



## New weight loss drug

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has approved its first new weight loss drug since 1999, with the debut of Belviq (lorcaserin hydrochloride).

Belviq is indicated for chronic weight management, as an addition to a reduced calorie diet and exercise.

It's approved for use in adults with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or greater, or those with a BMI of 27 or greater and who have at least one weight-related condition such as high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes or high cholesterol.

The drug works by activating the serotonin 2C receptor in the brain, which may help a person eat less and feel full after eating smaller amounts of food.

In clinical trials including nearly 8000 obese and overweight patients treated over 1-2 years along with lifestyle modification including reduce calorie diets and exercise counselling, treatment with Belviq for up to one year was associated with weight loss ranging on average from 3 to 3.7%.

47% of patients without type 2 diabetes lost at least 5% of their body weight, compared with about 23% of patients who were treated with placebo.

## No PBS schedule in Nov '12

**THE** Department of Health and Ageing has announced the extension of the data cutoff deadline to meet the requirements of a 01 Oct 2012 listing on the PBS until 29 Aug, due to a decision not to publish a PBS schedule in Nov.

The change aims to provide breathing room for the Department to introduce its new technology called the Pharmaceutical Consolidated Information System (PharmCIS), which will be implemented from Dec this year.

The department said yesterday that PharmCIS will "support the processes associated with the approval and listing of medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits

Scheme".

Also from 01 Dec 2012, PBS data that is produced by the Dept will include reference to Australians Medicines Terminology (AMT) which will standardise the description of all commonly used medicines available in Australia for computers, clinicians and patients.

The 01 Dec schedule will be the first produced referencing AMT descriptors, with further details on the look and feel of the new system to be provided to all stakeholders over the coming months.

The existing deadline for a submission targeting an Oct PBS listing is 15 Aug, but the two week extension may be granted if sponsors discuss the issue via [pbslisting@health.gov.au](mailto:pbslisting@health.gov.au).

## EU pharmacovigilance

**THE** European Medicines Agency has welcomed the commencement this month of new EU legislation on pharmacovigilance, which aims to "promote and protect public health by strengthening the existing Europe-wide system for monitoring the safety and benefit-risk balance of medicines".

Among other moves the laws establish the new Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee.

## Federal home care

**THE** Australian Government now has full responsibility for Home and Community Care services, as part of the rationalisation of the system.

Minister for Ageing, Mark Butler, said the federal takeover was "the delivery of a major part of the National Health Reform Agenda. "Supporting older Australians to remain living in their own home is a key focus of our recently unveiled Living Longer Living Better aged care reform package," he said.

The Commonwealth HACC program replaces the former joint federal/state approach in all states and territories except for Vic and WA, where basic community care will continue to be delivered under the old arrangements.

## Calendar bookings

**API** is once again reminding pharmacists to place orders for the 2013 API Calendar, which can be customised with your pharmacy name and contains a range of much-wanted features including large dates, moon phases plus pension and family allowance days. See **page three** of today's issue.

## NZ bonding push

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of NZ is urging the NZ govt to extend a new medical bonding scheme to pharmacists.

The program encourages newly qualified doctors, nurses, and midwives to start their careers in remote and rural areas by offering payments to student loans after a three to five year bonded period.

The program does not encompass pharmacists, despite difficulties encountered by community pharmacy in attracting and retaining professional staff in rural areas.

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## Guild Update

### 5CPA update

**THE** Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (5CPA) included three initiatives to support patient services: *Continued Dispensing of PBS Medicines in Defined Circumstances, Supply and PBS claiming from a Medication Chart in Residential Aged Care Services and Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs.*

Indicative funding of \$9 million was allocated under the 5CPA for these initiatives.

It was the Guild's hope that these initiatives would be up and running by 1 July 2012 but for various reasons this will now not be the case.

Changes to the National Health Act relating to Continued Dispensing and the Medication Charts initiative were passed in February, however there are also state and territory legislative changes that need to be made and until this happens the initiatives cannot commence.

In addition there are regulations for Controlled Drugs contained within state and territory statutory rules that will require amending.

