

Pharmacy DAILY

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

Renal Masterclass

Event details:
Parramatta, Saturday
29 October, 1.30–6.30pm
9 Group 2 CPD credits

Register at:
www.psa.org.au
or call 02 9431 1100

Tuesday 27 Sep 2011

PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

Nude PD winners

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of last week's Nude by Nature competition: Rebecca Hill, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia; Angela Southam, Apotex, NSW; and Grace Bronowska of Chemmart Pharmacy in Victoria.

WIN A BOTANI SKIN CARE PACK



PD has teamed up with Botani this week and is giving five lucky

readers the chance to win a Botani Smart Travel Hydration Pack, valued at \$65.

The prize includes three luxurious face products: an Olive Skin Serum, a Healing Lip Balm and a Soothing Facial Mist.

To win this fabulous skin care pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Name two natural, olive derived ingredients found in the Botani Healing Lip Balm

Hint: Visit www.botani.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Catherine O'Sullivan of Pharmore Pharmacies, VIC.

Location rules revamped

HEALTH Minister Nicola Roxon this morning announced major changes to the pharmacy location rules, to make the system "fairer and more transparent" effective 18 October.

The changes, which have been put in place following an independent review of the rules last year, in particular will help with the establishment of new pharmacies in areas of demonstrated community need.

"Under these amendments, an existing pharmacy approval is no longer required before a new pharmacy can be established in facilities such as shopping centres, large medical centres and private hospitals - or in towns where there is only one pharmacy," she said.

Roxon confirmed that a range of industry organisations had been consulted about the changes, including the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

"The changes will more closely align the rules with the Australian government's national health reforms," she said, with the new rules claimed to be easier to interpret, along with a simpler test for determining that there are a sufficient number of people who would use a new pharmacy.

There's a revised Applicants Handbook which outlines the new arrangements, which convert five relocation rules to new approval rules - meaning existing pharmacy approvals are no longer required before a pharmacy is established in 'facilities' and one pharmacy towns.

The Short Distance, Long Distance

and Relocation to Urban Locality location rules have been abolished because they are "confusing, rarely used or have served their purpose".

The Large Medical Centre rule has been amended to "better reflect the need for pharmacy services in emerging health care delivery models," while the PhARIA measure of remoteness is no longer required to be used.

Applications for new pharmacies will continue to be lodged via Medicare, with a new form available on medicare.gov.au.

For more information see *Pharmacy Daily's* Pharmacy Guild column on p2; full details of the revisions are online at www.health.gov.au/ACPA.

Older fracture risks

WOMEN who break a hip between the ages of 65 and 69 are five times more likely to die within a year than women of the same age who don't break a hip, according to new study published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine*.

The research is part of the Study of Osteoporotic Fractures which has been in motion for more than 20 years, and involves around 10,000 women.

Additional findings in the report include that for women ages 70-79, a hip fracture doubles the risk of dying within a year; whilst for the majority of women aged 80 and upwards the risk of dying within a year is the same whether they fracture their hip or not.

DonateLife grants

THE Department of Health has announced \$300,000 in grants up for grabs to support community-based activities during DonateLife Week (19–26 Feb 2012).

Applications close 26 Oct 2011, see www.health.gov.au.

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Guild Update

This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild Changes to Pharmacy Location Rules

Changes to the rules governing the location of pharmacies in Australia will preserve a network of community pharmacies in appropriate sites across Australia.

The changes, to come into effect from 18 Oct this year, will update the rules in a way that will make them more transparent and effective.

They have been agreed by both the Department of Health and Ageing and the Pharmacy Guild.

The Pharmacy Location Rules are in place to regulate the distribution of pharmacies, and to ensure Australia has a well distributed, sustainable and accessible pharmacy network.

Under the amendments, an existing pharmacy PBS approval is no longer required before a new pharmacy can be established in facilities such as shopping centres, large medical centres and private hospitals—or in towns where there is only one pharmacy.

