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Chemist Warehouse reacts to controversy

THE ongoing furore over the new Guild-endorsed Blackmores range is continuing today, with Chemist Warehouse outlets across the country displaying large signs (pictured below) firmly distancing them from the move.



Our Pharmacists' Recommendations are **NOT FOR SALE**

Chemist Warehouse will **NOT** participate in the Pharmacy Guild's Blackmores Endorsement program.

Chemist Warehouse will **NEVER** instruct our staff to automatically recommend a complementary product with your prescription.

CHEMIST WAREHOUSE PHARMACISTS PROFESSIONALS PRACTICING PROFESSIONALLY

National bone health

ALMOST one in three Australian adults live with brittle bones, according to the Geelong Osteoporosis Study, published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

Speaking about the study results Osteoporosis Australia said the findings "demonstrate the magnitude of Australians living with osteoporosis and its potential precursor, osteopaenia.

In terms of education about the condition, Osteoporosis Australia said that public awareness of the risk factors for brittle bones was "inadequate".

Govt deferrals backdown

HEALTH minister Nicola Roxon today announced that a range of medicines recommended for PBS listing last November will finally be subsidised from 01 Dec this year.

It's part of a new agreement with Medicines Australia (MA), the Consumers Health Forum (CHF) and the Generic Medicines Industry Association (GMiA) which will see the govt consult on "ways to manage deferrals into the future".

The govt has committed to not defer any drugs that cost under \$10 million a year for the coming 12 months "while it works with all parties to achieve longer-term PBS sustainability".

Price increases recommended by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority in December will also be implemented under the deal.

However Pradaxa (dabigatran) for stroke patients will not be subsidised at this stage, with Roxon instead commissioning former PBAC chairman Lloyd Sansom to "inform the Government on options for improving the health outcomes of patients treated with anticoagulation therapies".

Medicines Australia welcomed the agreement, but said there was still an issue with the deferral of new medicines that had been recommended by the PBAC - a position also backed by the GMiA which said "it is poor public policy to indefinitely defer PBS listing of medicines that have been found to be highly cost-effective."

GMiA said the agreement had also seen the parties commit to

enter discussions with the government concerning savings.

And the deal saw the industry agree to legislative changes "to complete price disclosure reforms, which will help to end anomalies in the current pricing system".

These include capturing medicines that do not have a unique price for a brand i.e. non-proportional pricing for different pack sizes.

Meetings with MA, GMiA and the CHF will occur throughout Nov and Dec, with a paper to be provided to the government by 12 Dec 2011.

A longer term consultation process will also look at savings and other measures which could be pursued when the current Memorandum of Understanding expires in 2014.

FDA slams CSL

AN audit of Australian vaccine manufacturer CSL, by the US Food and Drug Administration, has found that the company conducted "inadequate" investigations into the root cause of dark particles in its multi-dose swine and seasonal flu vaccines in 2009.

The FDA was also unhappy with some "objectionable conditions and practices", citing instances where lab staff were found without hygiene masks whilst mixing and dispensing vaccines, as well as deficient testing processes for vaccines to prevent side effects.

According to CSL the allegations and issues are currently being, or have already been, resolved.

Clinical pharmacy leader

PHARMACIST Toni Riley has been appointed to the 15-member National Lead Clinicians Group (NLCP), a new body which aims to improve clinical engagement in Australia.

The funding for the Group was announced by the Department of Health in May last year, with the Group tasked to provide the Minister for Health and Ageing with advice on the prioritisation of the development and implementation of national clinical standards and guidelines, to maximise the health outcomes for patients.

The Group will also provide advice on opportunities to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of the Australian health system and clinical matters; and will provide a multidisciplinary forum for clinicians to collaborate with informed consumers and raise issues with regards to health service delivery.

Welcoming the establishment of the NLCP the PSA said it believed the Group was structured to ensure that the collaborative care model was not only strengthened, but was underpinned by practising professionals.

"It is very rewarding to see a pharmacist has been included on the National Lead Clinicians Group, especially given that not all health professions could be represented," said National President of the PSA, Grant Kardachi.

Guild President Kos Sclavos said the appointment was "a vote of confidence in the role of community pharmacists in working with patients and other health care professionals".

