

SA medical certificate controversy

DOCTORS in South Australia have launched a campaign against the issuing of medical certificates by pharmacists.

An article published this week in *Adelaide Now* has called into question the advertising of medical certificate services by the state's pharmacies.

The article was critical of both the varying costs and levels of consultation provided by pharmacists from store to store; and also took aim at those that actively advertised the service via store signage saying they were "disregarding guidelines issued by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia last October".

Speaking on the subject, the South Australian State President of the Australian Medical Association, Dr Peter Sharley, told reporters that given the potential for misdiagnosis it was inappropriate and potentially dangerous for pharmacists to be giving out medical certificates.

"If someone comes in with a headache to a pharmacy they are not going to be examined properly," he claimed.

"Pharmacists are not trained to examine patients or diagnose people ... that falls into the 'I'm pretending to be a doctor category,'" he added.

Responding to the issue, Pharmacy Guild State President, Ian Todd, said that pharmacists were within their legal right to issue medical certificates and to let customers know of their services.

Generic product info change

PATIENTS are soon to enjoy greater access to generic medicines following the passing of legislation which ensures originators can no longer use copyright of product information to delay or prevent generics entering the market.

The Therapeutic Goods Legislation Amendment (Copyright) Bill 2011, is designed to curtail the practice of pharmaceutical companies arguing breaches in copyright over product information approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for generics because they are "essentially the same as the original".

According to the Department of Health, product information between two brands of the same medicine needs to be the same, to ensure appropriate use.

"Any difference in the text of product information used in relation to different brands of the same medicine could be

misinterpreted as reflecting differences between the brands where, in fact, none exists," said Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing Catherine King.

"These amendments will ensure that product information documents for medicines continue to be consistent across different brands of the equivalent medicine without this constituting a breach of any copyright," she added.

Pharmacy milestone

SYMBION'S Pharmacy Choice program is celebrating signing up its five hundredth Silver member.

Launched in 2007 the integrated retail support system has 700 members across three levels of membership: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

According to Pharmacy Choice, its program allows pharmacists to access assistance and support across all areas of pharmacy business including buying, category management, marketing, training and operations.

Dementia statistics

OVER half of all aged care residents suffer from dementia, according to the latest data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

The report, *Dementia among aged care residents: first information from the Aged Care Funding Instrument*, found that around 104,400 of 198,500 permanent residents assessed by the Aged Care Funding Instrument were diagnosed with dementia in 2008-09.

The level of care required by around 90% of aged care residents living with dementia was found to be "high", as opposed to 70% of other residents not suffering dementia.

Breakdowns of dementia types found that Alzheimer's disease was the most common, comprising 76% of dementia residents, followed by vascular dementia 10%, other dementia 8%, dementia in other diseases 4% and mixed dementia 2%.

"Dementia is the leading cause of disease burden in Australians aged 75 years and over," said Brent Diverty of the AIHW's Continuing and Specialised Care Group.

Fluzone approval

SANOFI Pasteur has been granted supplemental biologics licensing approval by the US Food and Drug Regulatory agency for its Fluzone Intradermal (Influenza Virus Vaccine).

Fluzone is the first influenza vaccine licensed in the U.S. that uses a novel microinjection system for intradermal delivery.

As such, the vaccine features an ultra-fine needle that is 90% percent shorter than typical needles used for the intramuscular injection of influenza vaccines.

WIN TASTY TREATS FROM SLIM SECRETS



This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win great packs of tasty treats from award winning, globally exported **Slim Secrets**.

Slim Secrets are the convenient and tasty treats to compliment your health, fitness and weight

loss goals. Each pack is valued at \$50 and contains one carton of 10 Protein Shots and one carton of 12 Designer Cookies.

Slim Secrets Protein Shots are packed with 14.5g whey protein, lower than a bench press in fat, naturally sweetened with stevia and less than 65 calories. Just add water or milk, shake to your favourite tune on your ipod and voila... your protein is served!

Designer Cookies are a great snack for between meals when you are craving something sweet but want a healthier alternative.

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

How many calories does each of the Protein Shots contain?

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

Hint: Visit www.slimsecrets.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: **Melissa Hooper** from **Manrex Pty Ltd, NSW**.

