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## Critical supply

**MEDICINES** supply is a critical issue for pharmacists in the UK, according to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS).

"Pharmacists are spending more and more time on the phone with pharmaceutical manufacturers and wholesalers sourcing medicines for their patients," a RPS statement said.

The comment comes on the back of the release of UK Department of Health's new best practice guidelines on the supply and distribution of drugs.

Issues with the supply chain were highlighted last year when Dec snow storms in Scotland caused severe problems for pharmacists trying to obtain drugs.

According to an RPS survey 97% of community pharmacists in Scotland said they felt there are "structural issues within the medicine supply chain, such as a reliance on single wholesalers for a number of medicines".

"92% of pharmacists we surveyed reported that during December they were prevented from dispensing a prescription because they were not able to obtain the medicine," an RPS statement said.

"When pharmacists have to rely on a single supplier, patients feel the consequences when something goes wrong," the statement added.

Key points in the new guidance include an expectation that under normal circumstances pharmacies receive drugs within a 24hr period; the importance of regular communications between manufacturers and wholesalers, and the need for all in the supply chain to have contingency plans in place to source supply when there are supply difficulties.

## \$10m for NSW pharmacists

**THE** NSW state Liberal Party has unveiled a major plan to expand the role of community pharmacists.

Aimed at improving the management of chronic diseases including diabetes, asthma, obesity and cardiovascular disease, the Community Pharmacies Plan would see pharmacists provide in-pharmacy health checks, as well as testing in workplaces across NSW.

"A fifteen minute health check has the capacity to save someone's life," said Deputy Opposition Leader and Shadow Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner.

"We will be building on the trusted relationship people have with their local pharmacist to encourage them to have basic tests which may provide early identification and then ongoing management of major health issues and chronic disease," she added.

Under the plan, if it comes to power in the upcoming state election, the Liberal govt would provide \$10m for pilot Community Health Checks and Workplace Health Check programs which

would target cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes, and which may extend to include checking blood pressure, cholesterol, blood glucose levels, and waist circumference.

The plan would also see the current legislative and regulatory regime remain in place, whilst opposing supermarket or corporate control of pharmacies or co-location of pharmacies in supermarkets.

In addition, hospital readmissions would be reduced via the inclusion of discharge procedures which would include steps for contacting GPs and pharmacists post-discharge for a home medication review.

"The local pharmacist may be the first point of call for prescriptions and other medications, but we should be taking advantage of their local relationships and expertise to drive preventative health testing measures," said Skinner.

"Following a successful multi-state program, the National Stroke Foundation estimates that for every 100,000 blood pressure tests conducted in the community, 191 strokes are prevented.

"There are 1,700 community pharmacies in NSW, and that's a large network we can be working through to deliver better patient care," she added.

Skinner also said that the Liberals would review the effectiveness of using pharmacists for medication management and medication compliance support for mentally ill patients in the community; and also where a hospital pharmacist is not available, reviewing the use of community pharmacists' medication and pharmaceutical services.

## Biologicals update

**THE** TGA has updated its website to include public submissions regarding the proposed amendments to the Therapeutic Goods Regulations 1990 to implement the Biological Framework.

**MEANWHILE** the TGA has also posted a new AusPAR for Boehringer's myocardial infarction medication, Actilyse (alteplase).

# Use it or lose it!

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**15th February 2011**

2:30pm (AEST)

For Information Click Here

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## Participant call out

**RESEARCHERS** at the University of Sydney are seeking participants for a new study which aims to understand how patients recover from anorexia nervosa.

"Most knowledge of recovery from chronic anorexia nervosa comes from the outside perspective of investigators and clinicians, which limits our understanding of the disease to what researchers assume to be important," said Lisa Dawson, from the School of Psychology at Sydney University.

"We need to find an adequate model that reflects the evolution of chronic anorexia nervosa from the patient's perspective," she added.

At present, the researchers are looking for women who have suffered anorexia nervosa for seven or more years and who have been in recovery for five or more years.

