



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

APP2012
8-11 March

Secure
your place
at pharmacy's
PREMIER event!

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW



Mental health at work

NINETY-five percent of respondents to a recent SANE Australia survey of working life and mental illness recommended that employers and managers receive education on mental illness, and how to manage its effects in the workplace.

According to the mental health charity, an estimated 18 million absentee days are taken annually due to untreated mental health problems, with mental health issues having recently eclipsed physical injury as the cause of the longest absences from work.

In response to this, SANE Australia is encouraging employers and managers to make use of its new initiative, titled Mindful Employer, to promote better workplace mental health.

The program focuses on mental illness awareness training and the skills to work with, and support, an employee who has or is caring for someone with a mental illness.

See - www.mindfulemployer.org.

National antidote needed

THE Australian government needs to establish a National Antidote Inventory to assist in the emergency treatment of poisoning victims, according to pharmaceutical company, Phebra, who has joined a chorus of calls from leading doctors and pharmacists for a National Antidote Inventory.

Every year Australia's four Poisons Information Centres (PIC) receive more than 250,000 calls from members of the public and doctors seeking advice from the program's team of poisons specialists and specialist doctors for complex cases requiring specific treatment, and this advice often includes the use of specific antidotes.

"Currently when a PIC provides treatment advice that requires antidotes, it does not have the information to assist the hospital to source the antidote," said Professor Andrew Dawson, Senior Staff Specialist, RPA and NSW Poisons Information Centre, The Childrens' Hospital, Westmead.

"We believe this could be addressed by developing a national database of antidotes that would be maintained by a Poison Centre Network and be accessible to all PICs as well as state and national disaster groups.

"We should be able to identify basic demographics that include location, which would have the flow-on affect of informing public health and influencing policy development," he added.

Dawson also said that in a larger arena, the system could identify

sporadic outbreaks, facilitate response to a chemical disaster and help ensure cost-effective access to specific treatment.

The Director of Pharmacy at Calvary Mater Newcastle, Rosemary James, has also added her voice to the calls, saying a National Antidote Inventory would streamline the way antidotes are currently being supplied to hospitals across the country.

"Hospitals would be able to draw from the central inventory and ensure they have fresh antidotes in stock, to treat victims of poisoning in a timely manner," she said.

Meanwhile Phebra CEO, Dr Mal Eutick added that a central inventory would improve the safety and security of supply of antidotes in Australian hospitals and should mean faster patient treatment.

Actoplus action

MYLAN is facing legal action in the US over its filing of an Abbreviated New Drug Application with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for Pioglitazone Hydrochloride and Extended-release Metformin Hydrochloride tablets, 15mg/1000mg and 30mg/1000mg.

The product is a generic version of Actoplus Met® XR, which is indicated to improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

The legal action has been launched by Takeda Pharmaceutical Company, Watson Pharmaceuticals and Andrx Labs.

Lucentis approval

LUCENTIS (ranibizumab) has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for the treatment of visual impairment due to diabetic macular oedema (DME).

The therapy is already available as a treatment for wet age-related macular degeneration, and following its latest approval is now the first medication approved to treat visual impairment due to DME.

Menopause concerns

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is warning consumers of the dangers of consuming unregistered herbal therapies after it discovered the sale of the super-strength menopause therapy, FSC Black Cohosh 1000mg capsules, in health food stores throughout Britain and online.

According to the agency, the unlicensed capsules contain 50 times the approved dose for menopausal complaints, and have insufficient labeling detailing safety information and side-effects.

"Since 1998 the MHRA has received 50 suspected adverse reaction reports associated with various unlicensed Black Cohosh products," the Agency said in a statement.

"Whilst rare some of these reactions have included jaundice, liver problems and hepatitis," the Agency added.

The MHRA further highlighted the seriousness of taking unregistered herbal medicines by saying there is "no guarantee relating to the safety or quality of the product".

PHARMACY FIRST

Pharmacist Manager \$120k

Singleton Pharmacy First is seeking an experienced Pharmacist Manager to lead our team in Singleton NSW.

Previous management experience is preferable and an attractive salary package is available.

Please call 0409 269 676 or submit your application to steve@nmpg.com.au.

INTERN ENROLMENT REGISTER NOW

GUILD CLINICAL INTERN TRAINING PROGRAM **INTERN TRAINING PROGRAM**

Don't miss the chance to enrol in the Guild Intern Training Program for 2012. Reap the rewards of this practical workplace program as you prepare for your future in pharmacy. Guild ITP will commence Intern workshops in February, so don't delay.