**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
Phone: 02 9248 2600 instigo.com.au

Women on top of care

WOMEN are more proactive than their male counterparts at seeking medical help and booking regular dental check-ups, according to a new study published in the *Journal of Periodontology*.

Published last month, the study looked at the answers of over 800 participants aged between 18-19, as well as results from oral examinations and found that, in general, young women had better periodontal health than men.

In addition women were twice as likely to have scheduled a dental check-up in the past 12 months than men, and had a greater understanding of what oral health entails.

Other findings of the study included that women were 26% more likely than males to floss daily.

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.

18 May: First Aid Training; Pharmacy Guild, Geelong, Victoria; for details call - 03 9810 9988.

20-22 May: PSA South Australia Autumn Weekend, Majestic Roof Garden Hotel psa.org.au.

21, 22, 28 May, 04 Jun: FOCUS on gastrointestinal conditions in pharmacy - Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane. All sessions now full - psa.org.au.

08-10 Jun: ConPharm 2011 in Darwin - see aacp.com.au.

17-19 Jun: Pharmacy Expo, Darling Harbour Sydney - details pharmacyexpo.com.au.

29 Jun-02 Jul: 9th International Conference on Life Long Learning in Pharmacy, Rotorua NZ - www.illpharm.com.

06-09 Oct: PAC11, Melbourne Convention Centre pac11.com.au

Board compounding plan

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia is set to develop a guideline for compounding pharmacists.

A working party has been established to review legislation, standards and relevant information on compounding in the initial stages of the project.

Details of the plan were revealed today in an update on the board's website detailing its most recent meeting on 29 Apr.

Also under discussion at the meeting was a range of initiatives to streamline pharmacist registration, with proposals to be developed over coming months including systems for graduates seeking provisional registration,

interns seeking general registration and renewals.

The board also reminded stakeholders that the closing date for submissions on its consultation paper about changing the list of required references is Fri 27 May - see pharmacyboard.gov.au.

TGA workshops

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration will hold a second round of workshops on its new "streamlined submission process" for prescription medicines.

A session will take place in Brisbane on 01 June, Melbourne on 06 June and 08 June in Sydney.

The new process is currently in the midst of a 12 month 'transition' phase which commenced 01 Nov, with the TGA saying that it had already received 171 submissions for "pre-submission assessment" under the new process.

To register see www.arcs.com.au.

Non compliant contact

A LARGE portion of soft contact lens wearers do not comply with the steps involved in their wear and care, according to a study set to be published in the *Journal of the British Contact Lens Association*.

The study looked at data from two online surveys of around 1400 contact lens wearers, and found that a number of steps were skipped in the care/wear process including hand washing, case hygiene, lens disinfection, and following a lens replacement schedule.

Co-author of the study, Sheila Hickson-Curran, said the results were worrying because "Each step of non-compliance that results in no ill effects only reinforces poor behavior because nothing bad happens."

"By not following instructions on proper wear and care, contact lens wearers are more likely to experience discomfort and may put themselves at greater risk for infection or other serious complications, such as microbial keratitis," she added.

DISPENSARY CORNER

WHAT'S 24 hours between friends?

The independent Pacific Island State of Samoa has made the unusual decision to change its time zone, so that it falls in line with the Australian and New Zealand calendar days.

The move, according to reports, is designed to boost Samoa's business ties with Australia, with the Samoan prime minister Tuila'epa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi, saying that at present the Island loses two days trade with Australia per week by being in the eastern side of the date line.

He said the move will also be good for tourism, with visitors able to have two birthdays or wedding anniversaries.

RICH as termites?

A group of greedy termites has guzzled through 10 million rupees stored inside a steel chest at a bank in the Indian city of Barabanki.

The tenacious termites were discovered doing the dastardly deed by a bank employee who during the course of his week opened up the chest to discover it was lighter and its resident termites were heavier.

The termite robbery occurred not long after the bank had dealt with a team of termites who guzzled their way through several items of furniture and a series of documents.

IT'S just moisturiser, honestly!

Australian cricketing legend, and gossip column favourite, Shane Warne, has fended off accusations of Botox use, saying that his youthful appearance was due to his skin care routine.

"New Estée Lauder moisturisers for my skin have made a big difference," he Tweeted.

It's unclear whether Warnie's Estée Lauder claims have sent Aussie blokes into moisturiser buying frenzies (a la Kylie Minogue and Pond's Cold Cream).