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## Opioid constipation

A NEW information brochure has been released by the Dept of Veterans Affairs, relating to opioid-induced constipation.

The brochure includes advice on managing constipation when taking pain medication.

To download a copy visit - [www.veteransmates.net.au](http://www.veteransmates.net.au).



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## Australians with diabetes

AROUND 898,800 Australians suffer from diabetes, according to a new report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

The report is based on self-reports to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 2007-08 National Health Survey, and also found significantly higher numbers of Australians suffered from Type 2 diabetes (787,500 or 87%), compared to Type 1 diabetes (87,100 or 10%)

## Cancer answers?

AUSTRALIAN researcher Dr Vanessa Hays, in collaboration with Penn State University and her new colleagues at the J. Craig Venter Institute, has successfully mapped genetic blueprint of the Tasmanian Devil genome (including cancer-associated genes), a move which is hoped will lead to answers about adult and childhood cancer.

Using DNA sequencing, Hayes was able to identify 139 target genes that are potentially associated with cancer in the Tasmanian Devil and may also be relevant in human cancers.

Surprising results of the research also revealed that the Devil Facial Tumour Disease which is pushing the creatures to the brink of extinction is not the result of a virus, but rather cancer cells transferred from animal to animal.

with the remaining 3% as diabetes type unknown.

Diabetes was also found to be more prevalent in men than in women, with figures revealing 56% of total sufferers as male, compared to 44% female.

Almost all sufferers were found to sit in the 35 and above age category (96%), with almost half (43%) of patients aged over 65 years.

Despite these divisions, it seems that locality is no indicator of proportion, with figures of diabetes similar in all states and territories (after accounting for differences in age), and was similar in major cities and regional and remote areas.

To access the report go to [www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au).

## MoliForm upgrade

HARTMANN has added advanced dry technology and a textile-like backsheet to its MoliForm Premium soft continence pad range.

As such the pads now feature a new advanced dry zone which is said to provide up to 30% more dryness, and help reduce swelling, irritation and incontinence related dermatitis.

The new backsheet offers an alternative to the conventional PE-film products, and is claimed to reduce rustling noises and discomfort.

## FDA gets conservative

THE US FDA has recommended more conservative dosing for Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agents, when used to treat anaemia patients with chronic kidney disease, due to the increased risks of cardiovascular events including stroke and death; see [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov).

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## Don't let diarrhoea ruin your trip

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Nycomed Pty Ltd, Ground Floor, 2 Lyonpark Road, North Ryde NSW 2113. To order Travelan call toll free: 1800 675 957

References: 1. Otto W et al (2011) *Scand J Gastroenterol*.

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## US Tylenol recall

A "MOULDY odour" has forced Johnson & Johnson's US-based McNeil Consumer Healthcare unit to voluntarily recall one lot of its Tylenol Extra Strength Caplets, manufactured in February this year.

According to reports the odor was caused by the chemical 2,4,6-tribromoanisole, which is a byproduct of a chemical preservative often used in shipping pallets.

Apart from the smell the chemical has been linked with temporary gastric upset.

## 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.

IN celebration of the opening of a refreshed and rejuvenated Hayman Island, the spectacular resort is offering three-night Hayman Escape packages from \$885 per person, and four-night Escape packages from \$932pp.

In addition, both packages include a \$400 resort voucher.

Prices include twin-share accommodation and daily brekkie.

See [www.hayman.com.au](http://www.hayman.com.au).

**ESCAPE** winter with a five-day Hideaway Island Resort package in Vanuatu from only \$869pp.

The package includes return airfares with Air Vanuatu, accommodation, continental brekkie daily, return airport transfers, \$50 spending credit per room, a Mele village tour, and a glass bottom boat ride and daily snorkel safari.

For more information call 1300 358 382.

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## Harvey calls for more action

**AUSTRALIAN** health activist Dr Ken Harvey says action taken by the Therapeutic Goods Administration regarding SensaSlim advertising does not go far enough.

This week a spokesperson for the TGA confirmed that it had declined to approve advertising for the controversial weight loss product in "specified media" - including ads on television and in newspapers.

However Harvey says despite this the TGA has "failed to stop print advertisements lacking authorisation being published in major newspapers."

"In addition, SensaSlim continues to be promoted unethically by many Australian web sites, including Internet pharmacies," he added.

Harvey also questioned why the TGA has not invoked Section 30 of the Australian

*Therapeutic Goods Act, 1989* in order to delist SensaSlim from the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods, thereby making its continued sale and promotion illegal.

Harvey is currently embroiled in a legal battle with SensaSlim, which is suing him for \$800,000 over a complaint he made to the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Complaints Council.

## Hairy warning

**THE** Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is urging purveyors of hair straightening and treatment products to check whether they meet safety requirements.

The call follows six supplier recalls due to unsafe levels of free formaldehyde.

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

## Win a 1 year supply of Carmex® lip balms

*Pharmacy Daily* 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
- ✓ 1 x Carmex® lip balm strawberry flavoured Click Stick™ with SPF 15

The unique formula of Carmex® lip balm helps to soothe, moisturise and relieve dry, chapped lips caused by environmental factors resulting in why this award-winning lip balm is a favourite of celebrities and make-up artists all over the world!

For your chance to win this fantastic prize, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the daily question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**Carmex is available in 3 forms:  
jar, \_\_\_\_\_ and stick**

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

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Marsha Gomez** from **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia**.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

### ARTERIES watch out!

An English fish and chip shop at the Southend-on-Sea fun park has dished up the world's largest serve of chips.

Weighing at a cool 448kgs, it took staff at The Fish and Chip Shop nearly five hours to cut, fry and package up the chips in a huge replica of the traditional chip box.

"It was hot work," said spokeswoman Tracy Jones.

"We did it all from scratch [whereas] the previous record was done with frozen chips," she added, referring to the former world record holders who cooked up a 368.5kg portion in 2004.

With a policy of waste not want not, the shop sold the chips for a pound a cone, with all money to be donated to charity.

Local pigs also benefited, snaffling up the leftovers.

Not strangers to the world record, the fun park also holds the record for the most naked rollercoaster riders (102) and the longest lasting single dodgem car session (26hrs).

### NATURE not at work.

Plans by the German police to use the hunting skills of vultures instead of sniffer dogs have been labelled as a total disaster.

According to reports, the three birds, imported from Austria, were supposed to replace sniffer dogs finding dead bodies because of their extraordinary eyesight and sense of smell.

So far the birds have failed to find any of the test bodies left in the woods for them by police, with one refusing to fly and the other two too busy fighting to care.

"It seems they are rather cowardly birds - they would rather hide in the woods than be out and about in the open," said their trainer.