



Analgesics reminder

THE Pharmacy Board of NSW has issued a reminder to all pharmacists that they must personally be involved in the sale of all codeine containing analgesics, in keeping with their legal and ethical obligations as stipulated by the scheduling changes that came into effect from 01 May.

The Board has also warned that where there is evidence of "inappropriate sales," the pharmacist in question may face professional conduct charges.

In cases where patients purchase multiple packets of analgesics containing codeine because they are going overseas to a country where access to these products is problematic, the Board has also advised pharmacists to "document the reasons for such a sale".

Mylan generic recall in NZ

THE discovery of underweight and overweight tablets has led NZ regulator Medsafe to order a national consumer-level recall of Mylan's Pacific Atenolol 50mg and 100mg cardiac medications.

About 43,000 patients are affected, with the move initiated after reports of manufacturing errors which saw Atenolol tablets of the same dosage being larger or smaller than others in the pack.

The discrepancy has led Medsafe to recall all Atenolol tablets dispensed since 01 Jan this year, over concerns that incorrect dosages could cause symptoms such as dizziness, fatigue, dry mouth, fainting or stomach upset.

Mylan, which is the parent

company of Alphapharm in Australia, is urging patients taking the tablets to return them to their pharmacy as soon as possible.

If they can't get to a pharmacy immediately they should continue taking the pills, but exercise "extreme caution" not to consume any oddly-sized tablets.

Patients returning tablets to pharmacies will immediately be issued with a competitor's brand of atenolol, free of charge, whilst Mylan urgently secures an alternative to the NZ product from its US operation.

The NZ Pharmacy Guild says it's yet another example of pharmacists being asked to manage a recall without remuneration - similar to a case reported earlier this week (**PD** Monday) where the Guild is backing legal action against GSK over a warfarin recall in January.

Referring to the Atenolol issue, NZ Guild ceo Annabel Young said that pharmacists would "utilise their time and experience to swiftly manage this recall".

"Why is the cost of this work falling onto community pharmacists when they are not the producers of the medicine and are not responsible for the purchase decision?" Young said.

Intern accreditation

THE new national Pharmacy Board of Australia has approved new Intern Training Program (ITP) Accreditation Standards.

The standards cover supervised practice with an approved preceptor in an approved practice site, with criteria ranging from program curriculum and resources to intern support structures.

Organisations wanting to deliver an ITP in 2011 must be accredited under the new standard, and applications for accreditation are invited until 23 July this year.

Full details of the standards along with application forms are online at www.pharmacycouncil.org.au.

NPS' new branding

IN keeping with its desire to become a household name, The National Prescribing Service is set to rebrand as 'NPS: better choices, better health', from 01 July.

The move, announced at last night's National Medicines Symposium dinner, is designed to help build awareness amongst consumers to create a "strong and coherent" representation of the NPS across everything it does, and to build an understanding of the quality use of medicines.

"One of our 10 year goals is to become a household name and for quality use of medicines to be widely understood and implemented," said NPS ceo, Dr Lynn Weekes.

"What we realised was that National Prescribing Service was no longer a broad enough descriptor for the organisation.

"Our work goes beyond prescription medicines and now includes quality use of medical tests. At the same time we didn't want to lose the strong recognition we've built with health professionals," she added.

Weekes said that in rebranding the NPS seeks "evolution rather than revolution.

"Our research also showed that while consumers aren't very familiar with us, health professionals are, and many already refer to us as NPS," she said.

"It was important to retain the equity in our name with existing audiences while being clear and understandable to new audiences we are trying to reach," she added.

The current NPS branding is set to stay in place until the changeover on 01 Jul, and the NPS has said that it is in the process over the next few weeks of sending all its members and partners its new logo (pictured) so that they can update their collateral to reflect the change.



WIN 3 CARMEX® LIP BALMS

Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with Carmex this week and is giving 5 lucky readers the chance to win a supply of Carmex products for winter. The pack contains:



1x Carmex lip balm squeeze tube 10g,
1 x Carmex lip balm jar 7.5g and
1x Carmex lip balm Cherry Click Stick™ with SPF 15 4.25g-
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In 25 words or less, tell us why do you love Carmex lip balm?

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

The most creative entry will win!

Entries must be in by COB on Friday and the winners will be announced in next Monday's Pharmacy Daily issue.

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FDA Xenical warning

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved a revised label for weight loss medication Xenical (orlistat 120mg) to include new safety information about rare cases of severe liver injury that have been reported with the use of the product.

The move follows a review originally announced last Aug which identified 13 reports of severe liver injury with orlistat.

The FDA said the low number of cases, out of an estimated 40 million people worldwide who had used the drugs, made it difficult to confirm a cause-and-effect relationship for the liver injuries.

Now it's South Australia's turn

SOUTH Australian pharmacists turned out in force earlier this week to learn about the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement courtesy of Guild President Kos Sclavos.

These exclusive photos were taken in Adelaide on Tuesday.

Pictured at right, from left: Helen Gilbert, Kidman Park Pharmacy; John White, White & Sons Pharmacy; Colin Johns, Colin Johns Chemplus; Simon Valentincic, Birks Chemist Hole Valley and Matt Boulter, Marion Chemplus.



LEFT: Simon Dawe, Mt Barker Chemmart; Neale Burton, National Pharmacies; Nick Panayiaris, Scaffidi Group; Ian Todd, SA Guild Branch President and Ken Pascoe, Ken Pascoe Pharmacy.



RIGHT: Michael Robertson, SA Branch Director; Michael Stavrides, UDC Para Hills; Paul Simmons, Central Market Pharmacy; Scott McGregor, Guild National Councillor; and Kim Potger, Potger & Richardson Pharmacy.



LEFT: Kyn Laslett, Tomeo & Laslett Group; Harry Milochis, Murray Bridge Pharmacy; Michael Auciello, Glynde Plaza Pharmacy; Ken Atkinson, Tomeo & Laslett Group and Trevor Craig, Trevor Craig Pharmacy.



DISPENSARY CORNER

PERHAPS a bucket, not a plane ride would have been more appropriate!

A Sydneysider has been charged with drink-driving after passing out behind the wheel at the intersection of Morphett and Hindley Streets in Adelaide.

Enroute to catch a flight home, the man was found to be over three times the legal driving limit.

The security guard who found the man, slumped over his steering wheel - sleeping it off - took his keys so that he would not drive off whilst he called the boys in blue.

The police arrived shortly after, charged him, and then very kindly gave him a lift to the airport!

SICK? Just send in your robot!

A US technology company, Anybots, has come up with a novel answer to the dilemma posed when employees need to take a sick day off - a robot replacement (pictured below).

The 5 foot robot prototype, quaintly nicknamed QB, can be controlled via the internet from the comfort of home, and a camera located in its head lets its user see exactly what sees, and even allows you to carry on conversations with your co-workers via speakers.

"When you're logged in, the robot's eyes are glowing so your colleagues know you're there," said a company spokesperson.

"They can just come up to you and ask questions, and you can answer back.

"If you're needed in a meeting or in the lab, just drive the robot there," the spokesperson added.

Currently Anybots is in the process of designing a worker-bot that can be controlled by employees from their own iPhone, to launch later in the year, retailing at a cool US\$15,000.



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.

29-31 May: The AACCP's annual ConPharm clinical seminar, Hobart - 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.

16 Jun: Law and Ethics in Pharmacy Workshop, University of Sydney Faculty of Pharmacy - www.pharm.usyd.edu.au/aapae.

23 Jun: Australia's Health 2010 Conference and Report Launch, Canberra National Convention Centre - conference@aihw.gov.au.

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.