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New AusPAR

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has released a new Australian Public Assessment Report for prescription medicine (AusPAR) relating to Merck Sharp and Dohme's Vytorin (ezetimibe/Simvastatin) and a proposed extension of its indication which was later withdrawn - tga.gov.au.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 Cruise Weekly.

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ORION Expedition Cruises has reintroduced "Solo Occupancy Savings" for some of its 2013 voyages in Australia's spectacular Kimberley region.

The 10 night voyages explore the remote coastline between Darwin and Broome, and passengers also enjoy a scenic flight over the Bungle Bungles.

Savings for single occupancy cabins are available on selected voyages departing May-Sep this year, with prices starting from \$11,955 including a 15% discount.

For more info call 1300 361 012.

EUROPE car leasing experts GlobalCARS has extended an earlybird offer of up to 12 free days and half price pick up/drop off fees for bookings of Peugeot, Citroen and Renault vehicles made before 30 April.

With European car leasing, Aussie travellers get a brand new vehicle to drive around the countryside, with rates starting from as little as \$28 a day for a 170 day lease.

Leasing periods can be as short as 17 days for higher rates - more info 1300 789 992.

AHPRA social media plan

THE Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency is proposing the introduction of a new Social Media policy as part of revised common guidelines which would apply to all registered health practitioners, including pharmacists.

The draft policy doesn't limit the use of social media, but rather recommends guidelines for good practice, explaining that the principles of professional behaviour and ethical conduct apply equally in person or online.

A consultation paper released earlier this week is inviting public submissions on how all health professionals are regulated, with the new paper also including revisions to the *Guidelines for advertising* which gives guidance about advertising restrictions imposed by the law - including on social media - on both individuals

and businesses.

The paper also proposes changes to the *Guidelines for mandatory notifications*, and once finalised would apply to all 14 Boards in the National Scheme.

The full consultation paper is available online ([CLICK HERE](#)) with the deadline for submissions being 30 May 2013.

PSA after hours care

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has reported a positive response to its 'After Hours Care in the ACT' program for pharmacists and their staff.

The initiative, developed by the PSA in conjunction with ACT Medicare Local (ACTML) comprises a one-day workshop and a special edition Self Care health campaign for all ACT pharmacies.

The program aims to help pharmacists and their staff become better informed about the services that can be accessed after hours by the community, thereby reducing the load on acute care hospitals.

For Registrations for the workshop and further details see www.psa.org.au/education/events.

Blackmores Kaloba

BLACKMORES says that pharmacists are set to play a "pivotal role" in counselling patients presenting with colds and flu symptoms this season, with the new availability of its Kaloba treatment option (*PD* 20 Dec).

It's an oral liquid for the treatment of acute bronchitis and sinusitis, and because it's indicated for children aged over two years it provides a new option following last year's TGA review of cough and cold medicines which ruled they should not be given to children under six years of age.

"Kaloba now provides a solution and becomes an important part of pharmacists' recommendations to parents who have been advised by a doctor that their child has acute bronchitis," according to Dr Lesley Braun from Monash University.

"For patients seeking assistance from the relief of symptoms of respiratory tract infections...the pharmacist is often the first point of contact within the health system," Braun said.

Kaloba is made from an extract of *Pelargonium sidoides* roots, a herbal preparation traditionally used in South Africa for the treatment of respiratory conditions.

Actegy winner

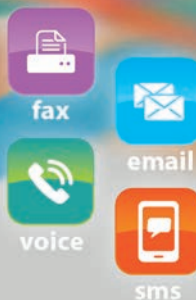
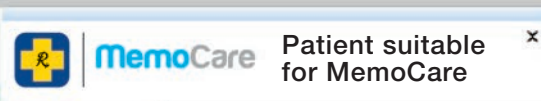


CONGRATULATIONS to Melissa Willett from Guardian Pharmacy in Taree, NSW, who was the lucky winner of a Napoleon Perdis Classic Essentials Pack in a competition run last month by Actegy Health.

It was an incentive-based eLearning product training competition, with participants having the option to complete a training module on either of the Revitive Circulation Booster or Ultralieve Pro products.

More prizes will be on offer at www.elearning.hthealth.com

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Actavis Valeant deal

ACTAVIS and Valeant have overnight announced a settlement agreement in the USA which resolves outstanding patent litigation in relation to a US FDA New Drug Application by Actavis for Clindamycin and Tretinoin Gel, a generic version of Valeant's Ziana, as well as for Imiquimod Cream, a generic version of Zyclara.

Under the terms of the agreement Actavis may launch its generic Ziana in Jul 2016, while a generic Zyclara can be launched by Actavis in Jan 2019.

The confidential settlement will also see Valeant receive a share of the proceeds from the generic products sold under the agreements.

