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## Data collection

**FROM** 01 April, pharmacies will need to electronically send info on PBS prescriptions priced below the co-payment amount, for details see [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au).

## TLC for sick children

**BIOREVIVE** is promoting its Prospan cold medication in the wake of the pending changes to the labelling of cough, cold and antihistamine medicines for children under six years.

Under the new guidelines the medicines should not be used for children under six years of age, and only on the advice of a doctor or pharmacist for those aged six to 11.

However, according to Biorevive, parents who want to provide a bit of extra support for sick children when TLC is not providing results, will still be able to make use of its Prospan cough medication, as its active ingredient, dried ivy leaf, is not affected by the alterations to the regulations.

"Dried ivy leaf extract, also known as 'hedera helix' has been successfully trialled in both children and adults and has been shown to be well-tolerated for the relief of chesty coughs," said pharmacist Gerald Quigley.

"One of the many published studies on ivy leaf extract included as many as 52,000 children (aged 0-12 years old).

"Its availability in Australia, means that both parents and pharmacies have a safe, effective option for coughs in under 6s" he added.

For more details on Prospan see **page 3** of today's issue.

## Remote allowance changes

**THE** eligibility criteria for the Rural Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance (RPMA) will change from 01 July 2012.

The RPMA is a monthly allowance paid to rural pharmacies based on the remoteness of the pharmacy (as assessed by the Pharmacy Accessibility Remoteness Index) and the level of PBS and RPBS prescriptions claimed, and is designed to offset the additional financial burden of maintaining a pharmacy in rural and remote areas.

According to the Department of

Health and Ageing, the changes are designed to bring the scheme in line with the expansion of urban areas and centres driven by population growth.

As a result of the update, from 01 July this year, pharmacies will be reclassified under the Pharmacy Accessibility Remoteness Index as PhARIA 1 if there are eight or more pharmacies in any location.

This change may result in some pharmacies becoming ineligible for the RPMA payments regardless of their location, however pharmacies located in PhARIA 1 may be eligible to apply for the payment if they meet certain criteria.

Pharmacies who are set to be reshuffled into the ineligible category for the RPMA will receive a letter from the Department of Health and Ageing detailing the changes, in the coming weeks.

For more details on the changes visit [www.5cpa.com.au](http://www.5cpa.com.au).

## Lucentis extra approval

**NOVARTIS'** Lucentis (ranibizumab) has been approved by the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for the treatment of visual impairment due to macular oedema secondary to retinal vein occlusion (RVO, which is the result of a blockage forming in a blood vessel in the retina at the back of the eye).

Lucentis is available in a single-use vial for intravitreal use only, and is already available as a therapy for wet age-related macular degeneration (wet AMD) and recently TGA registered for visual impairment due to diabetic macular oedema.

The drug is the first anti-VEGF medication approved for the treatment of RVO in Australia, and has been shown to significantly improve vision and vision-related quality of life in some patients with branch RVO (BRVO) and central RVO.

## Gutsy Challenge return

**THE** Gutsy Challenge is once again returning, with the aim of raising money for gastro-intestinal cancer research.

The Gutsy Challenge requires participants to raise money for committing to eating two pieces of fruit and four serves of vegetables a day for one week.

The Challenge runs all year until 30 November.

For information or to sign up see [www.gutsychallenge.com](http://www.gutsychallenge.com).

## NRT is smokin'!

**ONE** year after the listing of nicotine patches on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, NRT use has increased significantly, according to GlaxoSmithKline.

The Federal Government approved the listing of transdermal nicotine patches from 01 February 2011, and since that time the rise in NRT use has been marked, with estimates pipping that the amount of NRT scripts that will be filled by July this year will reach over 100,000.

Speaking about the increased uptake of NRT's Tobacco Treatment Specialist Dr Colin Mendelsohn said that "many thousands of additional successful quit attempts have been triggered by the government subsidy on nicotine patches".

In backing up NRT's credentials GSK cited a University of Sydney report which estimated that improved access to NRTs (via OTC availability) in the decade to 2007 led to over 68,000 lives being saved in Australia over that ten year period.

## DVA corrections

**PHARMACIES** who are claiming for RPBS medicines have 90 days to amend and correct Department of Veterans' Affairs patient details if they don't match the DVA's records.

After the 90 day period, if another claim is submitted for the same DVA patient, the claim will be rejected and there will be no payment made to the pharmacy.

If the information is corrected and the claim is resubmitted then it will be approved and paid.

For more info call 1800 552 580.

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**David Patton: m: 0432 515 717**

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## Guild Update

### This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild

Healthlinks.net.au will now trade as GuildLink Pty Ltd.

The change was announced at the Australian Pharmacy Professional (APP) Conference on the Gold Coast at the weekend.

GuildLink CEO Ross Gallagher said, "As a wholly owned subsidiary of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, we felt it was timely we adopted the family name.

GuildLink will continue to offer all the services our customers are familiar with - such as GuildCare software for pharmacies, and management and distribution for Medicines Information via the Secure Data Warehouse - with some exciting new developments."

