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International healthcare

BUPA has become the first Australian health insurer to offer comprehensive international private medical insurance for expats living and working overseas.

The announcement comes on the back of a survey which found the number of Aussies working overseas has doubled in the past decade.



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PBS "under control" - MA

MEDICINES Australia today cited new data from Medicare Australia as a demonstration that govt expenditure on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme grew by only 5% in 2010-11 - or less than 2% in real terms taking into account annual inflation figures.

"It's really time to explore this myth that the PBS is unsustainable," said MA ceo Brendan Shaw.

"For a major healthcare program to achieve such minimal growth, while still providing universal access to the latest medicines to a

growing and ageing population, is quite an extraordinary achievement," he said.

Shaw said the Medicare figures back up MA's contention that there is no need for the govt to take a heavy-handed approach to the PBS.

"There is simply no justification for knee-jerk savings measures such as the Cabinet's deferral of PBS medicines," he added, urging the government to "stop and look at this data".

Earlier this week Shaw testified at the Senate enquiry into the PBS, stressing that according to the government's own Intergenerational Report, PBS growth is forecast to remain flat at around 0.7% of GDP until at least 2020.

He claimed that some Australians were already feeling the pain of the Cabinet deferrals, saying: "We run the real risk of developing a two-tier health system, where the wealthy can afford the most effective and convenient treatment options, while the rest will have to make do with less convenient treatments already on the PBS."

Vic registration open

REGISTRATION for the SHPA Victorian Branch Summit is now open.

The Summit will take place on 27 August at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University.

For details see www.shpa.org.au.

WHO warning on TB

THE World Health Organisation has issued a warning against the use of blood tests to diagnose active tuberculosis (TB).

"A blood test for diagnosing active TB disease is bad practice," said Dr Mario Raviglione, Director of WHO Stop TB Department.

"Test results are inconsistent, imprecise and put patients' lives in danger," he added.

The new recommendation follows a 12 month WHO review.

Instead of blood tests for active TB WHO has recommended the use of microbiological or molecular tests.

Billie Goat stockist

A STORY about Billie Goat Soap earlier in the week on Channel 9's *A Current Affair* has set the phones ringing at Lightning Brokers, which is the official national distributor of the products to pharmacy.

Pharmacies wanting to stock Billie Goat Soap can find out more at www.lightningbrokers.com.au.



PBS-APPROVAL NUMBER FOR SALE

- Located in landmark Shopping Centre on Sydney's North Shore
- Offers close 12 Aug 2011

Contact: Sean Roffey
PBS-Pharmacy Brokers
0408 882 111

pbs@healthbusinesssales.com.au

New Mircera dosing

THE TGA has approved a new once-monthly dosing schedule for Mircera (methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta), to treat anaemia associated with chronic kidney disease in treatment-naïve patients not yet on dialysis.

National Heroes

THE Department of Health has launched a \$4.3m campaign titled 'Health Heroes' aimed at attracting more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary students to work in Indigenous Health.

"Australian labour force surveys indicate that in 2008 there were only 153 Indigenous medical professionals and 1,598 registered and enrolled nurses - that's only 0.2 and 0.6 per cent respectively of our entire health workforce and it's not good enough," said the Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon.

The campaign will be supported by secondary school visits, and a special campaign website at australia.gov.au/healthheroes.

Win a 1 year supply of Carmex lip balms



PD has teamed up with Carmex lip balm this

week and is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a one year supply of Carmex lip balms, just in time for winter.

Each pack contains: 2 x Carmex lip balm jars, 2 x Carmex lip balm squeeze tubes, 1 x Carmex lip balm original flavoured Click Stick™ with SPF 15 and 1 x Carmex lip balm strawberry flavoured Click Stick™ with SPF 15

For your chance to win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the daily question below to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Are Carmex products tested on animals?

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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

RUDE awakening.

An unfortunate South African man has awoken from a 21 hour slumber, in a morgue.

The man's family had called in the undertakers when they thought he had passed away.

