

US CSC Pharmacy recall

THE US FDA has announced a recall of all lots of sterile products produced and distributed by Clinical Specialties Compounding Pharmacy following findings of practices at the site which raise concerns about a lack of sterility assurance.

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HMR agreement reached

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced that an agreement has been reached with the Government to resolve the overspend which was threatening the future of the Home Medicines Review (HMR) program.

According to the Guild, the agreement will see no reduction in fees for any of the medication management programs over the remainder of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

In addition, the HMR budget will be increased by more than 30% in each of the next two financial years; and the 2012/13 overspend will be funded through a combination of underspends in other Agreement programs and reductions in incentive payments for Dose Administration Aids and Clinical Interventions (CI) for the remainder of this financial year.

In addition, the reductions in DAA and CI incentives will be repaid to community pharmacies through increased incentive payments over the remaining two financial years of the Agreement; and all the professional programs will be closely managed to ensure they remain within budget for the rest of the Agreement.

Today in Pharmacy

TODAY'S Pharmacy Daily features three pages of news, plus a full page from Pharmacy Alliance calling on pharmacists to get a 'Health Check' - see p4 for details.

CHILDREN'S COUGH?

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Available in 100ml, 200ml & 20ml Prospan Infant Drops

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Always read the label. Use as directed. Consult your healthcare practitioner if symptoms persist. For under 2 year olds, please refer to the pharmacist.

CHC52587-09/12

Victralis PBS approval

FROM 01 April 2013, MSD's Victralis (boceprevir) will receive Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing for the treatment of chronic viral hepatitis C (HCV), genotype 1 (G1)¹, the most common form of the condition in Australia.

The listing of Victralis provides patients with access to another option in the treatment of hepatitis C, as currently only two percent of people with the condition are treated each year.

Biocetical Symposium

BIOCEUTICALS has opened registrations for its inaugural BioCeuticals Research Symposium.

The Symposium is open to all qualified healthcare practitioners and features an exciting line-up of international speakers in integrative health.

Delegates can register by visiting www.bioceticals.com.au/education/events.

Pharmacy for Sale

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Pharmacy DAILY

Friday 22 Mar 2013

PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

Swisse and Ellen

SWISSE Wellness is giving 10 people the chance to see The Ellen Show live in Los Angeles, with the announcement being pumped out by the company this week using a massive national campaign.

See www.swisse.com for details.

WIN A BOSISTO'S PRIZE PACK



PD has teamed up with FGB Natural Products this week and is giving three lucky readers the chance to win an amazing Bosisto's prize pack.

Bosisto's is embarking on an exciting project to plant 1 million trees in 2013! Customers can help Bosisto's 'Plant a Tree' by purchasing any specially-marked 200mL Eucalyptus oil, available instore from May. The project aims to support local communities, the economy and the environment.

For your chance to win, email your answer (in 25 words or less) to the below by COB on Friday to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

If you could change the environment for the better, what would you do?

Why choose generic drugs?

THE Generic Medicines Industry Association and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have banded together to launch a joint initiative – Why choose generic medicines?

"And the answer to this question is simple: generic medicines offer the same health benefits, they provide this at a lower cost to government and community and the quality and performance of generic medicines are assured," a statement from the duo said.

"Australians are very positive towards generic medicines - 82% agree that a generic medicine is 'a product I know and trust'".

"However, Australians display a preference (2:1) for branded over generic medicines, revealing a disconnect between favourable perceptions and their purchasing consideration," the statement added.

According to the pair Australians are more likely to think branded rather than generic medicines: are 'high quality' (94% branded, 81% generic); and 'meet Australian standards of safety and effectiveness' (92% branded, 79% generic).

"The more quality information that consumers have about generic medicines, the more likely they are to choose a generic medicine," the duo said.

As such, the new initiative is designed to enable pharmacists to deliver high quality info to the consumer about generics.

To this end, The Generic Medicines Industry Association and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have developed important

We help pharmacists take the holiday they need.

NO FEES OR CHARGES

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materials for pharmacists to use in their pharmacy with their customer," the statement said.

"These consumer friendly materials are designed to present the facts and dispel the fallacies associated with generic medicines.

"These materials are being launched at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Annual National Conference today," the statement added.

Pharma in your pocket

PHARMORE Pharmacies has launched Pharmacist In Your Pocket iPhone app free for Australian customers.

The app features over 100 articles written by Pharmore Pharmacies' Health Care Pharmacist on a wide variety of health conditions, including baby and children's health, cough & cold and skin health; as well as information on over 400 products, including information about indications, directions, ingredients and product warnings.

In addition, the app features monthly promotions and special offers, customers can access coupons directly on their iPhone which can be redeemed in-store; as well as catalogues and competitions.

"We are excited to launch such a revolutionary way for the public to access trusted health advice and information, whenever and wherever they are, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week," said Pauline Rowling, CEO of Pharmore Pharmacies.

See www.pbs.gov.au for more details.

Easter arrangements

THE Department of Human Services has special arrangements in place during the Easter and ANZAC Day holiday periods to ensure people are not inconvenienced by office closures.

GM Hank Jongen said all Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support offices will be closed from 29 March to 01 April and 25 April.

Online Services and Phone Self-Service will be available as normal during the 2013 Easter public holiday period. These services will also be available on ANZAC Day.

Jongen said some payments would be made early if they fall on a public holiday, to ensure that no payments are delayed.

Standards approved

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has announced that it has approved the revised accreditation standards.

The Board previously directed the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC), accreditation authority for the pharmacy profession, to conduct a review of the Accreditation standards for pharmacy programs in Australia and New Zealand.