For info, or to participate email - [ldaw2707@uni.sydney.edu.au](mailto:ldaw2707@uni.sydney.edu.au).

## Communiqué on renewal

**THE** Pharmacy Board of Australia says it's continuing to work with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency to resolve issues relating to the renewal of pharmacists registration under the new national scheme.

The renewal deadline was 31 December but despite a one month grace period being granted, it's believed that the AHPRA has had difficulty dealing with the sheer volume of registrations it has received which apply across all ten health professions under its banner.

Yesterday a Communiqué from the Board cited the key issues contributing to the delay including practitioners submitting incomplete forms, meaning that AHPRA has to then work with individuals to help them meet the requirements.

Practitioners who fail to renew their registration in time will, according to AHPRA, have to reapply for registration.

AHPRA and the Board have no flexibility in this," the Board said.

For those pharmacists that failed

to renew their registration in time, the Board advised that they should take advantage of the fast track application process form which is available at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

## Pharmacist mixup

**A US** Safeway pharmacy has raised concerns over prescription mix-ups, after it wrongly dispensed methotrexate to Mareena Silva, who was six-weeks pregnant.

According to reports, the mix-up occurred when Silva went to pick up a prescription for an antibiotic, and was instead given the cancer drug (also used to terminate pregnancy) which was meant for a patient with a similar name.

Silva did not lose her baby, however doctors are concerned for the development of the foetus.

Safeway has apologised for the mix-up, adding that it was the result of an employee not heeding procedures and not repeating the patients name and birth date back to Silva before completing the sale.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**ALCOHOL** reduces focus.

A drunk 27-year old US woman, Nicole Scott has landed herself in trouble after pulling herself over for drink-driving.

Deciding against the safer option of sleeping it off and pepping up with B Vitamins and water in the morning, Scott got in her car, with a beer for the road, after an evening of heavy drinking and proceeded to drive home.

Scott came unstuck however when she mistook the flashing lights coming from a nearby Skate World theme park for police lights and pulled over.

To make matters worse for Scott, her car was then caught in a snow drift, and she was forced to hail down help.

A passerby who stopped to offer her aid then noticed that she was drunk and called the police, who arrived shortly after to a stumbling Scott and her half empty beer bottle.

Scott was arrested shortly after.

**THE** natural order?

The Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat in Ontario, Canada, has launched an unusual initiative to raise awareness about the plight of polar bears - a 'people pool' within the bears enclosure.

The polar bear encounter is safer than it sounds, with the people pool and the bear pool separated by 25cm thick Plexiglass.

The people pool has been designed to resemble the bears natural environment, and allows bears and people to get a long, close look at each other.

Park operators are also hoping that the "encounter" will help to stimulate its bears, a hope which appears to be coming to fruition with staffers witnessing bears at times "stalking" visitors as they would do in the wild.



Kids meet two female orphan bears

## CPD 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](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**11 Feb 2011:** NITP First Intake Introductory Session; Travelodge Newcastle Hotel - [info@psa.org.au](mailto:info@psa.org.au).

**14 Feb 2011:** New CPD Requirements and Methods; Monash University Rural Health- (03) 98389 4700.

**15 Feb 2011:** Chlamydia Screening in Pharmacies; The Canberra Hospital - [act.branch@psa.org.au](mailto:act.branch@psa.org.au).

**15 Feb 2011:** Clinical Mystery Cases; Paramatta RSL, Sydney - (02) 9431 1100.

**20 Feb 2011:** First Aid Certificate Course; Chatswood Club, Sydney - (02) 9431 1120.

**22 Feb 2011:** First Aid Training Level 2; Pharmacy Skills Centre, Hawthorn, Victoria- (03) 9810 9988.



## WIN THE ORGANIC SOAP COMPANY PRIZE PACK

Congratulations to our lucky Organic Soap Pack winners from yesterday - **Elizabeth Gulczynski** from **Visible Results, NSW** and **Helen Bowden** of **PGA, NT**.

*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)



The range offers both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ soaps for their cosmetic and therapeutic benefits

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

The first 2 correct entries received will win