sydney; 16 Jun, Brisbane; 22 Jun, Victoria and 23 Jun, Hobart.

The workshop is also available as a webinar between 1 Jul and 31 Oct depending on demand.

The cost of the workshop is \$34.95 practitioners, \$24.95 students and \$17.50 webinar, however earlybird rates are also currently available.

For more info call 1800 151 493.

therapeutic sunscreens should be determined by testing on human skin in accordance with the trans-Tasman standard AS/NZS 2604:1998, and the document also mandates that sunscreens marketed in Australia must be labelled with a use-by date.

It also lists approved ingredients as well as clarifying the proposal for naming of new substances if they're to be used in sunscreens.

The consultation document is now online at www.tga.gov.au and interested parties are asked to respond by close of business on Friday 18 June 2010.

Doctors blast S3 chloramphenicol

THE Australian Medical Association and the Royal Australian and NZ College of Ophthalmologists says they strongly disagree with this month's rescheduling of chloramphenicol eye drops from prescription-only to S3, with RANZCO President Dr Richard Stawell saying the medicine should be reserved for bacterial eye infections.

"Pharmacists have not been trained to be competent in diagnosing eye disease and do not have the appropriate equipment to properly examine an eye," he said.

"It is very important that it is not used indiscriminately," Stawell added.

New Minfos Scanner

MINFOS has released an enhanced version of its wireless scanning device which includes the capability to carry out a range of ordering tasks.

The scanner works by allowing pharmacy staff to create and edit orders by scanning the product.

"The improved functionality means that repetitive manual tasks which might normally take a staff member all afternoon can now be done on the wireless scanner in a matter of minutes," said Minfos manager Matt Lalor.

Currently the device is already in place in 50 pharmacies across the country, and according to Lalor, he has already received "excellent feedback" with some pharmacies saying the scanner is saving between two and three hours per day.

For more information on the scanner call Minfos on 1800 657 993.



DISPENSARY CORNER

PUT down the fork and just smell a burger!

US fast food chain, White Castle, has invented a guilt-free way of enjoying its cuisine - a burger scented candle.

Infused with the aromatic scents of onion and beef, the candle is packaged to look like a burger with a ceramic outer case that is formed to resemble the cardboard burger box container.

The novel 'burger' was launched this week

to raise money for the charity 'Autism Speaks', with every candle nabbing the charity a US\$10 donation.

The candle, pictured above in a ceramic takeaway bag is available online and instore and is said to have the smell of White Castle's trademark 'Slider Burger'.

HAVING large ears can be a blessing sometimes - at least for a six-year-old boy in China who slipped through some window bars at his family's top storey apartment in Jucheng.

The small boy was saved from certain death when he dropped through the bars because he ended up dangling by his unusually protuberant ears.

Firefighters rescued the boy by taking a firm hold of him and then hydraulically widening the bars and pulling him back into the apartment.

SANITARIUM has been forced to pay \$9000 in fines and costs by a Perth court after a consumer found a cockroach baked inside one of his breakfast Weet-Bix.

The unexpected supplement surprised the local resident, who lodged an official complaint over the matter which was subsequently prosecuted by the local food safety authority.

Sanitarium said that since then it had "further enhanced its quality management and prevention systems" to stop a recurrence of the incident.





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Pharmacists gather in Perth for 5CPA briefing



ABOVE from left: Paul and Judy Healy; WA Branch President Lenette Mullen; and Matt Tweedie.

BELOW: Another four beefy blokes: Christian Rossi, Andrew Ngeow, Lukasz Zilola and Darren Thiel.



LAST Tuesday night in Perth more than 150 pharmacist members of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia attended the first of a series of roadshows being conducted to brief the industry on the newly signed Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

The meeting was convened at very short notice and despite this saw very strong support from the WA branch - and **Pharmacy Daily** is proud to feature these exclusive pictures from the event.

The next Roadshow is scheduled for next Monday evening 10 May in Canberra - the night before the all-important Federal Budget is announced.

Guild President Kos Sclavos urged pharmacists from across the country to take part in the Agreement Briefing Sessions, adding that he would be personally presenting at the first round.

Branches will then have additional sessions, he said, and there will also be a shortened online presentation at a later stage for those who are unable to attend.

BELOW from left: Peter Lynch, Chiraq Sham, Anthony McNuff and Vincenzo Catina.



BELOW: Also in attendance were, from left: Michael Courtis, Angela Boyatzis, Mark Langridge and Francine Middleton.



ABOVE: And finally, from left: Rachel Carr, Peter Carr, Julia Kagi (plus one!) and Raquel Tassoni.

