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J&J Verio promo

JOHNSON & Johnson is offering a free ONETOUCH care pack worth more than \$60 with each purchase of a ONETOUCH VERIO Blood Glucose Monitoring System.

The care pack is available directly from J&J with proof of purchase - onetouch.com.au.

WIN A BLUE STRATOS PACK



This week **PD** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a fantastic

male toiletries pack valued at \$30, courtesy of **Blue Stratos**.

The pack includes Blue Stratos body spray, an Anti-Perspirant Deodorant and deodorising Talc Powder.

Blue Stratos is one of the most famous masculine fragrances, a classic which features as a landmark FOUGERE fragrance in the industry 'bible' - developed in 1976.

For your chance to win this great male toiletries pack simply be the first person to send in an answer to the daily question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

In what year was the Blue Stratos fragrance developed?

Hint! Visit www.keysun.com.au

Martindale to be dropped

A LIST of compulsory reference materials for pharmacists released today by the Pharmacy Board of Australia is proposing to remove *Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference*, as well as requiring pharmacists to have access to *Therapeutic Guidelines Series, eTG or equivalent*.

The move is part of the Board's review of *Guidelines on practice-specific issues* and takes into account feedback about the wording of the guidelines and the suitability of particular references.

Changes to the guideline also propose the removal of an asterisk (*) against some items which indicates that these are "for pharmacists undertaking medication reviews," with the Board saying this statement has "potential to cause confusion".

All the references must be accessible to all pharmacists undertaking dispensing, clinical assessment, reviewing and counselling, the Board says.

The proposed full list of references is:

- The Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and Handbook (APF)

PAC online regos

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has opened online registrations for its upcoming Pharmacy Australia Congress, with earlybird registration rates available for attendance at the event which will allow delegates to earn up to 30 CPD credits.

Details at www.pac11.com.au.

- The Australian Medicines Handbook
- Therapeutic Guidelines Series (hardcopy), eTG or equivalent
- A reference work on prescription products: MIMS Annual with MIMS abbreviated; or e-MIMS; or AusDI Advanced
- A Drug Interactions reference (updated at least quarterly) - AusDI Advanced; or Drug Interaction Facts; or Drug Interactions Analysis and Management; or eMIMS Drug Alert Interactions; or Micromedex; or Stockley's Drug Interactions online; or Lexi-Interact Online
- A paediatric pharmacopoeia published by an Australian teaching hospital
- An evidence-based reference work on complementary and alternate medicines - Herbs and Natural Supplements (Braun and Cohen); or Herbal Medicines (Barnes, Anderson); or eMIMS; or AusDI Advanced
- Copies of the legislation controlling the practice of pharmacy (accessible online)
- The Pharmacy Board of Australia Guidelines; and
- The Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy.

The Board is seeking feedback from the industry on the changes, as well as adding a statement about considering the use of additional references relevant to a pharmacists' area of practice.

Submissions are sought by close of business on Fri 27 May to pharmacyconsultation@ahpra.gov.au.

Galvumet on PBS

NEW PBS listings this month include the Galvumet combination treatment for type 2 diabetes, which combines the DPP-4 inhibitor vildagliptin with metformin and provides a simpler management option for patients with the condition.

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to *Pharmacy Daily's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is the President of the National Pharmaceutical Services Association, Patrick Davies.

Raising the Level of Debate

Over the past few months, it has been my privilege to meet with and talk to literally hundreds of pharmacists at various forums and meetings around the country.

Naturally, most of the discussion has been focused on Pfizer's recent decision to move to an exclusive PBS supply arrangement.

The topics have been far-reaching.

Pharmacists have told me of their concerns for the potential impact on patient care, they have argued the case for a competitive and viable wholesale sector and have reiterated their belief in the crucial role that independently owned and operated community pharmacies play in the health care of all Australians.

But perhaps just as important as what they have been saying, is the way in which they've been saying it.

They have communicated their commitment to patient care and to the industry as a whole vociferously, passionately and—at times—emotionally.

They have argued their position with force and clarity and, not content with talking to those who are listening, they have taken their case further to those who should be listening – even as far as Canberra.

I believe this new and heightened level of debate is something of which the industry can be proud.

Only by talking openly, with conviction and passion can we continue to grow and protect our industry.

The challenge now is to continue the dialogue.



Coversyl Coumadin confusion

PHARMACISTS are being warned to take particular care when dispensing prescriptions of Coversyl (perindopril) and Coumadin (warfarin) 5mg, because of similar packaging of the medications.

The TGA's *Medicines Safety Update* released today gives details of the alert, which arose when

Coversyl's packaging was changed to comply with new child-resistant packaging requirements.

The TGA said that last November it received two reports of dispensing errors associated with the drugs, but in both cases the patients made a full recovery.

Servier has been working with the TGA to update the Coversyl packaging, with a new white-lidded package expected to start appearing in Australian dispensaries this month.

The TGA said pharmacists should take care when dispensing all medications with similar trade names or packaging, "ensuring appropriate checking and use of barcode scanners".

Free morning after pill

WOMEN in Wales will soon be able to access Levonelle and other morning-after pills for free, at their local community pharmacies.

Community pharmacists will be able to dispense free morning after contraception to females under the age of 16, where they believe it is "clinically appropriate".

The policy is designed to reduce rates of unwanted pregnancies and abortions in Wales, with parts of the country clocking some of the highest rates of teen pregnancy in all of Europe.

The UK's National Pharmacy Association said the move was "a clear endorsement of the expertise and unique accessibility of community pharmacy."

Scotland and some parts of England also offer free emergency contraception.

Spotlight on autism

THE Global Autism Alliance, has launched its international website aimed at distributing information about autism diagnosis, treatment and education to Govts, healthcare professionals and the general public.

The Alliance is made up of autism organisations from across the globe, including Australia.

For more information visit - www.GlobalAutismAlliance.com.

DISPENSARY CORNER

IS your toilet hiding a fortune?

An Australian geologist having some quiet time in an outdoor Northern Territory loo discovered that the toilet was in fact sitting on a lucrative phosphate deposit.

The revelation came after the scientist had been sent down with a group of mineral hunters to prospect near Barrow Creek in Alice Springs.

After setting up camp, which included the temporary toilet, on what they thought was sterile ground, the search had proved fairly uneventful, until the observant geologist sitting on the loo began kicking rocks around and noticed 'nodules'.

The toilet rocks were then inspected with a spectrometer which revealed they were brimming with phosphate.

"Obviously, you don't put the camp where you're meant to be drilling so we all had a bit of a laugh about it," said one amused scientist.

KANGAROO therapy.

A US woman, Christine Carr, is fighting city officials in Broken Arrow City to keep her partially paralysed pet kangaroo, Irwin.

A sufferer of depression Carr met Irwin when she was volunteering at a local animal sanctuary at the advice of her therapist.

Carr took Irwin home to care for him after an accident left him with brain damage.

As part of her care routine, Carr dresses Irwin, helps him to walk, feeds him and changes his nappy.

Although he is classed as a therapy pet, city officials are said to be concerned that Irwin is a threat to the public, which could see him taken away from Carr.

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