

New diabetes drug

THE US Food and Drug administration has approved Janssen Pharmaceuticals' Invokana (canagliflozin) for the treatment of adults with type 2 diabetes.

Invokana is the first in a new class of medications called sodium glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors to be approved in the US.

It's an oral once-daily medication which offers improved glycaemic control while also showing reduced body weight and systolic blood pressure in clinical trials.

Janssen said it would partner with other J&J companies focused on diabetes (such as LifeScan and Animas) to bring Invokana to healthcare professionals, and would also offer a dedicated "Invokana CarePath" program to patients, providing "important support and information regarding affordable access, adherence and education, thereby helping patients to start and appropriately manage their disease and therapy over time," the company said.

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Terry White goes robotic

SIX Terry White Chemists sites will be equipped with Willach's CONSIG robotic dispensing systems over the next year, after White Retail Group recommended the move as part of a new technology partnership.

The move follows the successful integration of Willach's dispensary systems at the Terry White Chemists Coffs Harbour pharmacy.

White Retail Group director, Rhonda White, said the decision to roll out CONSIG robots at six more pharmacies followed "extensive research, analysis and trial".

"Our focus for 2013 is on ensuring our pharmacies provide the best possible customer experience - to every customer, every time - and partnering with Willach to improve our dispensary efficiencies will facilitate this," she said.

White said that feedback had shown that consumers want more interaction with their pharmacist, while also expecting a level of service greater than ever before.

"We know dispensary technology can dramatically improve dispensary workflow, productivity

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UPS US\$40m online pharmacy settlement

GLOBAL courier company United Parcel Service (UPS) has announced a \$40 million settlement with the US Justice Department, in relation to shipments of medications from illegal online pharmacies.

Under the settlement deal UPS is required to create a compliance program which will prevent the illegal online pharmacies from using its shipping services.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, between 2003 and 2010 UPS was aware that internet pharmacies were using its services to distribute drugs without valid prescriptions - and in some cases UPS drivers even dropped off packages in parking lots or along highways.

"DEA is aggressively targeting the diversion of controlled substances, as well as those who facilitate their unlawful distribution," said a spokesperson for the agency.

UPS says that it cooperated with the Department of Justice during the investigation, with the company saying it believes it has an obligation and responsibility to "help curb the sale and shipment of drugs sold through illegal internet pharmacies".



SHPA journal editor

DR Chris Alderman has been named as the new editor of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists' of Australia *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*.

Alderman is Director of Pharmacy at the Repatriation General Hospital in South Australia, and takes over the editor's role from Professor Jo-Anne O'Brien who stepped down at the end of 2012 after seven years.

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Guild Update

There are some key things community pharmacies can do to assist with the security and confidentiality of their data:

- Use complex passwords. A password such as 'password', 'letmein' or 'pharmacy' is not secure and is easily hacked – this has happened to businesses in recent times so don't think it can't happen to you. Use non-dictionary passwords that contain upper and lower case characters, special characters and numbers. One common way to create a password that is able to be remembered is to base it on a phrase. For example the phrase 'three blind mice' can convert to '3blindm1c3'.

- Make sure you have security software that includes a firewall, anti-virus and anti-spyware and that it's up to date.

- Perform regular (daily) local backups of your key systems such as your dispensary computer. These backups should be stored securely in an offsite location and a test restore performed at least weekly to ensure that you can recover your systems in case of a computer malfunction, data integrity issue or hacking event.

- Assign a person within your pharmacy that has overall responsibility for information security. They would be responsible for managing backups, software updates and managing the relationship with your external IT provider.

- Develop clear policies for staff using your pharmacy computers. Make sure that your staff understands how they are to use email, the internet and online resources in the pharmacy.

- Use software from reputable sources and keep it up to date.

Information security is a rapidly changing and complex field in information technology and the Guild recommends that you engage reputable companies to advise you and help you look after your pharmacy's information security needs.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Immunisation guide update

HEALTH minister Tanya Plibersek has officially launched the tenth edition of the Australian Immunisation Handbook, which introduces several new vaccines to the immunisation schedule.

These include the new combined

MMRV (mumps, measles, rubella and varicella) vaccine which means that from 01 Jul Australian children will need only one needle at 18 months to be "fully protected from measles, mumps, rubella and chicken pox".

The new MMRV combination replaces the existing MMR vaccine currently given to four year olds, and the varicella vaccine for chickenbox given to 18 month olds.

No script is required for the MMRV vaccine, which will be available via appointment with doctors or immunisation clinics.

Also new on the schedule are extending the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to boys, as well as a replacement pneumococcal vaccine.

See the handbook website at www.immunise.health.gov.au.

Bosisto's tree plan

EUCALYPTUS oil specialist Bosisto's is making the most of its all-Australian heritage this winter, by embarking on a project to plant 1 million trees during 2013.

Bosisto's will establish "vast new eucalyptus plantations" as part of the project, to help support local farmers and reduce reliance on imported products.

The company's chairman, Peter Abbott, said the "unprecedented" planting program would be located in the Victorian region of Inglewood, on marginal farming land otherwise unsuitable for commercial ventures.

"Bosisto's is making a commitment and a long-term investment in Australia's eucalyptus industry, which helps keep jobs and profits in Australia," he said.

Pharmacy customers will be invited to join the project by purchasing specially market bottles of 200ml 'Parrot' brand eucalyptus oil, with neck-tags featuring the slogan 'Pick me! Plant a Tree' to encourage self-selection.

The promotion will launch at the start of May to capitalise on the popularity of eucalyptus oil during the key cold and flu season.

More info 1800 003 431.

Antler powder update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised of a change in the acceptance criterion for 'Ash' in the compositional guideline for 'deer velvet antler powder, making the upper limit 47.6% (dried basis) after a request from the original applicant which doesn't impact the safety or quality of the material.

Laura takes the cup

CONGRATULATIONS to Laura Brazier from Warwick Friendly Society Association, who was the lucky winner of a DivaCup prize pack in Thu's *Pharmacy Daily* competition.



DISPENSARY CORNER

WE'VE heard of streaming technology, but this is ridiculous.

A minor league baseball stadium in the USA is claiming a first with the introduction of a "urine controlled video game system" in the bathrooms at its home field in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

The Lehigh Valley IronPigs say the move, which is a partnership with a local hospital, aims to promote men's prostate health.

Each urinal in the rest room has a video monitor which flips into action, offering a selection of activities when a baseball fan approaches to relieve himself.

The console "detects both his presence and stream" via patented algorithms which let the user "engage with the screen by aiming in different directions to test their agility and knowledge".

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This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a Designer Brands prize pack, valued at over \$60.

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