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## New UK echinacea warning

UK AUTHORITIES have issued a health warning that children under 12 should not take the popular herbal remedy echinacea.

The warning by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) follows findings by the European Herbal Medicinal Products Committee (HMPC) and from the UK Herbal Medicines Advisory Committee that the perceived benefits of the use of echinacea in children under 12 years are outweighed by the potential risks in this age-group.

The risks, according to the trio include the potential (although low) for severe allergic reaction.

"This is not a serious safety issue, but parents and carers need to be aware that children under 12 could have a low risk of developing allergic reactions, such as rashes from oral Echinacea products," said Richard Woodfield, the MHRA's Head of Herbal Policy.

"The MHRA is working with the herbal sector to ensure that all oral echinacea products are re-labelled with a warning that they should not be given to children under 12.

"The measures being taken are

precautionary in nature.

"Parents should not worry if they have given echinacea to children under 12 in the past," he added.

MEANWHILE parents and healthcare practitioners are also being advised that children aged 12 years or over and adults can continue to use oral products containing echinacea as the risks of side effects in older children and adults are reduced because they weigh more and in general catch fewer colds.

## TGA review sessions

THE TGA has scheduled two-hour info sessions in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Perth and Brisbane to detail the outcomes of the review of minor variations to prescription medicines to sponsors.

See [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

## TGA urinal warning

THE TGA has issued a warning to health professionals and carers to check that male urinal bottles are free of sharp edges, both inside and outside the bottle, following the report of a patient receiving lacerations caused by a sharp edge on the inner aspect of a urinal bottle neck.

See [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

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## Today in Pharmacy

TODAY *Pharmacy Daily* features two pages of news, PLUS a full page on API's 2013 Calendar.

See **page three** for details.

## WIN A LE TAN PRIZE PACK



Every day this week, PD is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a Fast Tan Prize Pack from Le Tan, valued at over \$60.

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### Name 3 reasons to love Le Tan Self Tanners.

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Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Grace Grimmett from Symbion Pty Ltd.

## Brisbane Southside Pharmacy (Receivers and Managers Appointed)

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Expressions of Interest close Friday **14 September 2012**.

To register your interest, please contact Peter Marshall, Pharmacy Solutions Australia

t: 07 3252 0343

m: 0417 721 203

e: [peterm@pharmacysolutions.com.au](mailto:peterm@pharmacysolutions.com.au)

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## Guild Update

### Pharmacy eConsus

Next month the Guild will undertake the first major census of community pharmacy in Australia since 2006.

The census, comprising around 40 detailed questions, will be fully online for the first time.

The Guild will certainly be urging all community pharmacies to take part in the census because of the importance of having up-to-date data on our industry.

The availability of current data on community pharmacy is an essential ingredient of effective advocacy at all levels of government.

The range of services provided by community pharmacies is little understood in some quarters, and it is only through comprehensive, current information that we can reinforce the many benefits of our community pharmacy model.

The demands on the time of our Members are great, and online surveys are increasingly common, and annoying to some.

But this is one online activity that the Guild certainly hopes all community pharmacies will find the time to complete because of the benefit it will ultimately bring to all.



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

## Australian pharmacist figures

THE latest registration figures published by the Pharmacy Board of Australia show that at present Australia has a total of 23,923 registered pharmacists, including general, postgraduate training or supervised practice, teaching or research, non-practicing and provisional pharmacists.

Published this month, the June 2012 Data Table reflects the fact that at present NSW has the lion's share of pharmacists, with 7,485 general, 14 non-practicing and 23 provisional pharmacists; followed by Victoria which has 5,887 general, 1 postgrad training or supervised practice, 283 non-practicing and 351 provisional pharmacists.

In third place is Queensland which boasts 4,674 general, 3 postgrad training or supervised practice, 1 teaching or research, 81 non-practice and 413 provisional pharmacists; whilst WA comes in fourth with 2,563 general, 4 postgrad training or supervised practice, 55 non-practicing, and 218 provisional pharmacists.

SA, Tasmania, the ACT and the NT follow WA's place in order, each garnering totals of 1,908; 628; 412; and 187 pharmacists respectively, leaving the remaining 627 Aussie pharmacists in the 'Not Stated' state category.

Meanwhile it also appears that there are significantly more female pharmacists in Australia (13,607) compared to males (9,635), whilst the majority of pharmacists are

aged 26-30 (5,769), followed by those aged: 31-35 (4,148), 21-25 (3,235), 36-40 (2,746), 41-45 (2,355), 51-55 (1,967), 46-50 (1,874), 56-60 (1,536), 61-65 (1,186), 66-70 (811), 71-75 (600), 76-80 (207), 81-85 (69) and 86+ (28).

### AHPRA agreement

FOR the first time ever the Pharmacy Board of Australia and AHPRA have published the Health Profession Agreement for public consumption.

The move is designed to increase transparency and accountability, with the Health Profession Agreement clearly outlining the services that AHPRA will provide to the Pharmacy Board in 2012/13.

According to the Pharmacy Board, the Law requires the National Scheme to operate in a 'transparent, accountable, efficient, effective and fair way'; and for registration fees to be reasonable 'having regard to the efficient and effective operation of the scheme'.

"We are responsible for using practitioner's registration fees wisely in regulating the profession in the public interest," said Pharmacy Board of Australia Chair, Stephen Marty.

"The Board is pleased to provide more detailed information about how registration fees are allocated to regulate the profession in Australia," he added.

To view the Agreement see [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au).

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

AN issue of comfort.

A group of protesters at Adelaide's Henley Beach took to the toilet to protest the beach's lack of loos.

The unusual protest, titled The Coalition of the Constipated, saw 12 protesters in black suits and bowler hats carry their own toilets and newspapers down to Henley Beach, before dropping their pants and sitting down for the long haul.



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