

Guild Update

This week's update
from the Guild

Continance Aids Payment Scheme (CAPS)

Pharmacists are reminded that from 1 July 2010, the Australian Government will introduce the Continance Aids Payment Scheme (CAPS), replacing the existing Continance Aids Assistance Scheme (CAAS).

Under the new scheme, eligible clients will receive an annual payment of up to \$489.95 directly in their bank accounts.

The CAPS will provide clients with greater flexibility and choice about where and when they purchase their continence products. Clients will be able to make arrangements to order their products through a single continence product provider, multiple providers, or they may choose their local community pharmacy.

This change in funding of the continence aids scheme is a new opportunity for community pharmacy. It is expected that this will lead to an increased demand for a range of products sought from their local pharmacies and therefore members are encouraged to assess the product range sold in your pharmacy ahead of the 1 July transition.

The National Continance Helpline is a free and confidential service that operates from 8am to 8pm (AEST) Monday to Friday on **1800 33 00 66**.

The Helpline is staffed by a team of experienced continence nurse advisors who provide information, education and advice to callers with incontinence and to carers.

The Helpline also provides information and advice to health professionals.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

US pharmacist-doctor fight

PHARMACISTS in the USA have slammed a report by the American Medical Association which aims to significantly limit the scope of practice within pharmacy.

The 'AMA Scope of Practice Data Series: Compendium on Pharmacists' was completed last Sep, and is one of ten supposedly educational "information modules" on various health professions by the doctor's association.

It's the subject of a robust response by Henri R. Manasse Jr, who's ceo of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Manasse said the AMA document contains "numerous inaccuracies, false statements and mischaracterisations about pharmacy practice and pharmacist education".

The AMA publication warns that closer collaboration across the health care team "has the

potential to lead to independent authority for pharmacists to monitor and modify medication therapy".

Other AMA reports in the same vein seek to control the activities of dentists, optometrists, nurse practitioners, audiologists, podiatrists, psychologists and naturopaths, warning that any increase in their scope of practice "may be harmful to the public".

50 years on the Pill

THIS week marks the 50th anniversary of the contraceptive pill, which was launched in the US on 11 May 1960 - and ironically nine months later in Australia.

The subsequent changes in women's rights and freedoms are this week being attributed by sectors of the medical community directly to the pill's inception.

In celebration of the anniversary, Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia (SHFPA) in conjunction with Bayer Schering Pharma (who brought the pill to our shores) has launched an initiative titled 'Dreams for our Daughters' which asks Aussie women to vote on a vision for women over the next 50 years.

For every vote cast \$1 will be donated to a charity who will funnel the funds to make that dream a reality.

"Living a life free from violence, building an environmentally sustainable future, having safe and affordable housing and enjoying sexual and reproductive health rights are all vital dreams for women that with our 'Dreams for our Daughters' campaign we would like to see become a future reality," said Naomi Knight, ceo of SHFPA - see www.facebook.com/50yearsofthepill.

National rego letters

PHARMACISTS across the country yesterday began receiving letters from the new national Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Authority about the looming 01 July introduction of national registration.

Pharmacists are being urged to ensure their contact details and other information is correct to ensure accuracy in the national register, with further information to be provided as the changes approach.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia has published explanatory notes to help pharmacists complete Part 2 of the form, which are now online at www.pharmacyboard.gov.au.

Nuts for cholesterol

A REVIEW of 25 clinical studies in the USA has suggested that eating nuts could have a significant effect on cholesterol levels.

Scientists at the Loma Linda University said that the research showed that 600 people eating a small bag of nuts each day saw average cholesterol reduced by 7.4%, adding that they believed nuts could prevent the absorption of cholesterol.

Other experts warned that any potential benefits would be more than outweighed by eating nuts covered in sugar or salt.

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From the people who brought you the Circulation Booster



Three pages today

PHARMACY Daily today includes a third page featuring photos of attendees at last night's Pharmacy Guild member briefing on the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement in Canberra.

Avexa ructions

AUSTRALIAN drug development company Avexa has dropped its HIV program after it failed to secure a manufacturer to market its apricitabine antiviral therapy for the treatment of drug resistant HIV.

CEO Julian Chick has also advised that he will assume responsibility for apricitabine's commercial failure by stepping down from his position from the end of this month.

Avexa's shares have plummeted by 75% to just three cents.

The company has appointed a corporate advisory firm to conduct a strategic review "with the primary focus of uncovering a transaction that will be value accretive for our shareholders," said chairman Nathan Drona.

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PPI warning change

THE European Medicines Agency has updated its warning on the interaction between the antiplatelet medication clopidogrel and a range of proton-pump inhibitors.

The change comes after the agency reviewed recent data and found that there were no "solid grounds to extend the warning to PPIs other than omeprazole and esomeprazole".

The initial warning from the agency was issued in May last year, regarding the concomitant use of medicines containing clopidogrel (an antiplatelet for the prevention of blood clots) and PPIs (for the treatment of gastric reflux).

The committee has amended its initial warning to only discourage the concomitant use of clopidogrel and omeprazole or esomeprazole with proton pump inhibitors.

The EMEA is now recommending that the class warning for all PPIs with clopidogrel be replaced with a warning stating that only the concomitant use of clopidogrel and omeprazole or esomeprazole should be discouraged.