GuildLink will have two divisions:

Patient Care will focus on building the strong relationships with community pharmacies and extending GuildLink's position in the marketplace as the primary provider of software and professional patient support programs to assist pharmacists to meet the requirements of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement and provide professional patient health services.

Medicines Information will continue to work with pharmaceutical companies and associated industry providers in the provision of quality services to distribute Consumer Medicine Information (CMI), Product Information (PI) and drug images electronically to the Australian market, including provision of CMIs in accessible formats suitable for the print impaired.

Mr Gallagher said, under the GuildLink banner, the company will be even better positioned to offer more services.

Each expansion will be guided by the company value proposition - powering the better use of medicines.

To check out GuildLink visit [www.guildlink.com.au](http://www.guildlink.com.au).



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

## Pharmacists and FOB tests

**PHARMACISTS** should focus on immunochemical faecal occult blood (FOB) tests as the preferred option for bowel cancer screening in pharmacy, according to Bowel Cancer Australia.

Addressing delegates at last weekend's APP2012 conference on the Gold Coast, Dr Cameron Bell, Director of Bowel Cancer Australia, outlined Bowel Cancer Australia's new *Statement on Faecal Occult Blood Tests (FOB tests) for bowel cancer screening*, which puts forth the position that immunochemical tests are the superior FOB test for bowel cancer screening.

Currently there are two different bowel cancer testing kits in Australia, immunochemical- which use specific antibodies to detect human haemoglobin, and guaiac which detect the 'haem' component of haemoglobin, the molecule which carries oxygen in the blood.

"Immunochemical tests, such as those used by BowelScreen

Australia and the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program, are likely to detect nine out of 10 cancers compared to guaiac tests which detect about four out of 10 cancers," Bell said.

According to Bell, Australian pharmacists need to look at the evidence on the comparative value of different screening tests, adding that screening with an inferior product could lead to missed cases of polyps and bowel cancer.

Backing up Bowel Cancer Australia's position on FOB tests, Bell said that immunochemical tests detect two and a half times more the number of cancers and advanced adenomas than their guaiac counterparts, without the need for significantly more colonoscopies, and that they also give a true positive result for cancer more often than guaiac (88% vs 54%) and significant polyps (43% vs 23%).

For more details see [www.bowelscreenaustralia.org](http://www.bowelscreenaustralia.org).



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**PREGNANCY** in 90 seconds.

An American couple have celebrated their baby daughter by making a 90 second video which charts her mother's pregnancy and the child's birth.

The quirky video has become an internet sensation, and is created using a collection of snapshots of the woman, wearing the same clothes, from the moment she found out she was pregnant, through her growing belly, to when her partner walks in and kisses her belly to 'deliver' their baby girl.

To view the clip [CLICK HERE](#).

**LIFE** after death.

A German artist, Iris Schieferstein, is embracing the 'waste not, want not' philosophy, by creating a new range of shoes made out of dead animal parts.

The unusual shoe collection includes high heeled horse boots-created utilising the hooves as the sole of the shoe, and sandals created using the carcasses of dead doves.

Not for everyone, the shoes are crafted using dead bits of animals collected from Iris' local butcher (after having been threatened with gaol time for using road kill), which she then spends a week stripping of flesh and bones, before the hide is tanned.

Once tanned, the skin of the animal is then moulded around the foot of a shoe model and set in place before the insoles and lining is added.

"I love horses and I love shoes so I thought this would be perfect," Iris said.

"Horses have a beautiful walk and I wanted to recreate that with my footwear," she added.

The shoes sell for around \$5,700 a pair.



## WIN YOU ME & EVERYBODY PACK



This week we are giving five lucky readers the chance to win a **You Me & Everybody** prize pack.

You Me & Everybody is a

new skin care range designed for women who love their skin, because guess what? We love it too!

Each prize pack is worth \$120 and includes Saving Face Mist Toner, Saving Face Serum, Saving Face Anti-Aging Moisturiser, Shady Lady Daily Face Milk, Derma Karma Arnica Cream, Cool It Aloe Vera Gel, Helping Hands Wash and Sumptuous Skin Mousse!

To win, simply be the first person to send the correct answer to the daily question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

*What patented technology does the You Me & Everybody Skin Mousse contain?*

Hint! The answer can be found on the You Me & Everybody website: [www.youmeandeverybody.com.au](http://www.youmeandeverybody.com.au)

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Angela Edwardson** from **LiveLife Pharmacy**.



# Why Recommend Prospan for Chesty Coughs?



- Prospan has a dual action.
- No known interactions with other medicines.
- Great value: half the dose of most other cough syrups.
- Tastes great!
- Can be used in under 2s (with pharmacist's advice).
- Active ingredient (hedera helix) has over 20 published clinical studies in children & adults.
- Comprehensive training (in-store or CD).
- Available in 20ml Infant Drops, 100ml & 200ml Expectorant.

**Last year over 32 million bottles of Prospan were sold around the world!**

	20ml	100ml	200ml
API	336688	249386	292982
Sigma	016501	801423	860825
Symbion	494119	137219	455199



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