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## Lucrin shortage

**COMMENCING** this week Abbott Australasia is expecting a temporary supply interruption of three-month and four-month Lucrin Depot pre-filled dual-chamber syringe (leuprorelin acetate).

Lucrin Depot is an androgen deprivation therapy indicated for the palliative treatment of metastatic or locally extensive prostate cancer.

The drug shortage is expected to last between two and three weeks.

Abbott has said that for patients who require their Lucrin Depot PDS injection during this time, and who are unable to secure the drug at their local pharmacy, there are a number of alternative therapies, including Eligard, which should be considered by their treating physician on a case by case basis.

Eligard is subcut (whilst Lucrin is IM) and is the only hormone therapy in Australia available in 1, 3, 4, and 6 month doses.

"For patients for whom an alternative therapy is not appropriate, physicians may contact Abbott to explore availability through the Special Access Scheme," Abbott said in a statement.

## Diabetes review

**THE** Department of Health and Ageing has published information about the next stages of its Post-Market Review of Products Used for Diabetes Management.

A copy of the draft Report and public submissions from stage one of the Review on Blood Glucose Test Strips will be published on the Review webpage shortly.

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

## Australia's affordable meds

**AUSTRALIANS** are faring well for their medicine costs, with recent figures showing that the prices consumers pay for their medicines have not kept pace with inflation over the last 20 years.

The figures come from the Australian Bureau of Statistics which found that over the last two decades between June 1991 and June 2012, consumer medicine prices have grown by 57 per cent.

This compares with overall prices in the economy growing by 70 per cent over the same period.

The data also showed that over the 20 year period the median household income grew by 118 per cent, meaning that household incomes have grown at more than double the rate of medicine prices.

Interestingly between June 1991 and June 2012, the data showed that the prices consumers pay for medical and hospital services have increased by 191 per cent, which

equates to more than three times the rate that medicine prices have grown.

Looking at a general guide to household spending, the ABS data showed that on average consumers spend \$5.83 per week of their household budget on prescription medicines, compared to \$6.16 a week on milk, \$11.34 a week on cigarettes, \$12.17 on mobile phones, \$30.50 on fast food and takeaway, \$31.97 a week on meals in restaurants and clubs, and \$36.66 a week on petrol.

## Turner joins NPS

**PETER** Turner has been appointed to the NPS MedicineWise Board in the position of Additional Director effective 09 December 2012.

Turner comes to the position with over 40 years experience in the biopharmaceutical industry both internationally and domestically, and his past roles have included Chairman and board member of the PPTA (Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association).

According to NPS, Turner's expertise includes international healthcare, managing global business expansion, blood plasma therapies, protein separation technologies, pharmaceutical product development and quality assurance and industrial scale biotechnology.

## New education centre

**THIS** week the Concord Medical Education Centre will open its doors.

Designed to provide the best in technology and training for students of medicine, nursing and allied health disciplines, doctors, nurses and other medical professionals, the Centre is the result of a partnership between the University of Sydney, federal government and Concord Hospital.

The Centre will also be of major benefit to regional students, giving immediate access via teleconferencing to the latest in research and teaching.

The official opening will take place on Thursday.

## Pharmacy winners

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the lucky winners of last Friday's **PD BB Creme** competition: Nicki Butt, Optimal Pharmacy Plus Jamison; Wendy Tran, Thi Nguyen & Partners Pharmacy; Malie Ung, Priceline Pharmacy Bonnyrigg; and Nancy Wehbe, of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

For more chances to win, see p2.

## Doctor struck off

**PSYCHOLOGIST** Ross Colquhoun has been deregistered by the Psychologists Tribunal NSW for treating heroin addicts with a rapid opioid detoxification program, which resulted in the death of one of his patients.

Colquhoun ran an addiction clinic in Sydney's Ultimo, which utilised a controversial program that implemented treatment of opiate dependent people using naltrexone both for detoxification using a rapid induction method and for maintenance of abstinence using oral and implant naltrexone.

At present naltrexone is banned from the NSW public health system due to concerns over the drug's safety profile.

The case against Colquhoun centered around the treatment of two patients in 2007 and 2008, the first of which was admitted to intensive care following treatment at the clinic, and the second patient who died two weeks after treatment.

Colquhoun assessed both patients as suitable to undergo rapid detox.

According to the Tribunal's findings Colquhoun failed to: adequately assess the patients; take into account contraindications for the treatment; adequately explain the treatment, including risks, to the patients; adequately explain alternative options; and consult other practitioners involved in the patients' care.

"The Tribunal found that Mr Colquhoun's handling of these patients amounted to professional misconduct as a psychologist and that he was not a suitable person for registration in the profession," the Tribunal said.

## New TGA consultation

**THE** TGA has added a 'Consultation: Minor variations to prescription medicines: guidance and application forms' to its website.

The Consultation includes proposed guidance on areas including chemical entities and biological medicines.