Award for Qld pharmacist

BRUCE Elliot, consultant pharmacist and managing partner of four Central Qld Chem Coast pharmacies has been named as the 2010 Young Professional of the Year by Professions Australia.

Nominated for the award by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Elliot is also a PSA Queensland branch committee member and chairperson for its Professional Development and Practice Support Committee.

Last year Elliot was also elected as a PSA National Board Member and as the chairperson of the National Membership Working Group.

In what was a bumper year for the young pharmacist he was also awarded the PSA 2009 Young Australian Pharmacist of the Year.

Throughout his career Elliot has focused on Continuing Professional Development and has been responsible for developing CPD programs that are "targeted, relevant and accessible to his



colleagues in the profession."

He has a major clinical interest in aged care, pain management and chronic disease management and is also a board member of the Capricornia Division of General Practice.

Professions Australia said Elliott's ongoing work "shows a commitment to the wellbeing of consumers and the professional interests of his fellow pharmacists".

Generics to double?

MARKETING analysts from Datamonitor have predicted that the cardiovascular and metabolic generic market will more than double the size of its branded counterpart in just eight years time.

The comments come on the back of a recent Datamonitor report which found that dyslipidemia is the disease area that will show the highest generic growth by 2018.

This coupled with recent patent expiries for some dyslipidemia drugs as well as the upcoming expiries for both Lipitor (atorvastatin) and Crestor (rosuvastatin) will be the backbone of this projected growth.

"As the market becomes more genericised, the average price of generics drops and more patients choose to, or are able to, purchase cardiovascular drugs," said Datamonitor's Gideon Heap.

Generic manufacturers sizing their potential markets should be aware they are competing not just for the population currently taking a drug, but "potentially others who only have access to lower priced drugs," Heap added.



DISPENSARY CORNER

IT may actually be true!

A few weeks ago PD wrote a *Dispensary Corner* item about an 80-year old Indian man who claimed to have not eaten in 70 years.

At the time he was taken into a hospital and placed under constant video surveillance by a team of 30 doctors, who also ran a gamut of tests to discover if he was telling the truth and if so, how the process could be replicated.

The results of two weeks of testing have found that the man, Prahlad Jani, neither ate, drank nor went to the toilet in the whole time he was under surveillance.

Doctors are so far unsure how the process works, but are currently in the process of going through masses of collected data to better understand it.

TWO nurses have been suspended from a US hospital after it was reported that they ran a makeshift beauty salon for colleagues in an intensive care ward for newborns.

According to reports the pair even gave manicures to doctors and nurses on top of a neonatal high-frequency ventilator.

SOMETIMES it's just best to let it go!

A pharmacy store manager in the US has been accused of strangling a shoplifter in a Chicago CVS Pharmacy over the weekend.

According to reports the shoplifter Anthony Kyser pocketed three tubes of toothpaste and some crayons from the pharmacy before being chased out and down into a side alley, where it is alleged the manager held him in a chokehold until he passed out and later died.

A passing police officer saw the altercation and phoned for backup reporting a battery in process.

Police are treating the incident as an accidental homicide and will not be pressing charges against the manager.

Witnesses whose apartments look onto the back alley where the incident happened told reporters that this occurrence was not unusual for CVS employees, as in the past they have seen them chase and tackle shoplifters.

WIN AN EMU SPIRIT PACK



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is again giving readers the chance to win one of four gorgeous Emu Spirit packs, courtesy of Emu Spirit.

Valued at \$125, the Emu Spirit pack contains a Moisturising Soap, Arthritic and Muscular

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Budget eve briefing in Canberra

THE Pharmacy Guild's roadshow to update pharmacists on the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement continued in Canberra last night, with about 55 attending a briefing session at the National Press Club.

These exclusive photos were taken at the event, with the next briefing for Guild Members to take place on Monday night 17th May in Darwin.

Future briefings will include finer detail of the Fifth Agreement, which is expected to be released tonight by treasurer Wayne Swan as part of the Federal Budget - along with further expected PBS reform measures and wide-ranging changes to the Australian health system.

Pictured at right are Peter Downing, Capital Chemist; Amanda Galbraith, Guild ACT Branch President; Pharmacy Guild executive director Wendy Phillips; and Vincent O'Sullivan and Elise Thornton, both of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.



ABOVE: Faruq Amin of Capital Chemist Woden; Pharmacy Guild ACT Branch Program Manager Lisa Gibbons; ACT Branch Office Manager Nerine Gallagher; and Colin O'Donnell of Capital Chemist Kingston.

BELOW: More Guild staff at the event: Erica Vowles, Vincent O'Sullivan, Kristina Carroll, Jenny Bergin and Michael Tatchell.



BELOW: Pharmacist attendees included Steven Nguyen from Red Hill Pharmacy; David Moses of David Moses Pharmacy; Robert Manning from The Deakin Pharmacy; and Terry White Chemist Yarrowonga.



BELOW: Also present were Peter Brady, Pharmacy Guild ACT Branch Director; Bill Arnold of Devlin City Pharmacy; Tarsha Hutchinson of Florey Pharmacy; and Andrew Benjamin from Campbell Pharmacy.

