

Nexterone approval

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Prism Pharmaceuticals' supplemental new drug application for Nexterone (amiodarone HCl) Premixed Injection.

Nexterone is indicated for initiation of treatment and prophylaxis of frequently recurring ventricular fibrillation and hemodynamically unstable ventricular tachycardia in patients refractory to other therapy.

The new approval means that the injection is now available in two ready-to-use dosage forms with strengths of 1.5 mg/mL (150 mg/100 mL) for rapid loading infusion and 1.8 mg/mL (360 mg/200 mL) for subsequent infusion.

Weight surgery boom

A NEW report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has detailed a "substantial increase in weight loss surgery in Australia" over the last ten years.

In 1998-99 there were 500 operations, with the figure soaring to more than 17,000 in 2007/08.

90% of the procedures took place in private hospitals, with private health insurance funding 82%.

The AIHW estimated the total cost of hospital care for weight loss surgery was \$108m, with \$15.2m in Medicare benefits payable.

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.

20 Nov: Finding Medicines Information on the Web, CSU Wagga, 02 9431 1100.

20/21 Nov: PSA Canberra Branch, Medicines Update Course, Canberra Business Event Centre, 02 6201 5897.

20-29 Jan 2011: Pharmacy Study Tour, Mammoth Mountain California and Las Vegas - www.medic.com.au/events.

01-10 May 2011: The PSA's 2011 Offshore Conference in Venice, Italy and Salzburg - www.psa.org.au.

TGA blood glucose advisory

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has reissued its advisory on portable blood glucose meters using the enzyme glucose dehydrogenase pyrroloquinoline quinone (GDH-PQQ), warning of potential adverse consequences because they can provide false high readings if they are used in the presence of galactose, xylose and maltose.

The TGA initially warned about the possible issues about interference between extraneal peritoneal dialysis solution and the Advantage II blood glucose test strips used with Accu-Chek and Accu-Trend monitors in 2005.

Since then "further adverse events have been reported in Australia and worldwide" and although the overall rate of incidence has not markedly increased, the updated advisory is being issued as a precaution.

The TGA has highlighted items

ASMI Awards

THIS week, the Australian Self-Medication Industry announced the winners of this year's consumer health promotion awards at its annual conference in Sydney.

Presented by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing, Jane Halton, awards included: Best Launch of a Consumer Healthcare Product, which was won by Bayer Australia for its Berocca Performance Twist N Go product; as well as the Best Advertising/Promotional Campaign for an Existing Consumer Healthcare Product, which was awarded to Novartis Consumer Health Australasia for Voltaren Rapid 25.

Novartis also took out the award for the Best Self Care Program with its Suvacid Heartburn Relief; whilst Bayer Australia also won Best Sales Force Initiative Grocery and/or Pharmacy for its Bayer Pharmacy Support Program.

The ceremony also saw Boehringer Ingelheim/Palin Communications win the Best PR initiative for Bisolvon Chesty.

Canadian blunder

THANK-YOU to our eagle-eyed readers who told us that Alberta is a province in Canada, not the US, as noted in yesterday's *Pharmacy Daily*.

sold in Australia which use the GDH-PQQ technology including Abbott Freestyle products and Roche Diagnostics Accu-chek strips and sensors.

Drug therapies which can interfere with the systems include Icodextrin, Orenzia, Octagam, Gamimune, Adept and some radioimmunotherapy agents.

Patients undergoing treatment with these substances are warned to use different types of blood glucose monitoring systems.

BMS on the clock

BRISTOL-Myers Squibb is facing a US Federal Court lawsuit over allegations it denied its pharmaceutical reps compensation for overtime hours.

The move follows a similar case against Novartis lodged earlier this year in which the US Court of Appeals found that the company's pharmaceutical reps were entitled to overtime pay for working more than 40 hours per week.

mPassport App

HTH Worldwide has launched a new iPhone App, mPassport, which is designed to find healthcare services for travellers overseas.

The App finds English-speaking doctors and dentists and requests appointments, as well as maps the shortest route there.

Goodbye dermatitis

A DUTCH company, Budev, has developed a new technology which aims to reduce the number of allergic reactions to latex gloves, via a washing process which occurs at the final stage of manufacture.

Basically the technology washes the offending latex protein residue from gloves to a level which the company claims "is so minuscule that they cannot be quantifiable by any standard methods".

Currently latex glove regulations require that gloves have a protein content of less than 50 ug/g.

The technology will now be used in the manufacture of the Cleantex glove brand, however Budev is aiming to expand its reach to other products in the future.

WIN AN EMU SPIRIT PACK



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving readers the chance to win one of five gorgeous Emu Spirit Gift Packs, courtesy of **Emu Spirit**.

The products inside the gift pack are valued at over \$150 and contains: Moisturising soap bar, Arthritic and Muscular Rub, Day

Crème Refresh and Renew, Night Crème Repair and Restore, Advanced Hand and Body Lotion, Oil of Emu, and an Emu Egg.

