

# Pharmacy DAILY

Thursday 10 Feb 2011

PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

## Shingles in the US

**SUPPLIES** of the shingle vaccine, Zostavax in the US, have dried up following the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation that all citizens over 60 get the shingles vaccine.

Merck, maker of the vaccine, has reportedly informed the industry that it won't be able to supply any more orders until Apr 2011.

## NZ prescribing errors

**A CURRENT** electronic prescribing pilot operating in two wards at Dunedin Hospital may be extended hospital-wide, after it exposed "inadequate prescribing and administration practices".

According to reports, within 100 paper charts the pilot uncovered 2,623 instances of harm or near misses from drug errors in 2010, which, for the most part went unreported.

"The Guild has always asserted that there is a serious prescription error problem in primary health care," said Annabel Young, Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand Chief Executive.

"While these prescription errors have been uncovered in a hospital they also pose a serious concern for community pharmacists.

"Once discharged, patients often go immediately to their community pharmacist to fill a prescription.

"This means the prescription errors are transferred into the community leading to further patient safety concerns and an increased workload for the community pharmacist," she added.

At present the NZ National Health Board is considering funding the hospital-wide program, and also extending it to Wakari Hospital at a combined cost of NZ\$800,000.

## New dispensing displays

**PHARMACIES** not approved to supply pharmaceutical benefits will soon have to display information which will inform customers of the consequences of filling pharmaceutical benefits eligible prescriptions at "unapproved" pharmacies.

The new display policy is currently under development by the Pharmacy Board of Australia, and is designed to address the issue of the supply of pharmaceutical benefits medications from unapproved pharmacies.

Consequences to be outlined in "unapproved" pharmacies' customer displays include: that payments made for prescriptions will not contribute to PBS Safety Net Records; that any repeats issued will not be valid as concessional, repatriation, general or safety net pharmaceutical benefit prescriptions if subsequently presented in an approved pharmacy; and that patients will

not be able to obtain a refund from Medicare, for the amount paid over and above the gazetted PBS copayment for a medicine, for prescriptions dispensed.

In addition, information displays will also have to outline that pharmacists practicing in "unapproved" pharmacies cannot send prescriptions to approved pharmacies to obtain concessional, repatriation, general, or safety net pharmaceutical benefits, and then have them returned to the "unapproved" pharmacy for patient collection.

At present the Board is working with the Pharmaceutical Benefits Division of the Department of Health and Ageing on finalising information to be displayed at "unapproved" pharmacies.

## Prison for drug fraud

**A 34-year old UK citizen, Steven Corbersmith, has received a 12-month suspended sentence for illegally selling unlicensed, prescription-only and controlled drugs over the internet.**

Corbersmith's scheme was unmasked by the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, who found his website was selling medications incl tamoxifen and erectile dysfunction drugs.

The MHRA then made test purchases, whilst investigations revealed Corbersmith, a gym operator, held no drug licenses and was therefore unable to sell or supply medications in the UK.

In addition to his 12-month sentence, Corbersmith must also undertake a six-month supervision order and a unpaid work (community order) of 100 hours.

## Medical grant review

**THE** Department of Health has released a '10 of the Best Research Projects 2010' booklet which profiles Aussie projects undertaken with government funding.

Written for the general public, research included in the booklet ranges from post traumatic stress disorder to cancer.

See [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au).

# Use it or lose it!

**IDEAL FOR INDEPENDENT  
PHARMACIES**

2010 was a watershed for many retailers. All Pharmacy owners who have experienced a decline in retail sales over the last year must now stop and take stock.

Customer loyalty can't be assumed.

- Exactly what should you do?
- Should you spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on a fit-out?
- Should your store be bigger or should you lose space?

To answer these questions, join Hilary Kahn (FeelGood Guide), Mark Nicholson & Norman Thurecht (Johnston Rorke Chartered Accountants) in a punchy and informative 55 minute online live seminar.

**15th February 2011**

2:30pm (AEST)

**For Information Click Here**

## Pharmacy Catalyst Retail & Buying Group: by Invitation Only

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### Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature.

Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

**VALUE TOURS** is offering a San Francisco Short Stay for three nights priced from \$1955pp when booked by 31 March for travel 01 April-16 June.

The package includes return economy airfares from Sydney with V Australia and three nights accom in a standard room at the Adante Hotel, breakfast daily, return airport transfers and a 48 hour double decker hop-on-hop-off bus pass.

See [valuetours.com.au](http://valuetours.com.au).

**BENTOURS** is offering 10% off its Fabulous Scandinavia and Czars Route on select departures in July, when booked by 28 Feb.

