

## Fighting for independent pharmacy since 2002.

PHARMACY ALLIANCE GROUP  
Freedom to choose

### Duodopa approval

**DUODOPA** (levodopa/carbidopa) has been added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, for the management of advanced Parkinson's disease in adults with severe, disabling motor fluctuations (involuntary movements) not adequately controlled by oral therapy.

Duodopa is an intestinal gel and is used to control severe involuntary movements of advanced Parkinson's disease.

The drug works by increasing patients' dopamine levels, aiding them to gain better control over their movements and balance.

### TGA website update

**THE** scheduling homepage of the Therapeutic Goods Administration website has changed from [www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc](http://www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc) to [www.tga.gov.au/industry/scheduling.htm](http://www.tga.gov.au/industry/scheduling.htm).

The change is one of several results from the TGA's current website redevelopment which includes changes in the content and appearance of its scheduling web pages.

## Govt ignoring PBS forecasts

**THE** Federal Government is making policy decisions "without an evidence base", according to speakers at today's 8th Annual Future of the PBS Conference taking place in Sydney today.

Medicines Australia ceo Brendan Shaw said that if the govt had taken into account its own forecasts of modest PBS growth, it would have seen there was no need to block the listing of new PBS medicines.

"Treasury's own forward estimates contained in last year's Budget show that the PBS is only going to grow by 2.1 percent per annum in real terms over the next four years," he said.

Shaw cited a number of data sources including Medicare data, the most recent Intergenerational Report, the Treasury projections and a PricewaterhouseCoopers report commissioned by the govt last year as evidence that PBS growth was under control.

He also said that much of the debate about the PBS focused on its costs, rather than the benefits the scheme provides for the Australian community.

"There is little consideration that spending on new medicines generates savings in the health system, making peoples' lives better, and makes for a more productive, healthy and happy Australian community," he said.

Shaw added that it was ironic that despite the conference being titled the 'Future of the PBS,' "there's really no point trying to predict the future of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme at the moment."

"The recent Cabinet decisions are likely to cost the Government money in the long run," he warned.

### Cancer breakthrough

**AUSSIE** scientists at the Children's Cancer Institute Australia have discovered a new gene-silencing approach to targeting solid tumours in lung cancer which may offer a new treatment hope for sufferers.

The gene-silencing approach targets a structural protein in drug resistant lung cancer cells and increases the sensitivity of the tumour to standard chemo drugs.

Described as an "important piece of the puzzle" the discovery will be presented in the near future at the Australasian Gene Therapy Society meeting in Melbourne.

### A day of golf in the spirit of charitable giving



**THE** sun was shining, the competition was sizzling and there was goodwill in the air, as Symbion Hospital and Symbion Pharmacy Services staff and customers joined together at the Huntingdale Golf Club in Melbourne to raise funds for Ovarian Cancer Australia's patient support initiatives.

The annual Symbion Ambrose Golf Day saw around 70 people tee off on the day, and close to 100 attend the gala dinner that followed, together raising more than \$7,500

for Ovarian Cancer Australia.

Activities during the day included 'charity holes', whilst the gala dinner included a series of auctions.

"We were thrilled with the support we received from the industry as many companies were very generous in their donation of products and services for the auction," said organiser Leanne Etherson from Symbion.

"Without their help this donation to Ovarian Cancer Australia would not be possible," she added.

### WIN A U LITTLE BEAUTY PRIZE PACK



*Pharmacy Daily* has teamed up with U Little Beauty, and is giving away exciting prize packs every day this week.

U Little Beauty is a quintessentially Australian natural skincare range that delivers the goods – and looks great!

Every product is made and owned in Australia. Don't be fooled by this clever little Aussie whimsically named products – a bit of rough, butter me up, all washed up and skinny dip. This collection of natural skincare and body care is full of antioxidants, is SLS Free, Paraben Free, and Cruelty Free and is Vegan Certified.

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

**Where is U Little Beauty made and owned?**

Email your answer to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

The first correct entry received will win!

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

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: Caitlyn Adsett from Jadin Chemist Group.

**Our buying, marketing and retail offer assisted Orana Mall Pharmacy to the QCPP Pharmacy of the Year!**



**Call us to see how we can do the same for your business.**



Contact us today  
**Andrew Pattinson**  
[andrew@instigo.com.au](mailto:andrew@instigo.com.au)  
Phone: 02 9248 2600 [instigo.com.au](http://instigo.com.au)

## 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.

**DAYDREAM** Island Resort and Spa in the Whitsundays has extended its popular Stay 4, Pay for 3 deal for guests to book until 27 July, for travel until 31 July.

