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Pharmacy savings

A PRESENTATION at the FIP conference in Lisbon overnight detailed savings worth "hundreds of millions of Euros" due to patients consulting community pharmacists rather than going directly to doctors.

A study commissioned by the Association of Finnish Pharmacists (AFP) and carried out by consulting firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers, found that visits to pharmacists avoided more than 6 million GP appointments and 750,000 hospital emergency room visits each year in Finland - as well as reducing the need for prescriptions by 2.6 million and saving 120,000 hospital bed-nights each year in Finland.

"These savings add up to a total of €565 million per year, which can be spent on other important priorities in the national healthcare system," said Dr Erkki Kostainen from the AFP in Helsinki.

He said most of the savings had come from less visits to general practitioners.

"In many cases a pharmacist's guidance in self-care and non-prescription medication can be all that is needed, and if it is not, pharmacists are able to advise when a visit to the doctor is needed," he added.

Gollmann-Bouw liquidation

CREDITORS of collapsed pharmacy automation company Gollmann Bouw (PD 21 July) have voted to put the failed firm into liquidation.

The liquidators, George Georges and Peter McCluskey from accounting firm Ferrier Hodgson, will now conduct an investigation into the affairs of the company.

At the second meeting of creditors the full extent of the collapse was revealed, with the list of outstanding bills amounting to in excess of \$1.8 million.

The Pharmacy Guild's Gold Cross Services is owed \$169,000, while other major industry creditors include Wonthaggi M.F.S. Dispensary Limited which is claiming \$148,000 from the firm, and Heathershaw's Central Park Pharmacy which is owed \$34,000.

Symbion Pharmacy Services says Gollmann-Bouw owes it \$25,300, while Pharmasol has an outstanding debt of \$39,600 owing, and the Guild's Fred Health Pty Ltd is owed a hefty \$63,000.

There's a \$6000 debt owing to the Australian College of Pharmacy and \$5500 outstanding to MIMS, while a host of other suppliers are

also owed various amounts.

Major creditors include the company's overseas suppliers, with US firm MTS Medications Technology owed \$459,000 and Gollmann Kommissionersysteme having a \$616,000 debt owing.

At the meeting, representatives of software suppliers stated that assets listed on the Gollmann Bouw balance sheet as "Integration of Gollman Robert with standard pharmacy software" are not assets of the company, with the intellectual property retained by Pharmasol and Fred Health.

McCluskey advised that "the available financial information and company circumstances indicate that a dividend payment to unsecured creditors is unlikely".

More from FIP

THE Pharmacy Guild has hailed further results from the survey of pharmacists across the globe (PD Mon) which has shown that Aussie pharmacists are much less concerned about counterfeit drugs than their overseas counterparts.

Just 31% of Aussie pharmacists saw fake drugs as an issue, versus an international average of 61%.

Workplace handbook

THE Industrial Affairs Committee of the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association has released the third edition of its 'Student Pharmacist in the Workplace' handbook.

The updated document includes details on the new Pharmacy Industry Award, as well as tools for constructing a successful resume and cover letter, as well as an introduction to the new National Registration and Accreditation Scheme and a simplified breakdown of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

See www.napsa.org.au.

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September MIMS Monthly Medicine Update

NEW PRODUCTS

Firmagon (**degarelix (as acetate)**) a synthetic decapeptide, is a selective third generation GnRH antagonist. It competitively and reversibly binds to the pituitary GnRH receptors with nanomolar potency, thereby rapidly reducing the release of gonadotrophins and consequently testosterone. A single dose of 240 mg Firmagon, followed by a monthly maintenance dose of 80 mg, rapidly causes a decrease in the concentrations of LH, FSH and subsequently testosterone. The plasma concentration of dihydrotestosterone decreases in a similar manner to testosterone. Firmagon is indicated for the treatment of patients with prostate cancer in whom androgen deprivation is warranted. Firmagon is not indicated in women or paediatric patients. Firmagon is for subcutaneous administration only and must not be administered intravenously. The recommended dose is 240 mg administered as two s.c. injections of 120 mg at a concentration of 40 mg/mL followed

by a monthly maintenance dose of 80 mg administered as one s.c. injection at a concentration of 20 mg/mL.

Firmagon is available as a starter dose of 2 vials with 120 mg powder for injection (120 mg x 2, 40 mg/mL after reconstitution) and a maintenance dose of 1 vial with 80 mg powder for injection (80 mg, 20 mg/mL after reconstitution).