Priced from \$3415pp the 19-day full tour takes in the Norwegian Fjords, Stockholm and Helsinki and St Petersburg and Moscow.

Also included in the discount is the 16-day Fabulous Scandinavia and St Petersburg tour; 12-day Fabulous Scandinavia and Helsinki itinerary and 10-day Fabulous Scandinavia trips departing on 07 July.

See - [bentours.com.au](http://bentours.com.au).

**SILVERWATER** Resort on Phillip Island is offering a two night adventure package priced from \$250 per night including accom in a Resort room, hot breakfast and a choice of adventures including Surf lesson, Kayak tour, Mountain bike tour, or snorkelling.

The deal is on sale until 31 March.

Visit [silverwaterresort.com.au](http://silverwaterresort.com.au).

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## NZ to take the pressure off

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand has welcomed the NZ Prime Minister's pledge to "take pressure off hospitals" and improve public health "by expanding the range of health services provided in the community".

Although not explicitly specifying pharmacy, the NZ Guild has welcomed the govt's renewed emphasis on providing world-class public services, adding that community pharmacists are well placed to deliver patient services.

"The Guild welcomes the emphasis on getting better value out of New Zealanders' taxpayer dollars," said Annabel Young, Guild Chief Executive.

"As the health professionals you see most often, community pharmacists are well-placed to ease the burden on the health system by providing cost effective and vital primary health care services to patients," she added.

In her response to the PM's address, Young also said that the

nation's network of pharmacists were perfectly positioned to deliver the govt's health services goal of "sooner, better and more convenient, as well as being cost effective".

"When the Prime Minister says that he wants to scale up the things that work, he should be looking at community pharmacy and we welcome this opportunity," she said.

### EU cancer to drop

**RESEARCHERS** from several EU Universities have predicted a decline in cancer death rates in Europe throughout 2011.

The claim comes on the back of a review of cancer mortality rates between 1970 and 2007 in the EU, as well as mortality rates in individual countries incl France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and the UK.

Based on their trend calculations the researchers predict that this year, across the EU, cancer deaths will drop by 7% in men and 6% in women.



### DISPENSARY CORNER

**POTIONS** and brews to be regulated.

Following the passing of new laws in Romania to recognise witchcraft as a profession, the government is now drafting legislation which would regulate all witchcraft businesses.

The practice of witchcraft has been part of Romanian culture for centuries, with practitioners offering future forecasts, medicinal products and spells.

The new draft legislation would see witches have to gain a license that would require them to comply with industry standards.

Standards included in the regulations would see witches cop a fine and/or prison sentences for forecasting predictions which turn out to be false.

In addition, witches would also have to provide their clients with receipts and wouldn't be allowed to practice near schools and churches.

**EVERY** dog has its day.

A deaf dachshund named Sparky has made world headlines after learning sign language.

According to reports Sparky picked up sign language from inmates at a US prison.

Sparky came to the prison as part of a Puppies on Parole program, where inmates train pound pups who have behavioural issues, and are difficult to adopt out.

When it became evident that Sparky was becoming adept at taking sign commands, he was transferred to the Missouri School for the Deaf, where the school's young pupils took it upon themselves to finish his education.

Sparky's success has led to the school offering to train a second deaf dog, a terrier named Petie.

**HOT** chilli!

The wafting scent of roasting chilli's from an apartment building in Finland has resulted in the hospitalisation of four people.

Emergency personnel who attended the scene were forced to wear gas masks to evacuate the building, after the first rescuer at the scene had a coughing fit and breathing troubles.



### WIN THE ORGANIC SOAP COMPANY PRIZE PACK

Congratulations to our lucky Organic Soap Pack winners from yesterday - **Deepak Chhiboo** from **APHS Pharmacy Greenslopes** and **Michelle Jensen** of **Jadin Chemist Group**.

**Pharmacy Daily** has teamed up with **The Organic Soap Company** this week and is giving ten lucky readers the chance to win a fantastic prize pack including 3 Soap Bars and 1 bottle of Cleansing Body Wash, valued at \$25.00.

The Organic Company soaps are produced on the pristine Northern Beaches of NSW and contain certified organic ingredients for their purity and quality. With essential oils which are selected from all corners of the earth for their purity and intensity of fragrance, the range is able to offer both floral and herbal soaps for their cosmetic and therapeutic benefits.

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

[comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)



**What is the name of the company which produces these soaps and body washes?**

Hint: Visit: [www.keysun.com.au](http://www.keysun.com.au)

The first 2 correct entries received will win