



Pharmacy gets festive

TODAY'S issue of *Pharmacy Daily* will be the last for 2011.

PD would like to take the opportunity to thank its loyal readers for all their support this year.

PD will be back and publishing on 09 Jan 2012 and until then, the team would like to wish everyone a safe and happy festive season.

Heart hospitalisations

THE number of acute myocardial infarction (AMI) and unstable angina (UA) hospitalisations increased between 1993–94 and 2007–08 (79.5% and 33.1%, respectively), according to a new AIHW report.

The report, based on the trends and patterns in hospital data, found that in 2007–08 there were almost 56,000 hospitalisations for AMI and 39,000 hospitalisations for UA.

The report also found that the rate of transfer associated with acute coronary syndrome hospitalisations has increased over the past decade, whilst the length of stay for acute coronary syndrome hospitalisations has declined.

Events 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.

22 Jan: Brisbane Senior First Aid and CPR Course; PSA Qld Branch Office, Dutton Park, Brisbane; email - educationqld@psa.org.au.

02 Feb: Anaphylaxis Training for Pharmacists, Charles Darwin University, email - sa.branch@psa.org.au.

24-26 Feb: Guild Pharmacy Academy, NSW Convention; Novotel Manly Pacific- for info call Rob 02 9467 7100.

Sigma wins Wyeth battle

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals has won its lengthy battle against Wyeth Pharmaceuticals for the right to release a generic version of Wyeth's anti-depressant Efexor-XR (venlafaxine hydrochloride).

The action began in April 2009 when Sigma challenged Wyeth's Australian Efexor-XR Extended Release Formulation patent after having been granted ARTG registration for its generic Evelexa-XR version in Feb 2009.

Wyeth however filed a cross claim in May 2009, claiming patent infringement by Sigma and

succeeded in getting an interlocutory injunction which restrained the latter from supplying Evelexa-XR until the case went to trial.

Shortly after the injunction, generic drug makers Alphapharma and Generic Health (which also wished to release Efexor-XR generics Enlafax-XR and Genericehealth XR respectively) joined the Sigma case, which was heard in November 2010 and which saw the Federal Court uphold the Extended Release patent and bar the trio from "importing, marketing, taking orders for, selling, supplying, and offering to supply" their own versions of the drug in Australia.

In October this year the trio won the right to appeal the decision, and this week had their wishes granted with Federal Court Judges declaring Wyeth's patent invalid, ordering that the cross-claim be dismissed and that Wyeth pay 80% of the trio's court costs.

What women want

A NEW NZ Roy Morgan survey aimed at finding out what are the most important factors contributing to female purchases of skincare and cosmetics found that 'value for money' is the most influential factor, with 65% of the survey's respondents (aged 14+) nominating it as important.

The second most important factor was 'quality brand' (58%), followed by 'sun protection factor' (54%), 'hypoallergenic' (44%), 'not tested on animals' (42%), 'gentleness' (40%) and anti-aging benefits (30%).

FDA approves drugs

THE US FDA has approved Isentress (raltegravir) for use with other antiretroviral drugs for the treatment of HIV-1 infection for children and adolescents aged between two and 18.

Isentress belongs to the HIV integrase strand transfer inhibitors class of drugs and works by slowing the spread of HIV in the body.

The drug was first approved for adults in 2007.

MEANWHILE the FDA has also approved Edarbyclor (azilsartan medoxomil and chlorthalidone) for the treatment of hypertension to lower blood pressure in adults.

The drug is the only fixed-dose therapy in the US to combine an angiotensin II receptor blocker with the diuretic chlorthalidone in a once-daily, single tablet.



DISPENSARY CORNER

CHRISTMAS spirit to spare.

Neighbours of one US duo may be running into their local pharmacies for sleep aids and headache pills after the pair, Brandon Smith and Dennis Guyette, opened their home to the public.

Not just any old home, the duo's Indiana residence has become an ode to Christmas, sporting 68 Christmas trees, all with a different theme.

Not a single room in their house, including the bathroom, has escaped the Christmas spirit, with over 600 visitors so far dropping in to have a squizz.

"The looks on people's faces and the reactions is the best part," said Smith.

"We've had a few people who said they're Grinches, but when they leave, they're grinning from ear to ear," he added.

Novel pain in the US

ACTAVIS Group has partnered with QRxPharma Limited to launch a patented 3:2 ratio fixed dose combination of morphine and oxycodone, MoxDuo, into the US\$2.5 billion American acute pain market.

MoxDuo is now expected to hit the US market in the third quarter of 2012.

Australian Prescriber

AUSTRALIAN Prescriber has published two opinion pieces which examine the Government's deferred listing of seven medicines and one vaccine on the PBS.

The articles provide two differing views of the subject and include *Deferring PBAC decisions: industry view* by Brendan Shaw, Chief Executive, Medicines Australia and *Deferring PBAC decisions: rationing as a reality* by Rob Moulds, Medical adviser, Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd.

To read the articles go to the 'Latest News' section at www.australianprescriber.com/.

WIN GAIA'S MUM-TO-BE PACK

Every day this week PD is giving one lucky reader the chance to win GAIA's

Mum-to-be Pack, valued at \$61.84.

To win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below.

Are all GAIA products free from parabens, lanolin, mineral oil & petrochemicals?

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au
Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Suzy Wright** from **Bathurst Base Hospital Pharmacy**.