

Guild Update

This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild

The first few months of 2012 are shaping up as a critical period for the operation of community pharmacy businesses.

Last week the Guild received official notification from the Department of Health and Ageing of the PBS price reductions which will take effect on 1 April 2012 due to the expansion of price disclosure.

The reductions have prompted considerable comment, and will have an impact on all pharmacies.

The expansion of price disclosure resulted from the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was negotiated between Medicines Australia (representing drug manufacturers) and the Commonwealth Government, signed in May 2010.

The MOU expanded price disclosure from around 40 molecules to include all drugs listed on the PBS that have more than one manufacturer.

The Guild has allocated considerable resources to provide support and advice to members in preparing for the changes brought about by the MOU, including a series of information sessions held across Australia.

Other price reductions are also likely to occur in April. On 1 April 2012, the largest molecule on the PBS, atorvastatin, will come off patent and see new generic market entrants. This molecule will begin its price disclosure process with a 16% price drop, effective 1 April.

Information on 1 April 2012 price reductions will be provided in the normal timeframe of 4 to 5 weeks before implementation.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Professional practice profile

PHARMACISTS can now access the *Professional practice profile for initial registration as a pharmacist: a customised tool of entry-level competencies incorporating guidance on pharmacy school and intern training provider contributions*, following its release by The Advanced Pharmacy Practice Framework Steering Committee (APPFSC).

The tool is derived from the *National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia 2010*, and presents the professional practice profile expected at initial registration as a pharmacist (ie at entry-level to the profession) and additional advice on the contributions of pharmacy

schools and intern training providers.

The APPFSC has however warned that whilst the tool provides the articulation of all performance criteria it "is not intended to segment the learning or training requirements for student and intern years but rather, confirms that the competency standards represent a continuum of learning".

The tool has also been adopted by the Pharmacy Board of Australia to help inform future standards for the accreditation of pharmacy schools and intern training providers.

The tool will be reviewed in 2013, and feedback is being sought over the next 12 months from users of the document.

To access the tool visit www.psa.org.au/archives/6230.

New PSA fellows

QUEENSLAND pharmacists Lisa Nissen, Bruce Elliot and Geraldine Moses have all been elevated to the status of Fellows of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

Jevtana approval

THE TGA has approved Sanofi's Jevtana (cabazitaxel) in combination with prednisone or prednisolone for the treatment of patients with hormone refractory metastatic prostate cancer previously treated with a docetaxel containing regimen.

Jevtana is the first approved agent to significantly extend overall survival in patients whose disease has progressed during or after docetaxel-containing treatment.

Best wishes for Christmas
and a happy New Year

From all the staff at PSA.
www.psa.org.au



DISPENSARY CORNER

SANTA vs the FDA.

A Maryland US Food and Drug Authority consulting firm has launched a light hearted campaign designed to highlight import compliance, titled Santa Claus vs the FDA.

Aimed at manufacturers, importers and distributors the campaign asks "What if Santa was inspected by FDA?".

The melodramatic faux-news campaign includes a series of videos and interviews showing the investigation of Mr Claus after he was arrested for illegally smuggling goods into the USA.

"Santa has been lucky not to have been targeted by the FDA before [who are now] doing everything possible to work through the long list of allegations against Mr. Claus and his North Pole distribution and manufacturing center," a campaign statement said.

"FDA also detained Santa's belly, since it shook like a bowl full of jelly, they considered it misbranded food," the statement added.

See www.fdaimports.com.

Valeant acquires Dermik

CANADIAN drug giant Valeant Pharmaceuticals has acquired another business for its portfolio, dermatology company Dermik.

Dermik was a subsidiary of French pharmaceutical company Sanofi and cost Valeant a reported US\$425m (its sales are expected to reach US\$200m for 2011).

WIN GAIA'S MUM-TO-BE PACK

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win **GAIA's** Mum-to-be Pack, valued at \$61.84.

GAIA's pure, natural, organic skincare is perfect for the mum-to-be – now featuring all natural pregnancy belly oil and belly butter alongside their adult skincare range – GAIA is now not just for babies. Their eco-friendly bamboo baby wipes also now come in a handy travel-size pack of 20s!

For special offers and deals on the entire range call Rebecca on: 0418 293 366 or email info@gaiaskinnaturals.com.

To win your very own GAIA's Mum-to-be Pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below.

Why is GAIA Pure Pregnancy Belly Oil great for scarring?

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

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Samantha Buckley** from **Chemplus**.



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