

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 *Cruise Weekly*.

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AUSTRALIA'S 'Champagne Dame,' also known as Kyla Kirkpatrick, is offering a 20% discount on a new 'Insider's Tour' of the Champagne region of France this June, which aims to capitalise on record interest in bubbly from Aussie drinkers.

The 5-night tour (including discount) is priced from \$3992 pp and includes luxury chateau accommodation, private visits to champagne houses with vintage tastings and special 'meet the winemakers' dinners.

For bookings call 0403 149 809 or visit her website at thechampagnedame.com.au.

Times tough for medicine

THE Australian Medicines Industry is currently facing significant challenges, according to a new document released this week by Medicines Australia.

The latest *Medicines Australia Fact Book* contains key industry statistics and other information, with MA ceo Dr Brendan Shaw saying the report highlights "the impact of a challenging and unpredictable policy environment".

"There's no way to sugar-coat it, 2012 was a tough year.

"While the industry is still proudly one of Australia's leading manufacturing export industries, generating over \$4 billion a year in exports, the fact is jobs have been lost, clinical trial numbers are down more than 30% over the

Guild expo prize

VISITORS to the upcoming NSW Pharmacy National Convention & Exhibition (21-23 Jun at the Sydney Convention Centre) will have the opportunity to win a major prize of a holiday for two to Vanuatu.

The move aims to attract delegates to exhibitor stands, with 150 special Key Cards provided for each stand to hand out to visitors.

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New falls report

THE Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a new report: 'Hospitalisations due to falls by older people - Australia 2009-10'.

The full report is available as a free download at www.aihw.gov.au

past six years, sales growth is slow, patents on many major medicines are expiring, and the operating environment is generally becoming much tougher," he lamented.

The Fact Book showed that new medicines listed on the PBS fell from 22 in 2010-11 to just 15 in 2011-12, while industry employment declined for the fourth consecutive year to 13,375.

Annual investment in pharmaceutical R&D grew by just 0.3% to \$1.037 billion.

US oral MS approval

BIOMEN Idec has issued a statement confirming that its Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate) treatment for Multiple Sclerosis is not registered for use in Australia.

The update follows reports about the regulatory status of the drug which was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration last week as a first line oral treatment for people with relapsing MS.

In the USA Biogen said it believes the drug will have a significant positive impact on the way people live with the chronic disease.

The FDA approval follows clinical trials which showed Tecfidera reduced several important measures of disease activity including relapses and development of brain lesions, as well as slowing disability progression over time.

Biogen said it had made a TGA submission in May 2012 seeking local registration, with the regulatory timeframe at the discretion of the regulator.



Find out what shape you're in as a result of the April PBS changes with our Health Check calculator.

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Pharmacy DAILY

CVS \$11m settlement

WITHOUT admitting liability, US pharmacy giant CVS has agreed to pay \$11m to settle claims that its 46 pharmacies in Oklahoma violated record-keeping regulations for controlled substances - including allegations of falsified Drug Enforcement documentation.

WIN A DESIGNER BRANDS PRIZE PACK



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

Each pack includes Natural Ground Minerals, Showoff Mascara, Pore Minimising Primer, Kabuki Brush and Kohl Pencil.

Designer Brands NEW Affordable Face Essentials Promotion contains all the tools to create a flawless complexion!

To win, simply be the first person to correctly answer the question below to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What shades are the Natural Ground Minerals Foundations available in?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Kim Novak** from **Ayr District Hospital**.

J&J recalls glucose meter

JOHNSON & Johnson Medical has announced a recall of its OneTouch Verio IQ Blood Glucose Meter, after consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

The consumer-level recall will see J&J replace all devices free of charge, after they were found to display incorrect readings in some situations.

According to the TGA, it has been found that at extremely high blood glucose levels (56.8 mmol/L and above) the device will turn off, rather than display the intended warning "EXTREME HIGH GLUCOSE above 33.3 mmol/L".

Once turned back on, the device enters set-up mode and requires the user to confirm the time and date settings.

If another reading of 56.8 mmol/L or above is then registered, the device will turn off again.

"The likelihood of experiencing blood glucose levels of 56.8 mmol/L and above is remote.

"However such levels pose a serious health risk to the patient and require immediate attention.

"The identified fault in the

OneTouch Verio IQ Blood Glucose Meter could lead to a delay in diagnosis and treatment of extremely high blood glucose levels and, consequently, result in serious injury," the TGA said.

All patients who had previously registered their meter for warranty purposes have already been sent a replacement device along with further information.

Those who had not registered the device should call 1800 543 372 to organise a replacement.

In the meantime existing meters can continue to be used, but if the device unexpectedly turns off and enters set-up mode immediate medical attention should be sought.

J&J Medical has also written to all diabetes nurse educators and distributors it has on record, and said that all OneTouch Verio IQ Blood Glucose Meters in stock should be quarantined before making replacement arrangements.

More information for stockists available on 1800 252 194.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A 22-year old Chinese student last week staged her own funeral so that she could be present during the celebration.

The full-blown service organised by Zeng Jia was expensively ornate, complete with flowers, photographers and official mourners - and to make her 'body' (in an open casket naturally) look more convincing she hired a team of cosmetic artists to get a genuine pallor.

"It struck me that people spend all that time and effort on someone when they are gone and they cannot appreciate it.

"I wanted to see what people would think of me so I decided to hold my own funeral while I could enjoy it," she said.

The ceremony included an hour of "lying in state" with a Hello Kitty doll on her chest, after which Zeng got up to take part in her own wake.

Guild NSW workshop

LIMITED places are available for the Pharmacy Guild NSW's Medical Devices Workshop on Wed 10 April.

The full-day program covers cholesterol, INR, BP Monitors, TENS machines and spacers and provides an opportunity for pharmacists to increase their ability to demonstrate devices in pharmacy.

More info 02 9467 7132.



Pharmacy Practice Incentives (PPI)

DAA's/Clinical Interventions claim form **DUE NOW**

The DAAs/Clinical Interventions claim form **MUST** be lodged with Medicare between 1-14 April 2013

Click to access Claim form

IMPORTANT: Claims received by Medicare after 14 April 2013 will be rejected.



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



The Pharmacy
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This Project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

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