

## Toughening Oxycotin

**THE** manufacturer of Oxycotin in the US, Perdue Pharma LP, has launched an initiative to help stop pharmacy robberies conducted by people after the drug.

Titled RxPatrol (Pattern Analysis Tracking Robberies and Other Losses), the initiative is a collaborative effort between Perdue and US law enforcement agencies, which collects, collates, analyses and disseminates pharmacy theft information.

Perdue has also secured the services of a senior US law enforcement executive who works independently to conduct intelligence analysis utilising incident analysis software which is capable of analysing data to identify trends, as well as incorporating streaming video and CCTV photos.

Theft related data is provided by pharmacies to RxPatrol, which then used in this analysis.

RxPatrol also donates up to US\$2,500 for information leading to the arrest of persons involved in pharmacy crimes.

## MHRA public appeal

**THE** UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is asking the British public for their views on the regulations that govern its work, in a bid to cut down on red tape.

As such, over the next five weeks the MHRA will accept suggestions from the public and businesses over which of the existing 250 regulations should be kept and which should be simplified or scrapped altogether.

## Complementary matters

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration's decision to publish a list of evaluated Registered complementary medicines on its website, has been welcomed by the Complementary Healthcare Council (CHC) of Australia, who said it is a further positive step towards a more transparent regulatory process.

"We're pleased to see the TGA working towards their goal of becoming more transparent," said CHC Executive Director, Dr Wendy Morrow.

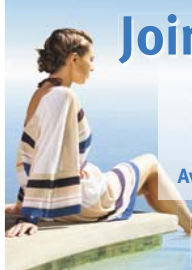
"Customers are at the heart of the complementary medicines industry so the more information that is made available to them about the products the better, whilst at the same time respecting 'commercial in confidence' matters," Morrow added.

The list of Registered complementary medicines is now available on the TGA website, and includes the name of the product sponsor, the date the product was listed on the ARTG, and a link to additional background information on registered medicines.

Despite its welcome of the move, the CHC did ask that the TGA add some information to the list which highlights the difference between Registered (Aust R) and Listed (Aust L) products.

"It is crucial to note the differences between Aust R and Aust L products," the CHC said.

"Listed products are evaluated for quality and safety but are not required to be Registered as they are not considered to be 'high risk' products," the CHC added.




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The CHC went on further to illustrate its point, saying that because of their "higher risk" status Registered therapies are assessed for safety, quality and efficacy; whereas Listed medicines are "consumer choice" products designed for minor ailments whose ingredients are approved by the TGA for safety and quality.

Morrow also used the opportunity to reiterate the CHC's Pre-Budget Submission calls for a clinical trials partnership to foster further scientific research and add to the existing evidence base.

"We are committed to an appropriately regulated industry underscored by science and one that works with consumers to ensure they have access to both high quality information and products," she added.

**MEANWHILE**, self-appointed industry watchdog, Dr Ken Harvey, has taken umbrage to the CHC saying Registered medicines are assessed for safety, quality and efficacy, arguing that "the sponsors primarily submitted them for registration because they had clinical evidence to support higher level claims".

"Indeed, of the 25 products on the TGA's list of Registered complementary medicines most are unremarkable: iron, calcium &/or Vitamin D, Calcium ascorbate complex, Psyllium fibre, Ispaghula husk and MUTAFLO for constipation, Eucalyptus Oil 11% w/w and Lemon Tea Tree Oil 1.0% for head lice and clove oil for toothache," he added.

## Lice busted in Australia

**A NEW** device, LouseBuster, developed at the University of Utah, which kills head lice without the use of pesticides or chemicals, has received TGA approval for ARTG listing.

The device, designed for use by certified operators, uses controlled heated air to dehydrate and kill lice at all stages of development in a single 30 minute treatment.

See [www.lousebuster.com](http://www.lousebuster.com).

## Sydney Uni opening

**TODAY** marks the opening of Sydney University's Institute of Biomedical Engineering and Technology.

## Don't Rush to Crush

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists' newest publication, *Don't Rush to Crush: therapeutic options for people unable to take solid oral medicines*, deals with the issues presented by patients who have difficulty swallowing.

Answering questions such as Can I crush it?, Can I dissolve it?, Can I open the capsule?, Is there a liquid formulation?, Can I give the injection orally?, the book includes monographs for over 500 Australian medicines, listing generic names, brand names and available forms and strengths.