Ziana is a lincosamide antibiotic and retinoid combination product indicated for the topical treatment of acne, while Zyclara is a prescription medicine used for the treatment of actinic keratosis on the full face or balding scalp in adults with a normal immune function.

\$7.9m health partnerships

MINISTER for Health Tanya Plibersek yesterday announced \$7.9 million in grants for 11 'Partnerships for Better Health' projects, including research into medication regimes for kidney transplants, chlamydia testing, work-related asthma and cancer, suicide prevention, and mental health disorders in rural children.

The grants will encourage alliances between partners who deliver health care services, those who make decisions about health practice, and researchers who can offer evidence-based solutions.

Partners include Commonwealth and State agencies, hospitals, medical research institutes and patient advocacy groups.

Funding recipients included a child health and development study; an extended workplace exposures study into work-related asthma and cancer; a women's wellness after cancer program; a study into improving access to psychological services for people

with cancer; mental health studies on people with intellectual disabilities and research into intervention for mental health disorders in rural children.

Monash University and partners received grants for a controlled trial to prevent secondary falls in older people, and improving medicine adherence in kidney transplants.

Swisse cancellation

SWISSE Vitamins has had its Swiss Ultiboost Appetite Suppressant cancelled from the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

The cancellation is effective 04 Apr, with the TGA saying there was "insufficient evidence to support the indications of the product".

Also cancelled is Blooms Curcumin 600 PLUS from Phytologic Pty Ltd, due to unacceptable presentation and non-conformance with regulatory requirements relating to advertising.

Under the Therapeutic Goods Act sponsors are able to request an internal review of the decision within 90 days by the Minister.

Insulin pump advisory

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a safety advisory regarding three potential but rare issues with the Medtronic Paradigm Insulin Pump.

The affected model numbers are MMT-511; MMT-512; MMT-515; MMT-522; MMT-554; MMT-712; MMT-715; MMT-722; MMT-754.

The potential issues include loose drive support caps and sensor graph timeouts which can result in incorrect dosages being administered to patients; and water damage that can affect the pump's internal electronics.

Health professionals treating patients using these pumps should receive a letter from Medtronic with further information about the potential issues and instructions for what to do if they experience any of these problems.

Queries should be directed to Medtronic's 24-hour helpline on 1800 777 808.

Bird flu in China

HEALTH officials in China have closed poultry markets in Shanghai and Nanjing after 18 human cases of the H7N9 avian influenza virus were confirmed.

Six people have died in the outbreak so far, the WHO said.



DISPENSARY CORNER

THREE strokes and you're out?

The BBC made an unfortunate typo on its website as it rushed to announce the death earlier this week of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The online gaffe said that the Baroness had died of a "strike" rather than a stroke - ironic given that during the Thatcher era the UK was deeply in the grip of entrenched industrial action as she battled trade unions.

The BBC said the error had been "quickly corrected" once highlighted by a storm of derision on social network Twitter.

AND while we're on the subject of Twitter and Margaret Thatcher, an unfortunate hashtag which was used after the former PM's death had many fans of American singer Cher confused.

Tweets began to appear reacting to Thatcher's demise using the hashtag #nowthatchersdead.

Of course this could also be read as "now that Cher's dead" which led to a flurry of tributes to the pop star who was incorrectly believed to have also died.

THIEVES in Germany are likely to end up with a massive cholesterol reading after making off with five tonnes of chocolate spread.

The daring Nutella heist took place over the weekend, with the chocolate-hazelnut spread pinched from a parked semi-trailer in the central German town of Bad Hersfeld.

Police said the Nutella was worth around €16,000, with the German news agency dpa also reporting that thieves previously stole a load of energy drinks from a truck parked in the same area.

WIN AUSTRALIAN SKINCARE FROM PLUNKETT'S



Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving two lucky readers the chance to win a **Plunkett's** prize pack, valued at over \$26 each.

Each prize pack contains Plunkett's Vita-E Natural Vitamin E Cream 100g, Plunkett's 99% Pure Aloe Vera Gel 75g and Plunkett's Sorbolene Concentrated Moisturiser 100g.

Vita E contains high potency (100iu/g) natural vitamin E plus rosehip oil and can be used as a moisturiser or for rashes, abrasions, scars or stretchmarks. Plunkett's Sorbolene is pharmaceutical grade and non greasy. Plunkett's Aloe Vera is 99% pure certified organic aloe vera - no added water, parabens, fillers, alcohol, petrochemicals, colours or fragrance.

To win, be one of the first people to send in the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

*Do any of these Plunkett's
products contain fragrance?*

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Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners, **Susan Corbett** of **Waverley Pharmacy** and **Michael O'Donnell**, a Locum Pharmacist.