Votrient (**pazopanib hydrochloride**) is a potent multi target tyrosine kinase inhibitor of vascular endothelial growth factor receptors (VEGFR)-1, -2, and -3, platelet-derived growth factor (PDGFR)- α and - β , and stem cell factor receptor (c-KIT). Votrient is indicated for the treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma. Severe and fatal hepatotoxicity has been observed in clinical studies. Therefore, it is important to monitor hepatic function and interrupt, reduce, or discontinue dosing as recommended. The recommended dose of Votrient is 800 mg orally once daily at least one hour before

or two hours after a meal. Votrient is available as 200mg or 400 mg tablets in packs of 30's.

NEW INDICATIONS

Iressa (**gefitinib**) is now indicated in the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) whose tumours express activating mutations of EGFR tyrosine kinase.

Celebrex (**celecoxib**) is now indicated for the short-term treatment of acute pain in adults following surgery or musculoskeletal and/or soft tissue injury. The recommended dose is a loading dose of 400 mg then 200 mg once or twice daily as required for up to 5 days. The effective dose in this patient population is 200mg twice daily.

NEW FORMULATIONS

Sifrol (**pramipexole hydrochloride**) is now available as Sifrol ER extended release tablets as 0.375 mg, 0.75 mg, 1.5 mg, 3 mg and 4.5 mg in blister packs of 30's.

Pentasa (mesalazine) is now available as 1g prolonged release tablets.

Riamet is now available as 20 mg/120 mg dispersible tablets containing **artemether** 20 mg and **lumefantrine** 120 mg.

SAFETY RELATED CHANGES

Donation of blood by a patient being treated with acitretin is prohibited during and for two years after completion of treatment with Neotigason (**acitretin**). Women of childbearing potential must not receive blood from patients being treated with Neotigason.

Rocephin (**ceftriaxone sodium**) is now contraindicated in hyperbilirubinaemic newborns and preterm newborns should not be treated with ceftriaxone. *In vitro* studies have shown that ceftriaxone can displace bilirubin from its binding to serum albumin, leading to a possible risk of bilirubin encephalopathy in these patients.

Celebrex (**Celecoxib**) is now contraindicated in patients with unstable ischaemic heart disease of thrombus aetiology.

Codapane (**paracetamol + codeine phosphate**) is now contraindicated in mothers who are breastfeeding, unless prescribed by a doctor.

There have been postmarketing reports of severe skin reactions (e.g. erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis) associated with **isotretinoin** (Oratane) use. These events may be serious and result in death, life threatening events, hospitalisation or disability.

Very rarely, severe cutaneous adverse reactions (including erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis) have been seen with Paxtine (**paroxetine hydrochloride**).

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.

Scheduling update

THE National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee has confirmed that yesterday the new Poisons Standard 2010 came into effect.

The new arrangements comprise the *Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons Number 1 (SUSMP 1)*, which replaces the previous *Standard for Uniform Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons (SUSDP)*.

The SUSMP1 is a consolidation of previous scheduling decisions by the NDPSC as implemented by the previous Poisons Standard (SUSDP 24) and decisions made by the delegate of the Secretary to the Department of Health and Ageing since 01 Jul.

Amendments included in the latest edition of the SUSMP include the reasons for the delegate's decisions relating to degarelix, denosumab, dronedarone, eltrombopag, icatibant, indacaterol, omega-3 acid ethyl esters and plerixafor

Free electronic copies of SUSMP1 can be downloaded from www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/susdp.htm.

Pregnant pharmacy offer

THE first of September not only marked the first day of spring but the Australian launch of a brand new pregnancy test which is set to reinvigorate the market, the Clearblue Digital Pregnancy Test.

The market leader in Europe, Clearblue is a revelation in pregnancy tests indicating not only whether a woman is pregnant but also how far along she is.

Clearblue has also done away with the traditional "line" indicator, instead digitally displaying results in plain English.

It contains two internal sensors - , the first detecting the amount of pregnancy hormone hCG in a woman's urine to determine if she is pregnant, while second measures its intensity to figure out when conception took place, i.e. 1-2 weeks, 2-3 weeks or 3+ weeks ago.

While the sensors work a small hourglass icon appears which is followed either by "not pregnant" or "pregnant" and 1-2, 2-3 or 3+.

Present at yesterday's launch was Clearblue's Ryan Daly who told



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DISPENSARY CORNER

RUSSIAN citizens have been urged to increase their smoking rates and consumption of alcohol in a bid to boost the country's finances.

Finance minister Alexei Kudrin said higher revenues from taxes would enable more spending on community services.

"If you smoke a pack of cigarettes, that means you are giving more to help social problems such as boosting demographics, developing other social services and upholding birth rates," he said.