The review was to build on existing accreditation standards and include a comparison against international standards.

These will be implemented 01 January 2014.

APC will continue to accredit pharmacy programs against the existing accreditation standards, which will remain published on its website until the revised standards are implemented.

See pharmacycouncil.org.au.

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*Competition drawn 25th of March. One to be won. Winner will be contacted via phone or email.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Team Pharmacist** - Coral Coast, QLD (Job# 2009716)
Customer focused group - full-time career pharmacist opportunity
- **Clinical Pharmacy Manager** - North Adelaide, SA (Job# 2009744)
Overseeing the operations of a Private Hospital Pharmacy. Great location.
- **Pharmacist** - Mid North Coast, NSW (Job# 2009728)
Experienced Pharmacist to work in beach side community pharmacy

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Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

02-09 May: PSA Offshore Refresher Conference, London - more info 1300 139 293.

31 May-02 Jun: PSA CPExpo, Hordern Pavilion Sydney - see www.psa.org.au/cpexpo.

21-23 June: NSW Pharmacy-National Convention & Exhibition. Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. For details see: www.nswpharmacy-nce.com.au.

5-8 July: Australian College of Pharmacy's 24th Annual Conference and Exhibition, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre - www.acp.edu.au.

04-07 Sep: Navigating the Future - Pharmacy 2013: The Pharmacy Management Conference; Sheraton Mirage, Port Douglas; see pharmacyconference.com.au.

14-16 Oct: Global Drug Safety Conference and Exposition, Brisbane - for more details email qldadmin@psa.org.au.

APESMA on HMRs

APESMA has cautiously welcomed an announcement today by Health Minister Tanya Plibersek that the HMR program would continue apparently with little change in the fee paid to the hundreds of pharmacists who provide the important program to Australian patients (**PD** today p1)

President of APESMA's Pharmacy Division, Dr Geoff March, said more detail was required to assess the announcement but he welcomed the news that the HMR program would apparently include "virtually no change to the current fees for HMR or other vital medication management services under the Fifth Agreement".

2013 QCPP award winners

LIM'S Pharmacy in Springvale, Victoria has taken out the top honours at the Australian Pharmacy Professional conference (APP) on the Gold Coast, having been announced as the 2013 QCPP Pharmacy of the Year.

In addition, Lim's Pharmacy was also the community engagement category winner.

"We are very honoured and thankful to all those people and organisations that believed in us and encouraged us to enter," said owner pharmacist Richard Lim, who accepted the award on behalf of his team.

"Lim's pharmacy is in an extremely diverse area in Melbourne.

"From our very early days we have engaged with the different cultural centres as a way of ensuring people in our community have access to information and healthcare.

This engagement helps us to understand the needs of our patients and drives our innovation," Lim added.

Meanwhile the other big winners included Gerald Burns Pharmacy Perth, Western Australia, which took out the award for Excellence in Business Management; and

Craven's Pharmacy Perth, Western Australia which won for Innovation in Professional Services.

For their efforts, the overall winner and the category winners have shared in a cash prize, and each received a trophy to display in their respective pharmacies, as well as a professional photo shoot.

"I am extremely proud of our industry and there is no better showcase of our individual and collective achievements than this rigorously judged and highly respected award," said the National President of the Guild, Kos Sclavos.



PICTURED above is the team from Lim's Pharmacy

Diabetes care

A TEAM of Victorian researchers has created an innovative platform that will allow people with diabetes and their carers to access high quality, trusted health information in their home via their television.

The SeeCare IPTV platform delivers tailored video content to the user's television screens via a broadband connection.

The system which is in proof-of-concept stage, is an integration of the SeeCare support solution and Ericsson's IPTV platform, and provides a healthcare information that can be tailored to the individual and their carers.

"The system helps people in need to coordinate support and care for themselves, and for others," said SeeCare Director, Gil Tidhar.

"It enables the sharing of responsibility, support, and decision making with different professionals, as well as with family and friends," he added.

Bed wetting statistics

UP to 12% of seven year old Australian children wet the bed, according to the Continence Foundation of Australia.

In addition the Foundation estimates that two students in a class of 30 wet the bed at least twice a week; and that if one parent wet the bed as a child, there is a 44% chance the child will too.

Moreover, the Foundation said that if both parents wet the bed, the child has a 75% chance of being a bed wetter.

For information on incontinence call The National Continence Helpline (1800 33 00 66) or visit www.continence.org.au.

DISPENSARY CORNER

JUMPSTART your heart.

Two daredevil base jumpers have skyrocketed to internet fame after video footage surfaced of the Norwegian pair flying through the narrow gap between two skyscrapers in wingsuits.

The duo, Ludovic Woerth and Jocke Sommer, strapped cameras to their helmets for the stunt, which saw them jump in the early hours of the morning from a light aircraft which soared above the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro.

The video follows the pair as they fall toward the city, through light fog, all the while lining up their decent to match up with a narrow gap between two skyscrapers.

Viewers then travel with the duo as they pass through the narrow passage to land safely on the ground in front of the city's St Sebastian Cathedral.

The duo did not get permission for the jump.

To watch the video **CLICK HERE**.

GOING against nature.

A pair of foxes turned the tables on nature recently, after they decided not to be prey to a cheetah, and instead chased the big cat away.

The moment was snapped by an onlooker who watched the cheetah stalk the foxes on a plain in Tanzania.

Despite the obvious size and strength differences, the foxes decided not to become dinner and turned on the cheetah charging it and scaring it enough for it to take off speed.

"It looked to me like it was a bit of a game and they weren't interested in hurting each other," a bystander said.





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April PBS changes with our
Health Check calculator.**

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