Priced from \$449 per person twin share the deal includes four nights' accommodation for the price of three with scrumptious buffet breakfast daily.

In addition, kids also stay and eat breakfast for free.

As a bonus offer, guests travelling on this deal and staying on Daydream up to 31 May 2011 will receive a free upgrade to the next available room type.

For details on the offer visit [www.daydreamisland.com](http://www.daydreamisland.com).

**BROOME** and The Kimberley Holidays has released 'The Favourite' travel package which includes 3 nights accommodation at Cable Beach Club Resort & Spa in a Garden View Studio room with full buffet breakfast daily and return Broome airport transfers - plus 2 complimentary day passes to the Members enclosure at the Broome Races.

The package is priced from \$549pp; for details visit [www.broomekimberley.com](http://www.broomekimberley.com).

**CREATIVE** Cruising is offering an eight night cruise/stay package exploring Asia onboard the *Superstar Virgo*, with the deal from just \$1,659pp.

The package includes one night pre-cruise accom and a seven night voyage.

For details call 1300 362 599.

**CRUISE**  
WEEKLY

Sponsored by Cruise Weekly  
your FREE cruise newsletter  
Subscribe now

[www.cruiseweekly.com.au](http://www.cruiseweekly.com.au)

## NZ pharmacy still struggles

**AUSTRALIAN** pharmacy should spare a thought for its colleagues on the south island of New Zealand, many of whom are still severely affected by the Christchurch earthquake in Feb.

According to the Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand only 77 out of the 92 pharmacies in Christchurch are currently operating at full capacity, with fifteen of the total still affected in some way.

Of those fifteen, four are closed, seven have had to relocate and four are at present co-locating with another pharmacy.

In addition to this the NZ Guild said that a further 52 premises are facing "a range of difficulties", with the list including water, power and sewage interruptions, reduced foot traffic and access difficulties due to road closures, parking restrictions, damaged roads and footpaths.

Moreover the Pharmacy Co-ordinator for the Canterbury Primary Earthquake Group, Karen Kennedy, said that above and beyond the 15 pharmacies affected, a number of others have been "yellow stickered", meaning they are operating out of structurally sound, but damaged

premises which will have to be vacated to make repairs.

To add extra pressure, the NZ Guild said that for some pharmacies across Christchurch, "generator back-up has become a must", because electricity supplier Orion has advised that they are expecting four or five outages during winter - each of which could last five hours.

"Community pharmacists are also trying to manage stock levels with changed delivery times, and populations, coming into their pharmacies," said Kennedy.

"They are coping with the damage or loss of their homes, their partners being made redundant, or losing their businesses," she added.

Patients throughout Christchurch are also still feeling the ill effects of the quake, with those left without their local pharmacy with the stress of having to locate a new one, and connect with a new pharmacist who has no background of their medical history and the medications they are taking.

"Community pharmacists are also concerned that depopulation will be taken into consideration when business interruption insurance is calculated," said Kennedy.

"This means pharmacists will not receive what they thought they would. As businesses are not able to insure against depopulation, this makes it very difficult for businesses to have adequate cover in these sorts of circumstances...this just adds to the worry," she added.

## FDA on OTC dispensing

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has recommended that dosage delivery devices should be included for all orally ingested OTC liquid drug products.

In a "final guidance" document for manufacturers released overnight, the FDA also said that devices should be calibrated with units of liquid measurement that are the same as those specified in the directions for the product.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**PHARMACY** cricketers please take note.

A cricket commentator at an English country match between Glamorgan and Somerset has come closer to the game than he may have wanted after a stray cricket ball smashed through the window of the commentary box.

Bruised and shaken, Edward Bevan was unable to continue his role for the remainder of the match, as he stumbled out of the glass strewn room.

Bevan told reporters it is, amazingly, the third time in his commentators life that he has had such an incident occur, but wasn't able to work out whether it was because the players were unimpressed with his performance.

"Apparently when the ball went through the window, he [the player] stood down and put his fist through the air as if to say 'I've been trying to do that for years and I've done it at last'," Bevan said.

**LEARN** early and stay safe.

The Aussie organisers of the world's largest driving lesson are aiming to promote the message that learning to drive early in life will save lives.

Set to be held in 11 different locations over the nation, the World's Largest Driving Lesson, is being marketed to teens with around 20 hours already logged in their driving log book.

"We know that about 1500 Australians die on the roads each year and we know that a very high percentage of them are people under the age of 25," organisers said.

"So we figure if we can get people learning earlier, the better way of doing things, then hopefully we'll be able to make a difference," the organisers added.

The one sure thing following the lesson is that there will be a rush of stressed instructors descending on pharmacies for headache remedies.