"People should understand: those who drink, those who smoke are doing more to help the state," he told the *Interfax* new agency.

Currently 65% of Russian males smoke, while the average citizen consumes more than 18 litres of alcoholic beverages a year.

TELL your patients to get out pounding the pavement!

The World Cancer Research Fund has issued a report which estimates that about 10,000 cases of breast and bowel cancer could be prevented each year in the UK if people did more brisk walking.

"There is now very strong evidence that being physically active is important for cancer prevention," said spokesperson Dr Rachel Thompson.

She said that other activity including gardening, cycling, swimming, vacuuming and even dancing would also help.

BAD breath from garlic can be cured by drinking a glass of milk, according to a report published recently in the *Journal of Food Science*.

The authors said that in tests with both raw and cooked garlic cloves, milk "significantly reduced" levels of the sulphur compounds which give the herb its pungent odour.

Water and fat in the milk was said to deodorise the breath, with the trial finding that the optimum effect was achieved through sipping the milk at the same time as eating the garlic.

guests that the new test is set to "ignite category sales" which in the arena of pregnancy testing have seen a drop in the past few years.

Doing the rounds of pharmacies over the last few weeks, Healthpoint's Craig Simmonds said the reactions of pharmacy staff to the product had been "really, really positive".

Sydney obstetrician Dr Michelle Batey from North Shore Private Hospital said the test would be especially great for women who have irregular periods as it can pinpoint the time of conception and make the booking of appointments so much easier.

Available now, Clearblue Digital Pregnancy Test is set to be supported in-store by point of sale counter units and stands, interactive training modules on touch-screen kiosks, training nights and a \$2m national consumer advertising and PR campaign.

Daly also said that Clearblue is planning on running pharmacist training days and is also set to launch an innovative educational consumer website.

Stay tuned to **PD** for updates.

PBS 01 Sep changes

MEDICARE Australia has updated the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits on its website at www.pbs.gov.au, with a number of other additions including a list of drugs currently under price disclosure effective yesterday.

The website also now includes an updated list of formulary allocations as at 01 Sep, therapeutic relativity sheets and a list of frequently asked questions on cost recovery fees and charges for both consumers and health professionals.

The update gives advance notice of the deletion of a number of items from the PBS in coming months including Lengout and Colgout (colchicine table 500ug), Duphaston (dydrogesterone tablet 10mg), Terbinafine 250mg, Levohexal and Indahexal due to discontinuation of the products by the manufacturers.

Jorgensen Safes

TODAY'S PD includes a full page promoting the Jorgensen Safe range - details on **page three**.

WIN A ULITTLEBEAUTY PRIZE PACK



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with **ULittleBeauty**, and is giving away exciting prize packs every day this week.

Each pack is valued at \$69.95 and contains two ULittleBeauty products: Intox-C-Cation Skin Firming Serum and a Drought Relief - Hydrating Facial Gel Mask.

ULittleBeauty is Australian owned, contains natural & certified organic ingredients, cruelty free, vegan certified, and free of parabens, SLS, petrochemicals, artificial fragrances, colours, preservatives.

For your chance to win this exciting prize pack, simply send through the correct answer to the question below:

ULittleBeauty products contain no artificial , OR

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

The first correct entry received will win!

Hint: Visit www.ulittlebeauty.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: **Diana Cerminara** from **Symbion Pharmacy Services**.

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Standard Features

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- 10mm Steel Plate fully welded body
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- Rear locking bar to protect hinge integrity
- Custom made facilities

Locking

Choice of either –

Key

- 6 lever purpose built safe lock
- Mounted on drill resistant hardened plate
- Pick resistant levers
- 2 keys supplied

Combination

- Key less combination lock
- Mounted on drill resistant hardened plate
- Tamper Re-locker function
- 1,000,000 differing combinations
- Combination easily changed by Management

Digital

- Electronic Digital Lock
- Easy to register your own 6 digit personal code
- Mounted on drill resistant hardened plate
- Tamper relocker function
- Battery changeover alert

Material Specifications

- Heavy duty 10mm steel plate construction of both door and body of safe

Finish

- Charcoal Hammer tone Enamel

Installation

- Can be installed by either locksmith or handyman by fixing to wall, floor by Dyna bolts, Loxins etc. through the bolt fixing holes provided in rear and base of safe.

Jorgensen Safes reserves the right to change or modify specifications without notice or obligation.

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DS2 200	300	300	200	Includes Two Shelves
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DS3 200	600	450	200	Includes Three Shelves
DS4	800	500	200	Includes Four Shelves

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