The book also contains separate recommendations for administering solid oral dose forms to patients with swallowing difficulties and patients with enteral feeding tubes.

See [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au).

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## Understanding KPI's

**THE** upcoming Guild Business Bites session, to be held in St Leonards, NSW, on 20 March will be presented by GoodPharma and Instigo and is designed to help owners and managers understand more about KPI's, see [www.guild.org.au](http://www.guild.org.au).

## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to Pharmacy Daily's travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by **Dettol**.

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## GERM HUB TRAVEL TIP:

Wash your hands thoroughly with Dettol antibacterial soap for 20 seconds to help stop the spread of germs during travel.



[www.germhub.com.au](http://www.germhub.com.au)

**SKIMAX** is offering significant earlybird discounts on its ski holidays in Whistler, British Columbia; Aspen Snowmass in Colorado; and Niseko on the Japanese island of Hokkaido.

Discounts include free nights and up to 50% off accommodation in a twin share hotel room at the Delta Whistler Village Suites.

Seven night packages at the Delta Whistler start from \$965pp including a six day ski pass.

The deal is valid for travel between 02 January and 12 February 2013.

See [www.skimax.com.au](http://www.skimax.com.au).

**GREECE** Med Travel has announced specials on two if its Turkey tours: the 14-day Glories of Turkey; and 11-day Turkish Splendours.

Priced from \$1,683pp twin share and \$1,264pp twin share, the deal is valid on departures before 30 June 2012.

For more deal details visit [www.greecemedtravel.com](http://www.greecemedtravel.com).

## Sigma stand-off continues

**THE** National Union of Workers has announced its intention to take further industrial action regarding a disagreement between Sigma Pharmaceuticals and factory workers at its Rowville site.

The action started earlier in the month and was sparked by Sigma's decision to cut night-time shift loadings (**PD** 09Mar).

Around 130 workers were involved in taking industrial action, which included a 48-hour strike, to which Sigma responded to by locking the workers out of the site between 05-14 March.

"Workers have had the right to shift loadings at the site for 20 years, a right that previous workers had fought for," a statement from the NUW said.

"Members said that if they just let Sigma take away their rights it will be the future generations of workers that will suffer, not just themselves," the NUW added.

Meanwhile, following the NUW's

statement that it will take further action, Sigma has lodged an application to Fair Work Australia to deal with a bargaining dispute, an action which will lead to a conciliation process.

Sigma has been quick however to allay industry fears, saying it continues to communicate its position to customers and consumers.

Sigma has also confirmed that the industrial action is only impacting its Rowville site in Victoria.

## Bronchitol reimbursed

**THE** cystic fibrosis treatment Bronchitol has been recommended for listing on the by the PBAC.

Bronchitol will now go before the Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority (PBPA) to finalise the reimbursement process.

Apart from antibiotics, Bronchitol is the first new CF medicine to be recommended for listing on the Australian PBS for over 15 years.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

### EMERGENCY toilet paper.

The state of New Jersey is looking down the barrel of a toilet paper free existence, if concerns about a contract are not dealt with swiftly.

Officials in the state got themselves into a sticky situation after deciding to dump a US\$42,000 contract for a year's supply of paper due to concerns about the seemingly high price of paper coffee cups.

As a result of the argument police stations, public offices and fire departments are nearing the tail end of their toilet paper.

Fortunately, rather than having to hold it until they get home, public servants now have hope, after city officials decided to flush their pride and approach a company with a proposal for new supplies

### REACHING the top.

The world's tallest living man, Sultan Kosen, has finally stopped growing after treatment with a new drug.

Kosen, who suffers from acromegaly (a condition triggered by a tumour in the pituitary gland), stands at 8-feet and 3-inches tall, decided to halt his growth in May 2010 using a new medication administered at the University of Virginia Medical Centre.

The new medication is designed to control the production of growth hormones.

And it seems, after two years the medication has finally paid off, with Kosen's doctors confirming that as of three months ago, he has stopped growing

"I'm most pleased that we were able to help Sultan," said one of Kosen's doctors, Jason Sheehan.

"If he had continued to grow, it would have been life-threatening," he added.



## 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 SPF is the You Me & Everybody Shady Lady Daily Face Milk?*

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

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Danielle Bugeja** from **Blooms the Chemist Kingaroy**.