

Going blue for cancer



THE pharmacy industry is throwing its weight behind the Blue September 'Facing up to Cancer in Men' initiative.

To help Blue September promote awareness and action on cancers affecting men, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Symbion, Sigma and API have worked with Quilton to produce a limited edition pharmacy-only Quilton toilet tissue pack.

The pack's design includes special messages to raise awareness of risk factors, as well as tips to encourage men to take action for better health.

"We're encouraging pharmacies across Australia to participate in this campaign to support men's health," said Guild President, Kos Sclavos (pictured above having his face painted by retail mgr Dianne Button and pharmacist John Button).

For every pack sold \$2 will go to Blue September's charities, the Australian Cancer Research Foundation and Bowel Cancer Australia.

HTAs under the spotlight

A NUMBER of areas where Health Technology Assessment authorities can improve their practice have been highlighted in a new report commissioned by EFPIA, EuropaBio, Medicines Australia and PhRMA.

The report looked at HTAs in 15 countries, including Australia's PBAC, and found that whilst the processes can help payers in making informed decisions about allocating health system resources, if they are poorly designed and managed, they run the risk of denying patients access to new medical technologies.

Although best practice principals vary significantly in different countries, thus making it difficult to formulate a single set of guidelines, researchers said that on the whole HTAs, including the PBAC, should improve the amount of information published.

To this end researchers suggested that HTA's should publish performance metrics (including time of review, decisions, alignment of P&R with HTA).

Researchers also noted that there were areas of discrepancy between the intentions and actions of HTAs which could be improved, adding

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Become a Nerve Wiz

A NEW iPhone app, Nerve Wizz, has been released, designed to take the mystery out of the peripheral nervous system and to give users a better understanding of the anatomy of the nervous system.

To download, go to the iPhone App Store.

Biologicals guideline

THE Australian Regulatory Guidelines for Biologicals (ARGB) is now available for viewing on the TGA website.

The guide explains which products are included in the new Biologicals Regulatory Framework, and why; and describes transition arrangements that apply for up to three years to allow all biologicals to meet the new arrangements.

The guide also explains the Australian regulatory requirements for supplying biological, and sets out what is required for making an application to the TGA for biologicals, so they can be processed as quickly as possible.

Sponsors, manufacturers, health professionals, regulators and consumers, are also able to openly access information on biologicals, and the Therapeutic Goods Act.

See www.tga.gov.au.

Today's PD issue

TODAY'S PD features two pages of news, plus a full page from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia regarding its Offshore Refresher Conference 2012 in Istanbul (p3).

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KimVent launch

KIMBERLY-Clark has just released a new weapon against ventilator-associated pneumonia, the KimVent Multi-Access Port (MAP) Closed Suction System.

Launched in the US this week, the system features a compact rotating manifold with multi-access ports, allowing clinicians to perform suctioning and other procedures, such as bronchoalveolar lavage, bronchoscopy or MDI drug delivery, while maintaining a closed ventilator circuit.

See www.kchealthcare.com.

FDA mesh warning

THE US Food and Drug Administration has warned that that surgical placement of mesh through the vagina to repair pelvic organ prolapse (POP) may expose patients to greater risk than other surgical options.

In 2008 the FDA issued a warning about adverse events related to mesh placement, however since then it has seen the number of adverse events increase fivefold.

The most common side effects include protruding of tissue, pain, infection and bleeding.

As such, the FDA has asked health care providers to recognise, that in most cases POP can be treated successfully without surgery, and that patients continue with routine check-ups and follow-up care after surgery.

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.

24 Jul: Vitamin D Pharmacy Only Seminar; Sydney Hilton - 1300 650 455.

27 Jul: Vitamin D Pharmacy Only Seminar; Brisbane Hilton - 1300 650 455.

31 Jul: Vitamin D Pharmacy Only Seminar; Sofitel - 1300 650 455.

Legal action over intern pay

THE Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia (APESMA) has hinted that it will be taking cases of underpaid interns to court, following this week's furore over the hourly pay rates of intern pharmacists (**PD** 14 July).

Yesterday APESMA told **PD** that it has discovered "many cases" of under award payments, that it will be taking to court "when the time is right".

According to APESMA, based on a study by Graduate Careers Australia, more than half of all Australian pharmacy interns are currently being paid under award wages.

The Pharmacy Guild responded to APESMA's claims saying that they lacked basis because interns do not work unsupervised and comparison wages should be compared to full registration rates, and adding that APESMA did not fully understand

the transitional arrangements for the pharmacy industry award.

Responding to the Guild's comments in yesterday's **PD** APESMA's Jacki Baulch said "Instead of warning pharmacy owners not to underpay their staff the Pharmacy Guild has decided to stick their heads in the sand and pretend its not going on".

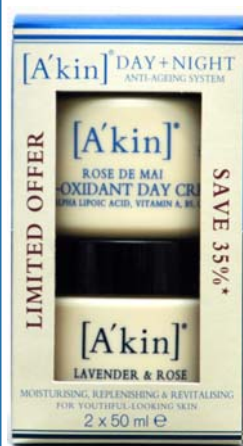
"The reason APESMA has more pharmacy members than ever before is because pharmacists are sick of being paid illegally low rates of pay.

"We encourage pharmacists being underpaid to speak out about any under award payments they have been receiving," she added.

New AusPARs

THE TGA has published new AusPARs for Influenza Virus Haemagglutinin H5N1 & Cladribine tablets, see - www.tga.gov.au.

WIN an [A'kin] Day & Night Duo



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with **[A'kin]** this week and is giving five lucky readers the chance to win the **[A'kin]** Day & Night duo valued at \$79.90.

Experience skin radiance with the **[A'kin]** Day & Night duo which includes the **[A'kin]** Rose De Mai, Anti-Oxidant Day Creme and **[A'kin]** Lavender & Rose, Repairing Anti-Oxidant Night Creme. Help reduce the appearance of wrinkles and increase skin suppleness with the concentrated nature of Vitamins A, E, omega 9, Omega 3 & 6 Essential Fatty Acids and

Echium Oil. For more information visit www.purist.com.

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

List two benefits of the [A'kin] Rose De Mai Day Creme?

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

Hint! Visit www.purist.com

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Michael Venn** from **Murray T Martin Pharmacy**.

DISPENSARY CORNER

BIG baby!

A woman in the US state of Texas has given birth to a baby weighing in at a massive 16lbs.

The mother of the record-breaking tot was told to expect a big boy, in the vicinity of 12lbs, but was taken by complete surprise when her newborn weighed in.

Aside from his weight the bub was also born 24" long, with a 15" head and 17" chest, the measurements of an average three month old!

HEALTHY exercise?

A group of employees in China have pushed their boss's car home after a long lunch.

According to reports the group was left in a quandary after enjoying an elongated lunch replete with free alcohol in Changchun.

It was towards the end of the excursion that the company president realised he was far too drunk to get behind the wheel of a car, a problem which was further compounded by the fact that none of his company employees had turned down the chance to drink a lot for free.

Also worried by the new laws enacted in China this year, which saw drink driving listed as a hazardous crime punishable with gaol time, the company's Vice President suggested that everyone simply push the car 4.8kms back to their boss' home, pointing out that the exercise would be good for them all.

It took them 45 mins of hard labour, singing and loud laughter to get the VW to their boss' house, and whilst police decided not to fine them because the engine was not on, they did warn of the dangers of being drunk and pushing a car in traffic.



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