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Paediatric NSAIDs

THE TGA is moving to gazette changes to the 'Required Advisory Statements for Medicine Labels' for labelling of NSAID products used by infants and children.

The changes include the stipulation that labels must read "Ask your doctor or pharmacist before use of the medicine in children suffering dehydration through diarrhoea and/or vomiting".

The statement will appear on all non-prescription NSAIDs with dosage advice for infants and kids.

"This has always been a critically important counselling issue for patient safety, which even health professionals overlook at times, but it is well established that taking NSAIDs whilst fluid-depleted from any cause even for a short period can lead to compromised kidney function and even acute renal failure," said Pharmacy and Drug Information Consultant, Ron Batagol.

Mental health pharmacists

PHARMACISTS can and should play an important role in mental health, according to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

Last year around 29m prescriptions were dispensed for mental health medications, a figure which the PSA says brings to the forefront the fact that pharmacists are on the frontline of one of the most significant health issues in Australia.

"Last week was Mental Health Week which focused attention on the issue but pharmacists deal with patients suffering from mental health conditions 365 days a year," said PSA President, Grant Kardachi.

At present the PSA is developing a Framework for Pharmacists as Members of the Mental Health

Team which will provide pharmacists with more skills and will up their level of involvement with mental health illness.

"The PSA is committed to seeing that these consumers get the best possible care and attention they can when talking to pharmacists, and that pharmacists have the resources and knowledge on hand to ensure that the patient is appropriately treated and referred to the appropriate health professionals as necessary," said PSA Vice President Claire O'Reilly.

In the meantime, the PSA is encouraging pharmacists to make use of its current 5CPA programs such as the Primary Health Care and Working with Others initiatives, as well as its Mental Health First Aid Course.

"At the moment, with the myriad of new facilities and strategies being put in place, there is the potential for confusion as to where sufferers should be directed for further assistance, and what services and support are available and where," Kardachi said.

Symbion rebranding

SYMBION Pharmacy Services is rebranding its business name to Symbion, to build on expansion opportunities that are not limited to pharmacy.

The rebranding follows the company's acquisition of the veterinary wholesaler Lyppard.

"Changing our corporate company name to Symbion is a subtle but important change which reflects the plans we have for the future," said Patrick Davies, Symbion CEO.

"Symbion Pharmacy Services will continue to be a division of the company and this name will still be used for appropriate pharmacy activities, however in most instances the branding will change to Symbion," he added.

The new company name is effective immediately, whilst the new branding will roll out across the business during October.

The future of pharmacy

THE Pharmacist Coalition for Health Reform has outlined its vision for the future, saying it sees Australian pharmacists working in healthcare teams to provide integrated care for patients in GP practices, clinics, hospitals, rehabilitation centres and community health centres.

The vision, described by PCHR spokesperson Liesel Wett, also included pharmacists providing follow up support for patients leaving hospital; working in and through Medicare Locals; and working closely with aged care facilities to support residents.

The vision also sees the provision of funding for pharmacists to consult in-pharmacy with patients or during home visits, to review, monitor and educate them about medicines.

Take responsibility

ENGLAND'S newest obesity strategy centres around the importance of personal responsibility, with the UK government saying people need to be honest with themselves about the type and amount of food and drink they consume.

The strategy has been called into question by some, after the govt rejected calls for a "fat tax".

The new strategy will also see councils encouraged to implement physical activity programs.

PD competition winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Maria Lloyd of Care Pharmaceuticals who was the lucky winner of last Friday's A'chemy competition.

new

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WIN AN AUSTRALIS LIPGLOSS PACK

Each day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers the chance to win a pack filled with Mint Condition Lipgloss valued at \$35.80, courtesy of **Australis**.

Each pack includes four Mint Condition Lipglosses:
x1 Happily Ever Laughter, x1 Malice in Wonderpink,
x1 Freely Innocent and x1 An Evening With.

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To win, simply be the first person to send the correct answer to the following question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What is the flavour of the lipglosses?



Weekly Comment

Welcome to *Pharmacy Daily's* weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Clint Dowdell**, **HiLife Health and Beauty's** skincare and beauty expert.



The skinny on meal replacements

There's a lot of speculation over whether replacing meals is "healthy" and what is the best way to go about losing weight.

With so much information out there it's hard to know what to recommend.

Is losing weight too fast bad for you and will you just put the weight back on?

Sometimes, yes.

Most of the products on the market have not offered a full support program, including meal plans, training guides and even a on call sports scientist to answer all your weight loss queries.