As such, the TGA is seeking comments from interested parties on proposed revisions to guidance documents and proposed new application forms for making minor variations to prescription medicines, see [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).



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The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

### Guild Update

More pharmacies are signing up for a Guild workplace audit - so don't be the one pharmacy that gets caught out, red-faced and out of pocket.

Please consider taking up the opportunity to be carefully audited by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia before the Fair Work Ombudsman comes knocking on your door in 2013.

For a fee (the cost of administration), the Guild can check that you've got all the T's crossed and the I's dotted, regarding your workplace relations arrangements, including whether or not your documentation is in order.

Fill in the registration form by clicking here (<https://pharmacyguild.wufoo.com/forms/wr-audit-request/>) and submit it electronically.

Alternatively, print it out, and fax it to (02) 6270 1800 or post it to PO Box 7036 Canberra Business Centre, ACT 2610.

Your Guild state/territory workplace relations representative will contact you to proceed to the next step.

With any queries, call your workplace relations representative in your state/territory branch office.

They'll be able to put your mind at ease.

You can also take the Self Audit test, which you'll find in the Member section on the Guild website click here ([http://www.guild.org.au/The\\_Guild/Member\\_Login.page?](http://www.guild.org.au/The_Guild/Member_Login.page?)).

This simple checklist should give you a pretty good idea about where you stand-compliant or not compliant.

Remember, a poor report from the Fair work Ombudsman is a risk to your business and your reputation.



**The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia**

## Swisse US to launch with a bang

AUSTRALIAN complementary medicine giant, Swisse, has announced that it will use the famous GDAY USA black tie ball in Hollywood to formally launch into its first international market - the United States.

To that end, Swiss has joined with Qantas as major sponsors of the annual Aussie celebration in Los Angeles, which will take place next year on 12 January, just three weeks before Swisse products hit shelves at Walgreens stores across the States.

Swisse has also announced that, in addition to Walmart, it has in recent months, signed deals with other major American retailers, whose names it will unveil "in coming weeks".

All in all the company will launch 15 of its most popular products into the US market from 01 February, including Men's and Women's Ultivites, Krill Oil, Hair, Skin Nails, Liver Detox and Appetite Suppressant.

Aiming to launch in the US with a

bang, Swisse Global Ambassador, actress Nicole Kidman, will walk the red carpet at GDAY USA and will be involved in a special presentation on the night.

In addition, the 1000-plus guests attending the ball will each receive Swisse Liver Detox at their seat and will walk away with a "health and happiness" bag of the most popular Swisse products.

Swisse will base its USA head office in Chicago, and with the launch, key team members from Australia will relocate to the US.

MEANWHILE, the company has also revealed that whilst it had only planned to launch its vitamins and supplements in the US, it may in fact also end up pushing its body skin care range and Swisse Active sports nutrition range of protein bars, protein powders and amino acids into the market.

This move, according to the company, has been instigated by interest expressed in the products by US retailers.

## WIN A DARE TO BE BARE BIKINI READY PACK



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five lucky readers the chance to win Dare to be Bare Bikini Ready Pack by Andrea Hair Removal, valued at \$66.80 each.

Time to peel off your winter clothes! A smooth set of legs, underarms and a flawless bikini line are essential for the warmer weather. Get bikini-ready in a flash with Andrea Hair Removal products for use in the comfort and privacy of your own home.

For your chance to win this great prize pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below.

*What is Andrea Brazilian Hard  
Wax used for?*

Email your answer to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Maree Facey from Pharmore Pharmacies.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**BREAST** is best.

One subscriber to the adage that breast milk is best, Jiao Xinzhen, has taken her belief to extreme measures, breast feeding her husband's troupe of monkeys.

Xinze's husband, Huang Aiqing, operates a 'monkey school' in Nanyang, Henan province, China, and is thought to be the region's top primate trainer.

Aiqing's monkeys are common on the sets of movies, as well as in theatres and circuses.

Speaking to media about the unusual arrangement, Xinzhen said "Many times, some of the baby monkeys slip onto our bed at night to suckle".

"I feel they are just like my children," she added.

Meanwhile Huang chimed in saying the couple had also welcomed one of their monkeys into the family as a playmate for their son.

"In this house the monkeys are king," said Huang.

"When I see him playing with my son I can see how close we are to them and they are to us and I'm pleased my boy has such a good playmate," he added.

**SPEED** cleaning.

Workers at Huaxi Hospital in Chengdu, in Sichuan province in south-west China have been given rollerblades in order to speed up the cleaning process.

According to reports, the Hospital got rid of a number of its cleaning staff because they were not cleaning the large hospital fast enough, and instead hired a new cleaning force who each had one very specific skill, rollerblading.

"There were always too many cleaners here marching backwards and forwards with rubbish and this way everything is done much faster with less staff," said hospital Manager Park Fang.

"It's also fun to give people something to look at and nobody has to wait very long at all now for a bin to be emptied," he added.