Emu Spirit is an Australian company dedicated to producing Emu oil that is simply and naturally the best quality available. Emu Spirit's Oil of Emu is a natural anti-inflammatory that can be used to treat all aches and pains to skin conditions such as psoriasis and eczema. Best of all, Oil of Emu can also be used to promote general health and wellbeing and is a wonderful source of 'skin food' to assist dry itchy skin, scars, and fine lines.

For your chance to win this great pack, simply send in your answer to the daily question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

How much does the Aches and Pains Introductory Pack cost?

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

The first correct entry of the day wins!

Hint! Visit Emu Spirit website at: www.emuspirit.com

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Alison Chu** from **Fays Pharmacy**.

Just one click away from keeping up to date with all the breaking news as it comes to hand...



Cardinal to buy Kinray

US firm Cardinal Health has revealed plans to buy pharmaceutical distributor Kinray Inc for around US\$1.3 billion.

The acquisition is aimed at expanding Cardinal's US retail pharmacy distribution base by an estimated 40%.

Kinray, a distributor of branded and generic drugs, clocks around US\$3.5b in revenue per annum.

Pixuvri application

THE European Medicines Agency has accepted Cell Therapeutic's marketing authorisation application for Pixuvri (pixantrone dimaleate), for the treatment of adult patients with multiply relapsed or refractory aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Currently there are no drugs available in this setting, and the acceptance of the application means that the review process has begun.

Sihuan's monopoly

SIHUAN Pharmaceuticals subsidiary, Hainan Sihuan Pharmaceutical, has signed a 30 year exclusive agreement with Benxi Leilong Pharmaceutical to distribute the latter's Alprostadil Injection to Sihuan Pharmaceutical's distribution network of close to 10,000 hospitals in China.

The Alprostadil Injection is one of the best-selling cardio-cerebral vascular drugs in China and is an intravenous injectable lipid emulsion for treatment of peripheral vascular diseases, cardio-cerebral microcirculation disorders and post-surgery thrombosis.

Obesity culprits targeted

THE sodium and saturated fat content of processed poultry and soups are the next "priority food category" to be addressed by the national Food and Health Dialogue - a group set up in 2009 to help improve the dietary habits of the increasingly obese Australian population.

The fifth meeting of the Dialogue was convened in Canberra this week by Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Catherine King, who said "Obesity represents a significant burden on Australian society, in terms of immediate health impacts on affected individuals, loss of workplace productivity, increased demands on the health system and loss of quality of life".

Children in particular are being targeted, with the group set up after the 2007 National Children's Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey found that many Aussie kids ate too much salt, sugar and saturated fat, and not enough fruit and vegetables.

Previous meetings have agreed to

work with manufacturers to reduce the sodium content of bread and breakfast cereals.

In October members of the group also held roundtables with the processed meat and simmer sauce sectors to make those foods better.

Big Bayer cuts

BAYER has announced the planned net reduction of about 2000 jobs across its global operations - or about 2% of its total staff - to focus resources on "growth and innovation".

The company is aiming to save €800m a year from 2013, with 4500 existing positions gone but another 2500 new jobs created over the same period, mostly in emerging markets.

Chairman Marijn Dekkers said about half of the savings would be reinvested in Bayer's development pipeline and marketing, with the move necessitated because "sales and earnings are under pressure from generic products, rising development costs and the effects of health care reforms".



DISPENSARY CORNER

NOT such an upstanding citizen? A pharmacist in the US state of North Carolina has been arrested and charged with stealing after allegedly taking erectile dysfunction medications from his dispensary for his own use.

Timothy Rishwain was employed by a Rite-Aid pharmacy, with the company's officials discovering a shortfall in Viagra pills which they believe had been ongoing for almost three years.

"It appears Rishwain was stealing the medications for personal use rather than making a profit," said detectives, with the amount in question totalling as much as US\$8000.

The pharmacist is now facing charges of embezzlement and prescription fraud as well as burglary from his employer.

LOTS of sunscreen will be needed by people who camp in these tents.

A French designer has come up with a new type of see-through 'bubble tent' which he says is designed to get people as close to nature as possible.

Pierre Stephane Dumas described the 'Bubble Tree' creations as "unusual huts for unusual nights" - allowing people to really see what's happening in the environment around them.

"I designed this eccentric shelter with the aim of offering an unusual experience under the stars while keeping all the comfort of a bedroom suite," he said.

The so-called CristalBubble (pictured below) is fully see-through, but don't worry - there's another variant with opaque walls but still a clear ceiling for less exhibitionist campers.

Pharmacists hole out for charity



LAST week more than 140 Queensland chemists gathered together at Lakelands Golf Club in Merrimac, to test their mettle against the green for a round of golf, and also to raise much needed funds for the AEIOU Foundation which supports children with autism.

The budding golfers were also joined on the green by Formula One champion Alan Jones, and

PGA Golfer Neil Wall.

Together the group raised an impressive \$15,000 for AEIOU.

Pictured above, enjoying the sunshine and friendly competition, are, from left: Dr James Morton, AEIOU chairman and founder; Stuart Giles, APHS managing partner; Nicki Muscillo, Terry White Chemists; and Darren Neiling, Terry White Chemists.

Pharmacy Daily Pharmacy Job of the Day!

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People who live in bubble houses shouldn't throw stones take baths...