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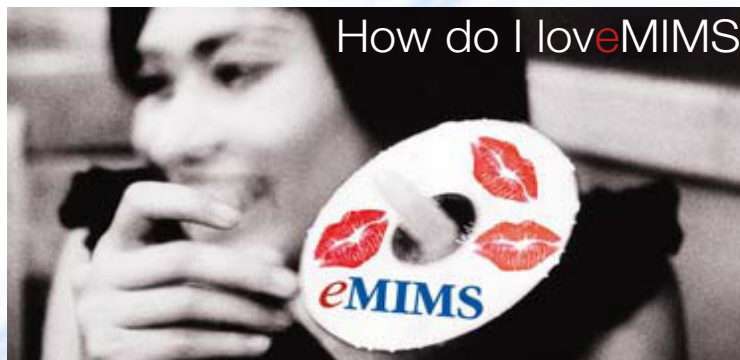


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Industry Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* Pharmacy Industry Calendar, featuring upcoming events as well as opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an event you'd like us to feature, email the details to info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

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

13-15 Oct: Pharmacy Assistant National Conference, Gold Coast - pharmacyassistants.com.au

16 Oct: First Aid Certificate Course and CPR Re-accreditation; PSAQ, Level Three, Woolloongabba, QLD; call 07 3896 1900 for more information.

22 Oct: Workshop - Medication Management Review Stage 1; Pharmacy House, St Leonards, NSW; call 02 9431 1125 for more information.

23 Oct: Clinical Interventions In Pharmacy - ACT; PSA National Office, Pharmacy House, Deakin, ACT; visit www.psa.org.au.

Prostate testing push

THE Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia is pressing for a framework of widely endorsed guidelines for the detection of early prostate cancer, saying there are "substantial concerns that the existing unorganised use of PSA testing can potentially cause men more harm than good".

eHealth draft out

HEALTH minister Nicola Roxon has today released the draft eHealth records legislation for public consultation.

The bill outlines the process by which consumers, health care workers and data storage locations will register to be part of the electronic health system.

Penalties of up to \$66,000 for records being inappropriately accessed will apply, and the system will be proactively monitored to detect in appropriate behaviour.

See www.yourhealth.gov.au.

Reviewing Medicines code

MEDICINES Australia is reviewing its Code of Conduct, which sets the standard for companies when engaged in the promotion of prescription products.

"The great strength of the Code over 50 years has been its careful ongoing evolution conducted in consultation with stakeholders and the wider community," said Medicines Australia chief executive Dr Brendan Shaw.

Reviews are carried out on the Code every three years, to ensure public confidence in the relationships between pharmaceutical companies and doctors by making sure that the Code reflects current community sentiment.

The panel chosen to review the existing Code and to draft a new one will be chaired by Medicines Australia Board member Jim Cain.

It is expected that the process will take around 12 months.

As part of the review Medicines

Australia is now calling on health stakeholders, healthcare professionals and members of the public to make a submission, saying the next edition of the Code will be informed by those submissions.

The closing date for submissions is Friday 4 November 2011, and Australians will have further opportunities to comment on the redrafted Code before it is submitted to the ACCC.

To submit a comment **CLICK HERE**.

Contraception questions

WOMEN who take an emergency contraceptive pill five days after unprotected intercourse are six times more likely to fall pregnant than those who take the pill within 24 hours, according to a study published in *Contraception*.

The study found that although emergency contraception is often considered effective for five days after intercourse, it is in fact only really effective for 96 hours.

DISPENSARY CORNER

COLOURFUL E. coli.

Scientists claim to have genetically modified *E. coli* bacteria to create "invisible ink".

Published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, the researchers modified the bacteria so that it glowed and was able to express seven colours.

The colours then led to enabled scientists to code the alphabet, the numbers 1-9 and some symbols into the bacteria.

According to the researchers secretive people will, using this technology, be able to code a message into bacteria, grow it in a "broth", place it onto a white "membrane" similar to paper, then send their message.

The recipient will be able to read the message after stamping it onto a bacteria growth plate and translating the colours into words, numbers and symbols.

As an added security measure, only the recipient's growth plate will contain the right chemicals to develop the bacteria, and if the membrane is intercepted and grown into a message using the wrong chemicals, the message will be gibberish.

IS the world of nature and science getting smaller?

In his keynote address at the World Conference on Marine Biodiversity, Associate Professor Mark Costello from The University of Auckland, told delegates that there are just two million species on earth, far fewer than previously thought.

The statement is based on the description of marine, terrestrial and freshwater species recorded in the World Register of Marine Species and Catalogue of Life databases.

According to the research around 16 percent of the world's species are marine, with only 24 to 31 percent of earth's marine species, and 21 to 29 percent of terrestrial species, yet to be discovered.

WIN A BOTANI SKIN CARE PACK



Pharmacy Daily 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.

Travelling is no excuse for neglecting your skin. This simple, three step, petrochemical free treatment will

protect, hydrate and repair your skin while you travel, so you can arrive at your destination with a healthy glow. Ideal for men and women, the pack works to optimise skin hydration and reduce damage caused by the effects of air travel and sudden changes in climatic conditions.

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

Who founded Botani Australia and what was their professional background?

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

Hint: Visit www.botani.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Elizabeth Treble** from **Plunketts**, NSW.