According to reports, the mortuary attendants checked the man for a pulse and breathing and found neither were present.

Upon arrival at the morgue, the man was placed in a locked refrigerator compartment, where he stayed sleeping like the dead, until he awoke and began to yell.

Spooked morgue attendants ran from the room thinking the yelling was a ghost, and it wasn't until the police arrived that they realised it was a living man, trying to escape from his morgue bed.

The man was subsequently taken to hospital where he was found to be stable and released to his overjoyed family, who had spent the previous 21 hours grieving and making funeral arrangements.

ALL five food groups?

A hamburger described as breakfast, lunch and dessert rolled into one is being hailed as Australia's most unhealthy meal.

Weighing in with a whopping 6000kj, the aptly titled 'OMG' burger is crafted using two Krispy Kreme doughnuts serving as the bun, two beef patties, two very generous slices of cheese, two slices of bacon, and a token serve of lettuce - just to keep the doughnuts from getting soggy.

Now for those of you that aren't disgusted by the OMG, but are in fact wanting to try it, it may be a long drive between feeds, with the burger only being served up at independent Brisbane fast-food outlet Chompers.

Dietitians estimate that diners wanting to burn off the kilojoules from eating one of these monsters would need to run about 21 kilometres.



It's a hair miracle!

Schwarzkopf's new **Professional BC Oil Miracle Finishing Treatment** is a hair oil product which nourishes, strengthens and protects medium to thick and very fine porous hair types. The key to this product is its carrier oil, which is responsible for distributing the other botanical oils evenly, before evaporating while drying, leaving only an ultra-fine layer. This process means that the hair is not left greasy, but soft, shiny and frizz free. Other goodies packed into the honey coloured product include marula oil (full of Vitamin C, oleic acids and anti-oxidants) and argan oil which is rich in unsaturated fats and helps to strengthen hair and nourish its protective cover.

RRP: \$39.95

Stockist: 1800 251 887

Fibre made easy

Fibre supplements **Agiofibre** and **Agiolax** (fibre plus laxative) now come in **Easy Sachets**. Each sachet contains a pre-measured dose of granules for discretion and ease of use whilst travelling or on the run. The supplements themselves contain both soluble and insoluble fibre (similar to a normal varied diet) and work to minimise adverse side effects such as bloating and flatulence.

RRP: Agiofibre Easy Sachets \$11.95; Agiolax \$15.50

Stockists: Wholesalers, Pharmabroker 02 9809 7244 or flordis.com.au



Lemonade flavored lips

Due to popular demand, Lanolips has introduced **Lanolips Lemonade Lip Aid** to its permanent range of lip smacking products. Perfect for lips languishing in the cold weather, the treatment features rich and creamy ultra pure medical grade lanolin to hydrate and protect the lips. The citric acid in the formula's organic lemon oil also works to provide a perfect pout year-round, by gently exfoliating dry and dead skin. The product is finished with a light shimmer, to make lips sparkle in even the dullest weather conditions.

RRP: \$15.95

Stockist: 02 9663 4277



Veet your body parts

Veet's new **Suprem'Essence Body Parts** range is designed for gentle hair removal small sensitive areas. Included in the range is the **Suprem'Essence Bikini & Underarm Cream** which is enriched with a blend of essential oils to protect skin whilst the formula gently works to remove hair on the underarm and bikini line. The Cream results last twice as long as shaving and leave skin with visibly fewer ingrown hairs. The second product in the range is the **Suprem'Essence Face, Bikini and Underarm Wax Strips**, which also features moisturising ingredients to soothe and protect tender areas such as the upper lip, bikini, and underarm whilst waxing. Results can last up to four weeks, with hair regrowth fewer, finer and softer than pre-waxing hair. Both products also feature a subtle Velvet Rose fragrance, to leave the skin lightly scented.

RRP: \$9.99 Veet Suprem'Essence Bikini & Underarm Cream, \$9.99 Veet Suprem'Essence Face, Bikini & Underarm Wax Strips

Stockist details: www.veet.com.au

