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Byetta and basal insulin

THE European Commission has approved Byetta (exenatide twice-daily) as an adjunctive therapy to basal insulin, with or without metformin and/or Actos (pioglitazone), for the treatment of type 2 diabetes in adults who have not achieved adequate glycemic control with these agents.

New NZ pharmacy model

A MONTH long consultation process has begun over a new proposed model for community pharmacy in New Zealand.

The new model has a stronger emphasis on services to patients with higher needs and a strengthened role for pharmacists working in consultation with GPs.

Developed over a 24 month period by national representatives of pharmacists' organisations, the NZ Pharmacy Guild and PHARMAC, the new model also links pharmacist funding to clinical pharmacy services provided to patients, rather than the current mode of payment on the basis of

numbers of medicines dispensed.

"The new Pharmacy Services Agreement (PSA) sees a shift from pharmacists being paid on a volume based model to a patient focused model," a statement from the NZ Guild said.

"As the new model is complex and includes changes to service expectations and financial incentives, it will not be introduced overnight," the statement added.

Following the draft's release, 20 NZ district Health Boards are now holding a month-long information and consultation period with pharmacists and key stakeholders across NZ to discuss the proposals.

The consultation will close on 20 April, at which point feedback will be considered, and the draft will be finalised and readied for implementation from 01 July as the basis of the next NZ PSA.

"The development of a new model is a huge win for the Guild and for the pharmacy profession," said NZ Guild President, Karen Crisp.

Valeant acquires Natur

VALEANT Pharmaceuticals has agreed to acquire the Russian specialty pharmaceutical company, Natur Produkt, for around US\$180m.

Natur Produkt has a strong presence in the OTC segment, with key products including cough and cold therapy AntiGrippin.

Patient adherence

PATIENTS who undergo pharmacogenetic testing are more likely to take and remain on statins, according to a new study.

The study examined medication adherence of 1,294 patients that were newly prescribed statins, 647 of which underwent a gene test to measure KIF6 carrier status, with the remaining 647 undergoing no such testing.

The two groups were matched for age, gender, prescription distribution channel, and the number of chronic medications used.

Interestingly, researchers found that the group who was tested and then informed of their test results had significantly higher overall adherence to their statin treatment over a six-month period (as measured by the proportion of days with medication on hand: 77% of days covered vs 68%).

Tested patients were also almost two times more likely (99%) to be adherent as measured by patients who had statin medication on hand 80% or more of the time.

In addition 83% of the tested group stayed on their statin therapy for the full six months.

Male HVP vaccination

VACCINATING young males alongside young females will help to eradicate cervical cancer worldwide, according to Nobel Prize winner Harald zur Hausen.

Addressing delegates at the Society of Gynecologic Oncology's 43rd Annual Meeting on Women's Cancer, Hausen said "If we wish to eradicate these types of infections – then theoretically we can do it".

"And if we wish to achieve this in a foreseeable period of time, then we should vaccinate both genders globally," he added.

Controversially Hausen said that if one gender had to be selected over the other to provide the vaccine to, it should be males, as it would be more effective in preventing the spread of cervical cancer causing HPV.

Smoking dental failure

FREQUENT smokers have a greater chance of having their dental implant surgery fail, than non-smokers according to an article in the *Journal of Periodontology*.

Non-smokers, according to the abstract, have a success rate as high as 98.6 percent for full osseointegration, while smokers have a failure rate is as high as 15.8 percent.

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Guild Update

This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild

Improving collaboration

Would you like to see improved collaboration with community/consultant pharmacists and primary health care professionals?

If so, please take 10 minutes to complete an online survey at www.pwc.com.au/surveys/professionalcollaborationsurvey.

Your contribution will help to identify a best practice model for professional collaboration.

All pharmacists who complete the survey will go into a draw one of a number of Apple prizes worth over \$700.

Survey responses will be de-identified and will be used to inform the development of the best practice model.

About the survey

The Professional Collaboration project aims to identify a best practice model for professional collaboration between community/consultant pharmacists and other health care professionals in the primary health care setting.

The survey will examine primary health care professionals' views of professional collaboration at the 'practice' level.

For any further information about the survey or project, please contact the PwC Research Team on 1800 760 611, email professionalcollaboration@au.pwc.com or visit the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement website at www.5cpa.com.au.

This project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement Research and Development Program managed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Vaccination compensation

AUSTRALIANS who suffer a serious adverse reaction to a vaccination that they have been administered should be compensated, according to David Isaacs, Professor of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the University of Sydney.

"Australia is proud of its principle of giving people a 'fair go'," he said.

"It seems only fair someone injured by a vaccine which has been offered and accepted in good faith to benefit the community should be compensated by that community," he added.

The compensation calls follow on from an international seminar at

the University of Sydney yesterday, at which New Zealand public health researcher, Marie Bismark, outlined the success of New Zealand's own no-fault compensation schemes.

"In fact 19 countries around the world have accepted that society owes a duty of care, or gratitude, to the very few individuals damaged by a vaccine and have introduced no-fault vaccine compensation schemes," she said.

"Is it fair that a family suffers because their child was inadvertently injured, through nobody's fault, by a vaccine sanctioned and paid for by the Australian community?" she added.

TAFE Graduates get a taste of Excellence

THIS month 43 community pharmacy students graduated from the North Coast Institute of TAFE, at a glittering graduation ceremony held in Coffs Harbour.

In addition to the excitement of graduation, three pharmacy students were honoured during the ceremony with Awards of Excellence.

The three winners included: Jemma Sutton (pictured left, with Linda Johnston, Community



Pharmacy Retail Teacher TAFE) from Sawtell Pharmacy, and Cinnamon Boese from Goodprice Pharmacy Warehouse Coffs Harbour, who both received an Award of Excellence for Certificate III in Community Pharmacy, and Jodie Turner from Goodprice Pharmacy Warehouse Coffs Harbour (pictured below with Johnston), who received an award of Excellence of Excellence in Certificate II in Community Pharmacy.



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DISPENSARY CORNER

FOOD incentive.

A Scottish guinea pig, Truffles, has smashed the long-jump record for his species, with a 30cm leap.

Inspired by the lure of a cucumber snack, Truffles leaped 30cms which was almost 10cms longer than the previous record.

Truffles was trained to jump long by his 13-year old owner, who upon discovering that a guinea pig could set a world record, determined that Truffles' name would be immortalised in the Guinness World Records.

REDUCE salt.

Now that concerted efforts are being made to reduce the levels of salt in the populace's diet, what is happening to all that extra salt?

Well one Japanese artist, Motoi Yamamoto, is certainly doing his best to keep salt producers in business, with his collection of artwork mazes, made entirely from salt.

Currently showing at an open-air museum in Kanagawa, the salt mazes, entitled 'Forest of Beyond' were begun as a way for Yamamoto to deal with the passing of his sister, with salt playing a role in warding away evil during some death rituals in Japan.

ENABLING obesity.

Fur parents will soon be able to order their beloved animals a chair lift to save them the effort of walking up and down pesky house stairs.

Titled 'The Stair of the Dog', the lift features a basket which rotund dogs and cats can sit in as they ascend or descend the stairs.

The lift also features an electronic platform which can be activated by a paw recognition button.