To download the Program & Forms visit www.nsw-intertrainingprogram.com



Guild Pharmacy Academy

Contact Guild Clinical on 02 9467 7124 or email david.bryant@nsw.guild.org.au



Carollo Horton
and Associates Pty Ltd

Specialists in:

- Pharmacy Insurance
- Professional Indemnity Insurance
- Business Insurance
- Work Cover Insurance
- General Insurance Products

FOR AN OBLIGATION FREE QUOTE CLICK HERE OR PHONE 1300-CAROLLO / 1300-2276556

Guild Update

This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild GuildCare surge in 2012

The past year has seen the Guildcare suite of pharmacy IT programs power into the pharmacy market – and 2012 looks like seeing a further surge in the activities of the Guild's IT company healthlinks.net.

healthlinks.net began 2011 with a network of over 500 active pharmacies delivering cases for medication compliance and the new to therapy programs.

In March 2011 healthlinks introduced the GuildCare suite of programs, coinciding with the introduction of Pharmacy Practice Incentives, which saw the network go from 500 to 2,300 by end of June 2011 and to 2,909 by the end of December.

In that time the company installed the software in the 2900 pharmacies, ranging from 1 to 27 computers per pharmacy.

Guildcare also have trained the users in various forums (workshops, online, face to face) which has resulted in a network of 2644 sites actively using the software delivering over 300,000 recorded cases as at end of December 2011.

The Guild is particularly pleased at the strong uptake of GuildCare products because of what they represent in terms of benefits to consumers, and improved recording of the important role of modern community pharmacies in the Australian health care system.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Novartis' cautionary recall

NORVATIS has recalled four drugs in the US after the Food and Drug Administration detected problems in the company's malfunctioning plant in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The recalls affect the company's Excedrin and NoDoz products with expiration dates of 20 December 2014 or earlier and its Bufferin and Gas-X Prevention therapies with expiration dates of 20 December 2013 or earlier.

According to reports the recall was issued as a precautionary measure due to packaging and labeling problems at the Nebraska plant, which according to the FDA could result in the recalled products containing stray tablets, capsules, or caplets from other Novartis products, or containing broken or chipped tablets.

"NCH is taking this action as a precautionary measure," a statement from Novartis said.

"Mixing of different products in the same bottle could result in consumers taking the incorrect

product and receiving a higher or lower strength than intended or receiving an unintended ingredient.

"This could potentially result in overdose, interaction with other medications a consumer may be taking, or an allergic reaction," the statement added.

The Nebraska plant also manufactures strong pain medications for Endo Pharmaceuticals including Opana and Percocet, however the FDA is not advising recalls due to several reasons including fears of possible drug shortages.

Instead US pharmacists are being urged to visually inspect these pain medications before dispensing.

Implant hotline

THE Health Department has set up a 24hr hotline (1800 217 257) for women concerned about their breast implants following reports of increased rupture rates in France for PIP implants.



DISPENSARY CORNER

WALK to the moon.

An innovative competition is spurring people to become fitter and healthier by challenging them to walk to the moon.

Beginning last October, the Race to the Moon competition is sponsored by health insurance company HealthAmerica and pits competitors against each other and themselves to see who runs or walks to the "moon" (around 432,000kms or 624m steps) first.

The free to enter competition provides competitors with a pedometer to track their progress and offers weekly prizes and incentives, as well as a grand prize of a holiday in Hawaii.

"Since the Race to the Moon officially kicked off in mid-October, participants have walked or run more than 89,000 miles, more than a third of the way to the moon," said competition spokesperson, Scott Rotermund.

"With three more months to go in the program, we look forward to seeing just how far people can go," he added.

CRAM it all in and procrastinate no more.

A US dietary supplement company, Genius Labs, is hoping to rid university libraries and dorm rooms of procrastination, with the creation of its Cram It! supplement.

According to the company the supplement is "designed to help college students cram through their coursework as quickly and effectively as possible".

Interestingly, as part of its marketing, the company released figures that estimate around 80-95% of uni students procrastinate when it comes to studying and completing assignments.

"Procrastination will always be an issue for many students, but Cram It! can help make waiting until the last minute a lot easier," the company said.

WIN A \$50 MANICARE PRIZE PACK

This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a **Manicare** Prize pack, valued at \$50.



Each pack includes a pack of Mixed Mascara Brushes, a Retractable Foundation Brush, a Retractable Concealer Brush and a Retractable Kabuki Brush.

Create a new look in the blink of an eye with new Manicare Disposable Mascara Brushes. Four handy disposable brushes provide a different lash look so you can maximise your mascara's potential. Blue = Volume; Purple = Define; Red = Curl and Orange = Lengthen. It's all about Va-Va Voom Variety! Duo pack of 10 for \$4.95 & Multi-pack of 20 for \$8.95.

To win, simply send in the correct answer to the question below.

What colour mascara brush creates definition?

The first correct entry received wins!

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

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Terri Warner** from **Australian Pharmacy Council**.