The Electronic Recording and Reporting system will also need to integrate with existing state and territory information and communication technologies and processes.

New fact sheets on each of these three initiatives have been released. These include their current status and updated likely timeframes for implementation.

The fact sheets are available on the 5CPA website [http://www.5cpa.com.au/5CPA/Information\\_and\\_Resources/Information+and+Resources.page](http://www.5cpa.com.au/5CPA/Information_and_Resources/Information+and+Resources.page)



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

## Global ranking for Monash

**MONASH** University is hailing the results of the 2012 QS World University Rankings, which has found that it leads Australia in both pharmacy and pharmacology.

QS is a "leading network and information specialist in the higher education sector," and produces an annual report on courses which last year extended to provide information on different subjects.

The ranking system uses a range of criteria including academic reputation, employability of graduates and scientific paper citations, producing an overall score out of 100 in order to rank academic institutions.

For pharmacy and pharmacology the top ranking went to Harvard University in the USA, followed by the University of Cambridge in the UK and then in third place the National University of Singapore.

But Australia was also very well represented in the top ranks, with Monash University coming in sixth place with an overall score of 87.2.

That was just ahead of the University of Melbourne in ninth place with 84.9, while the

University of Queensland (13th place with 82.4), and the University of Sydney (22nd place at 80.6) also appeared in the top 25.

Professor Bill Charman, Monash Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, said "Results such as these recognise the investment the faculty has made in developing innovative and challenging undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

"We should not focus on the actual ranking number, as they are subject to change...rather the key message is that our staff, programs, activities and outcomes are respected, and valued, by the leaders in our discipline worldwide."

### New MA code plan

**MEDICINES** Australia will tomorrow formally submit its new draft Code of Conduct to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

The 17th edition of the code was unanimously adopted by MA members, with full details in tomorrow's issue of *Pharmacy Daily*.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**FIRST** aid could have been needed outside a McDonald's eatery in the USA, where a 26 year old man allegedly assaulted his stepdaughter with an order of the fast food eatery's french fries.

James Hackett apparently got into an argument with his wife, and when the 11 year old girl tried to get the "adults" to calm down he "picked up the container of french fries he had just purchased, which were hot and oily, and threw it at the girl, striking her in the face and chest area," according to court details.

An arresting police officer reportedly told Hackett he was being "charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, to wit french fry".

**ANTI-THEFT** devices at your pharmacy could be as simple as a roller door.

A burglar has been captured in the USA when a shop owner found him pinned by the neck under a garage door.

Apparently the would-be robber attempted to hold the door up using a piece of metal during a midnight raid on a store in the township of Brockton, Massachusetts.

However the implement slipped and the door plunged down, pinning the hapless miscreant to the floor by his head, where he was found the next morning.

**TALKING** urinal cakes are the latest anti drink-driving move in the US state of Michigan.

State officials have announced the innovation, with the special electronic gadgets to be placed in the troughs in pub toilets.

When men step up for a pee, a recorded message will automatically play telling them to call a cab or a friend if they need help to get home safely.

"At first it may be seen as humorous, but the seriousness of the message will stand out," said a Beverage Association exec.

## WIN AN AL'CHEMY PRIZE PACK



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving 5 lucky readers the chance to win the full hair care regime from Al'chemy, valued at \$50 each.

Each prize pack includes the Al'chemy Ylang Ylang Shampoo, the Al'chemy Macadamia & Wheat Conditioner and the Al'chemy Laven-der & Anthyllis 24 Hour Intensive Moisture Leave-In Conditioner.

Each gentle formulation in the Al'chemy hair care range combines natural botanical ingredients that have been specially selected for purity and effect, giving all skin types, including those with sensitive skin and scalps the care they need with positively radiant, healthy results.

To learn more about Al'chemy, visit [www.purist.com](http://www.purist.com) or join the conversation at [www.facebook.com/alchemybypurist](http://www.facebook.com/alchemybypurist).

For your chance to win the full hair care regime from Al'chemy, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below.

### What sizes are the Al'chemy shampoos and conditioners available in?

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

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Juliana Kobryn from Blooms the Chemist Springwood.



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