



WIN A HYDRALYTE SPORTS PACK



Every day this week **PD** is giving one reader the chance to win a **Hydralyte Sports** prize pack.

Each pack includes Hydralyte Sports 5-pack, Hydralyte Sports 12-pack and a waterbottle.

Hydralyte Sports is a clinical rehydration and electrolyte replacement solution. It is low in sugar, and contains key electrolytes and trace elements lost in sweat.

To win this great prize pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

True or False? Hydralyte Sports comes in a 600ml sachet

AUSTRALIAN pharmacies could be looking down the barrel of a national pharmacy audit, if APESMA has its way.

The pharmacist union has written to the Fair Work Ombudsman requesting a national audit of pharmacies in order to identify and rectify issues of non-compliance with employment laws, including underpayment.

The move follows an audit in Queensland which found 44.3% of audited pharmacies were not complying with employment laws.

"Unfortunately this problem is not confined to Queensland," Chris Walton, CEO of APESMA said.

"We believe a national audit would reveal a similar or even worse picture if it were conducted right now", he added, saying that most pharmacists were reluctant to raise concerns about their treatment at work, and instead "tend to just get on with their jobs".

"Many others are too frightened to speak out," he added.

"That's why we need a comprehensive national audit to make sure these issues are identified and every pharmacist

We are an independent global biopharmaceutical company, leading innovation within the field of prescription generics

Synthon



gets paid properly.

Calls for pharmacy audit

"Can you imagine the outcry if 44.3% of nurses were being illegally underpaid, or 44.3% of teachers or 44.3% of the police force?," Walton said.

"Pharmacists perform a vital community service equal to any of these occupations but their mistreatment is too readily ignored," he added.

Orencia on the PBS

A NEW formulation of Orencia (abatacept), which can be self injected by patients (in combination with methotrexate) for the treatment of moderate to severe active rheumatoid arthritis (RA), is now available on the Pharmaceutical belefits Scheme.

The drug is indicated for use in adult patients who have had an insufficient response or intolerance to other disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs, such as methotrexate or tumour necrosis factor blocking agents.

Orencia is the only treatment for RA available in Australia in both a self-injectable and intravenous form.

www.pharmacychoice.com.au

Pharmacy Choice 5 steps to a better retail pharmacy Click here to take the first step

Lung disease seminar

THE University of Western Australia, in collaboration with the Raspitory Health Network, is hosting a Chronic Lung Disease and Smoking Cessation Seminar on 28 April.

Featuring presentations on lung cancers, COPD, pulmonary rehabilitation and smoking cessation techniques by local and international experts, the event is designed to provide insight into the management of patients with chronic smoking-related lung conditions from a range of perspectives, see www.medpharm.uwa.edu.au/cpd/ program for details.

Eli Lilly's olanzapine

ELI Lilly has announced plans to manufacture an authorised generic olanzapine in the wake of the expiry of its Australian patent for Zyprexa tablets and Zyprexa Zydis wafers last month.

The generic will be available in tablet formulation (Lanzek) and wafer formulation (Lanzek Zydis), with both being identical in content and formulation, and made in the same factories, as Zyprexa and Zyprexa Zydis respectively.



SYMPOSIUM STREAMS

For safer use of medicines
In an ever changing health system
Enabled by new technologies
Through valuing the consumer experience
By putting policy into practice

For more information go to **www.nps.org.au/nms2012**

24-25 MAY 2012 SYDNEY CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE





Generic pricing getting you down?

Click here for immediate relief.

A welcome drug price drop

PHARMACY ALLIANCE Freedom to choose

Weekly Comment

Welcome to *Pharmacy Daily's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is Anthony White, CEO of Terry White Chemists

Pharmacy as we know and love it is a vital cog in the wheel of the good health of our nation.

Strong relationships between a pharmacist and the local community underpin success and

lead to improved health outcomes. Community pharmacy is a relatively high cost model built on skinny margins and subsidised dispensary dealings, and changes to the PBS now

serve to compound the challenges. Yet the valuable health solutions community pharmacy provides are worth fighting for, and as an industry we all have a role to play in ensuring its growth.