In relation to towns where there is only one pharmacy, this means a proposed additional pharmacy which meets all other criteria for approval, may be approved without the need to relocate an existing approval number.

The changes also include streamlining some of the previous rules, as well as simplifying the test for determining that there are a sufficient number of people who would use a new pharmacy.

The National President of the Guild, Kos Slavos, said the Guild supported the changes in the interests of the long term sustainability of what is widely regarded as the world's best practice community pharmacy model.

More details of the changes can be found at www.health.gov.au/ACPA

A Q&A document on the changes can also be found on the Guild website at www.guild.org.au under News and Events.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Questions over Blackmores

PHARMACISTS' union APESMA has struck out at the new Companions Range launched by Blackmores last week (*PD* 22 Sep), saying the move may put pharmacists in violation of the Health Professionals Registration legislation.

The point of contention in the legislation, according to APESMA, arises because of a protection in the law "that an employee pharmacist cannot be directed by the owner to be involved in any unprofessional conduct, which would include pressuring the public to buy vitamins they may not need".

This protection comes into conflict with the GuildCare professional service software prompt which appears when patients fill a script for a particular medicine suitable for the Companion's range, APESMA said.

"We are deeply concerned that pharmacists are increasingly being asked to put their expertise and professional ethics aside by pharmacy owners more interested in making money than doing what is in the best interests of the individual patient," APESMA's CEO Chris Walton said.

"No pharmacist should be forced to recommend products without an individual diagnosis being performed and without a clear body of scientific research demonstrating the benefits for the individual patient," Walton added.

The pharmacists' union also struck out at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia for its support of the

products saying the Guild was "clearly more interested in profit than patients".

"We urge all pharmacists to continue to put their patients first," the statement added.

The Pharmacy Guild has however hit back at these claims saying "Unfortunately, APESMA is again engaging in ill-informed scaremongering".

"There is no 'new deal which requires pharmacists to market' any product [and] there is not and never would be any direction from the Guild for pharmacists to be involved in unprofessional conduct".

Clarifying its position the Guild said that each product carries the Gold Cross logo, and that there is no compulsion whatsoever for pharmacists to sell the range.

"There is absolutely no suspension of pharmacists' professional standards or ethics in relation to this matter."

In terms of the GuildCare prompt, the Guild said that it is "simply systemising something that happens in pharmacies all over Australia every day".

"Doctors, pharmacists and other health professionals make recommendations for these type of products every day.

"This is a legitimate, new approach to marketing of well established products – products which over the years have been frequently suggested and recommended by prescribing doctors," the Guild added.



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DISPENSARY CORNER

SPARE fingers.

A seven-year old French boy digging for treasure, found a jar with four fingers instead.

The boy unearthed the jar near his school gymnasium, after seeing it sticking out of the ground, and found the partially decomposed fingers preserved in alcohol.

Clutching his macabre find, the boy raced home to tell his father who then alerted police.

A few days into the investigation and media reportage the police received a call from the grandson of a carpenter who used to live near the school gym but had since moved out of town.

According to the grandson, the carpenter lost four fingers in an unfortunate accident, and because doctors were unable to reattach them, he put them in alcohol and buried them near his home.

TOO much salt?

The creator of Doritos, Arch West, has been buried with corn chips after passing away at the ripe old age of 97.

West discovered fried tortilla chips whilst on a family holiday in San Diego in 1961.

After getting somewhat unenthusiastic responses to the idea from his employer Frito-Lay, the marketing executive pressed on with research which proved there would be a market for cheesy tortilla chips.

The result was the launch of Doritos shortly after.

West's family laid the chip-genius to rest this month, throwing Doritos on top of his urn before dirt was shoveled in, leaving the man and his chips to rest in peace.

IT'S a bird! It's a plane! No it's Jebb.

US thrillseeker Jebb Corliss turned heads as he flew through the sky in a wingsuit at 75mph before navigating through an opening in Tianmen mountain, China.

"Thank you China, that was amazing," he said after his death defying stunt.