Enter Rapid Loss: this revolutionary "fullness" shake combined with support program was put together by Ray Kelly, a Sports Physiologist who worked on such shows as *The Biggest Loser*, and is changing, sometimes saving, lives with the dramatic weight loss achieved.

The program doesn't teach you to make unhealthy choices or swap every meal with a shake.

Instead it supports knowledge of the right foods you to eat while succeeding in weight loss by substituting a maximum of two meals or snacks with Rapid Loss.

The key is teaching people how to behave after they lose the weight.

This summer recommend a program that offers success, health and support to everyone looking to achieve their weight loss goals and gain a customer for life.

Leave the PBS alone - Cross

ALPHAPHARM ceo Martin Cross has urged the government to "stop continually reforming the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme" in order to allow the growth and prosperity of the Australian medicines industry.

In an opinion piece in today's *Financial Review*, Cross argues that the pharmaceutical sector has been the leading Australian manufacturing export industry over the last three years, employing over 14,000 people and contributing \$4 billion to the trade balance.

"Despite this growth potential, the Australian medicines industry faces the threat of demise," he said.

"Through the PBS, the government is the largest buyer of medicines... but its overly zealous cost-cutting, with scant regard for the value for money delivered by the PBS, threatens the viability of what is arguably the world's best medicines reimbursement scheme".

He contrasted the government's "neglect" of the medicines industry with the approach in Singapore, where officials have offered a range of initiatives to attract foreign

investment and nurture the sector.

This has seen pharmaceutical jobs in Singapore double, along with a tripling of manufacturing output.

Cross said that the rigorous approval process for PBS listings makes it the "most cost effective part of the whole health system," with the savings boosted by the absence of CPI increases to the prices of medicines along with generic competition.

"Policymakers may assume that the industry will stick around, but the medicines industry - especially the generics sector - has little incentive to do so," he concluded.

Pharmacy E-Bulletin

THIS week's edition of the Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy E-Bulletin deals with drug toxicity and Gilbert's syndrome, which is a hereditary condition caused by impaired hepatic bilirubin clearance.

The bulletin is now available for viewing and download at no charge from our the new look **Pharmacy Daily** website - [click here](http://pharmacydaily.com.au/ebulletin) or see pharmacydaily.com.au/ebulletin.

Pharmacy teacher accredited with NSW first



COMMUNITY

Pharmacy Teacher at the Coffs Harbour TAFE campus, Linda Johnson, has become the first vocational teacher in NSW to be approved as a Right Way Trainer and Assessor.

An initiative of the government-backed Service Skills Australia, the Right Way program focuses on quality training and assessment facilities; quality trainers and assessors and quality learning resources.

"Participants in this industry recognition system must adhere to standards and provide evidence of quality through an application and assessment process operated by SSA," said Johnson.

Speaking in the wake of Linda's accreditation, TAFE Head Teacher, Trish Field said "Linda puts a huge effort into maintaining and developing a very high standard of Community Pharmacy Training for our students, as well as their employer pharmacies.

"Linda has been instrumental in providing professional development opportunities for our local pharmacies," she added.

Pictured above is Linda Johnson (*right*) with her student Debbie Linden.

DISPENSARY CORNER

MOTHER nature redresses balance.

A croc-out-of-water tale of friendship between a Costa Rican five-metre crocodile called Poncho and his owner Gilberto Sheedan, has ended after 17 years, with the crocodile passing away peacefully at the ripe old age of 50.

Poncho was picked up by Gilberto 17 years ago, on the side of the Parismina river, close to death after having been shot in the eye and left to die.

Rather than leaving the suffering fully-grown croc, the warm hearted Gilberto popped him in his truck and took him home.

Over the next few months Gilberto nursed the dinosaur back to health, even at times sleeping in the same bed to ensure he was okay.

For his efforts, not only did Gilberto gain a life-long friend, but he claims to have 'domesticated' Poncho, and was able to put on shows with his pet which saw the croc perform tricks on command such as winking his good eye, lifting his head and tail out of the water and rolling over and allowing Gilberto to stick his head inside his powerful jaws.

NEW meaning to having a head like a melon.

A Russian artist, Dimitri Tsykalov, is surprising the art world with his human skull creations.

Fashioned out of fruit using surgery favourites including axes, saws, electrical drills, scalpels, pincers and cotton wool pads, the skulls are disturbingly lifelike, and following completion are left to rot as part of the 'art'.



An apple a day keeps the artist in pay.