To this end, we are set to unveil our new Neighbourhood format – an incentivised alternative entry point to the Terry White Chemists brand for smaller pharmacies.

It follows the successful completion of twelve months trade by our trial store which doubled its sales during that period.

The Neighbourhood format emphasises strong local ties, allows pharmacies to tailor their offer to suit their own community, upholds community pharmacy values and promotes health as a priority.

If the industry can deliver enhanced opportunities for small community chemists we all stand to gain.

By improving much-needed access to high quality advice and services we ensure the wheels of pharmacy continue to turn in a way which promotes the good health of our nation. THE latest round of price cuts for off patent medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, which came into effect yesterday, have been welcomed by Medicines Australia, which said that there should be more such reductions in the future as more drugs go offpatent and become subject to price disclosure.

The price cuts mean that as of 01 April, 74 commonly used off-patent medicines on the PBS have had their price reduced by between 10% and 82%.

"These types of price reductions which capitalise on market competition provide the Government with the financial headroom to list new medicines whilst ensuring the PBS remains sustainable in the future," said Medicines Australia, Chief

Executive, Dr Brendan Shaw. Shaw also said that the system of mandatory price reduction will drive savings through a competitive off patent market.

"The system requires manufacturers to disclose the actual price at which they are selling medicines in the market, allowing Government to adjust the price it pays.

"These are enormous savings but effectively they will mean a better deal for taxpayers and a more sustainable PBS," he said.

According to Shaw, these savings will continue as more drugs come off-patent and are subject to price disclosure, which will put further downward pressure on growth and negate the argument for further reform.

Whilst welcoming the change, Shaw did spare a thought for companies taking "substantial cuts", saying that "it is important to note that these price reductions will cause significant commercial difficulty for many of the companies".

"Some companies have taken price cuts of more than 70 per cent for a single medicine, and absorbing reductions of that magnitude is obviously challenging," he said.

"But the MoU will ensure a stable business environment for manufacturers because it carries a Government commitment that industry will not be asked to bear any further price-related savings measures before 2014," he added.

Tobacco crack down

THE US Food and Drug Authority is cracking down on tobacco companies, telling them that it will strongly enforce the rule prohibiting them from claiming that a tobacco product is less harmful without first providing extensive scientific evidence supporting the claim.

The evidence will also have to demonstrate that the product will benefit public health as a whole, and not just individual tobacco users.

See www.fda.gov.



SIX feet under.

When one stops to admire one's work, it is a rare occasion that action will lead to finding oneself six-feet under, unless of course you are a gravedigger.

And that's exactly what happened to one such professional, Stefan Faerber, who had to be hauled out of the earth by a team of firemen after having paused to admire the sharp lines, and exactitude of his coffin hole.

Fortunately for Faerber, he was able to get mobile reception in his six foot hole, and could call for help.

"It was his last job of the day so he's lucky he had his phone with him to call for help - or he might have spent a very uncomfortable night next to some of his previous customers," said a police spokesperson.

FAST food.

Pizza lovers beware, a new pizza shaped fridge magnet which is programed with your favourite pizza and the number of the pizza store to get it from, may ruin your healthy eating plans.

The magnet, produced by a Dubai-based company, allows pizza lovers to order their favourite cheezy treat with just the press of its button, sending the order to the programmed store via Bluetooth technology.

Guild Pharmacy Academy Suid National Convention & Exhibition \$99.00 incl.GST – 3 day access to: Education + Networking + Trade Expo + Guild Intern Training Program invites Students & Interns (nationally) to register FREE in 2012

Friday 15th – Sunday 17th June 2012 Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour APPROX 25 CPD CREDITS AVAILABLE!

Go to www.guildpharmacyacademy-nce.com.au to register now!

ANIMAL, VEGETABLE...



Call 1800 151 493 for further information Today's the day BLACKMORES

EDITORS BRUCE Piper and Amanda Collins EMAIL info@pharmacydaily.com.au Advertising Magda Herdzik EMAIL advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au page 2

Pharmacy Daily is a publication for health professionals of Pharmacy Daily Pty Ltd ABN 97 124 094 604. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission from the editor to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of Pharmacy Daily no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial is taken by Bruce Piper.