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## Suicide study

A **GROUND**-breaking study will examine every Victorian suicide over a two-year period to try to save the lives of people who may be at risk of suicide in the future.

The study is the result of a partnership between beyondblue, Coroners Court of Victoria and The University of Melbourne, and will investigate over 1000 confirmed suicides and other suspected suicide deaths that occurred between 2009 and 2010.

In addition, the study will examine the frequency and nature of any contact these people had with health, housing and other services such as police, ambulance and health professionals.

## Asthma across Australia

**INLAND** areas of Australia have higher rates of hospitalisation for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, according to the latest report from the Australian Health and Welfare Institute.

Titled *Geographic Distribution of Asthma and Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease hospitalisations in Australia: 2007-08 to 2009-10*, the report analysed the association between hospitalisation rates for asthma and COPD, as well as other factors such as socioeconomic status, remoteness and the proportion of Indigenous Australians in different locations across Australia.

According to the findings, for COPD higher hospitalisation rates are seen in much of the Northern Territory and the north-west corner of Western Australia.

In addition, asthma hospitalisation rates were also higher in some Queensland coastal areas, in the south-east corner of South Australia and in the southern part of Western Australia.

"Socioeconomic status was found to be a significant explanation for the variation in hospitalisations for

both asthma and COPD across geographical areas of Australia," said AIHW spokesperson Nigel Harding.

According to the AIHW, the degree of remoteness and the proportion of the population who identified as Indigenous Australians also explained some of the variation in hospitalisations, but to a lesser extent, whilst environmental factors such as air pollution or the presence of allergic triggers may also play a role.

"There are many other reasons why asthma and COPD hospitalisation rates may be high in particular areas, including local smoking rates, the prevalence of other health conditions, and issues related to access to health care services, which can increase the likelihood of hospitalisation," he added.

## Takeda milestone

**THIS** month Takeda has marked a milestone, with one billion treatment courses of Somac (pantoprazole) having been administered worldwide since its launch in 1994.

Meanwhile, in Australia alone, the company has clocked up an impressive 40 million units of the gastrointestinal product since 1995.

Interestingly during 2010-11 Somac was Australia's seventh most prescribed PBS medicine.

## Pancreatic investigation

**THE** European Medicines Agency is investigating findings by a group of independent academic researchers that suggest an increased risk of pancreatitis and pre-cancerous cellular changes called pancreatic duct metaplasia in patients with type 2 diabetes treated with so-called GLP-1-based therapies (glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1) agonists and dipeptidylpeptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitors).

The research examination of a small number of pancreatic tissue samples obtained from organ donors with and without diabetes mellitus, who died due to causes other than diabetes.



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## Today in Pharmacy

**TODAY'S Pharmacy Daily** features two pages of news, plus a page of Health and Beauty updates.

**PLUS** see **page four** for a full page from Reform detailing its Loyalty Pricing offers.

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## Yoghurt for infections

A RECENT study had found probiotics in yoghurt including LGG (lactobacillus rhamnosus) and BB-12 (bifidobacterium animalis ssp. Lactis BB-12) reduced the duration and severity of upper respiratory tract infections.

The study involved 200 college students aged 18-25 and found that those who consumed products containing LGG and BB-12 once a day for 12 weeks had colds that lasted two days less than those students taking the placebo and their symptoms were a third less severe.

## WIN THE DIVACUP PACK



Every day this week PD is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a DivaCup

prize pack, valued at \$69.90 each.

Finally a better way! The DivaCup is a reusable menstrual cup that catches your menstrual flow.

Latex-free, plastic free and BPA-free and made with the top quality medical grade silicone the DivaCup helps you save money and care for the planet.

To win, be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to:

[comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

How many sizes does The DivaCup have?

Hint! Visit [www.divacup.com.au](http://www.divacup.com.au)

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Sophie Novasari** of **Bayswater Drive-in Chemist**.

## Australia's liver burden

LIVER disease now affects more than six million Australians according to a new report.

*The Economic Cost and Health Burden of Liver Disease in Australia* report was produced by Deloitte Access Economics, and found that in addition to affecting over a quarter of the population liver disease equates to a staggering annual cost burden of \$50.7 billion.

"With the number of Australians with liver disease reaching over eight million by 2030 it is imperative we act quickly," said report contributor Associate Professor Amany Zekry, liver specialist at St George Hospital.

"It is responsible for one quarter of all organ transplants and if left untreated, results in liver cancer – our fastest growing form of cancer in Australia.

"We can't ignore it any more - liver disease must receive prompt attention and urgent recognition as a chronic condition and national health priority," she added.

According to the report, 5.5m Aussies now have non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, making it Australia's most prevalent form of liver disease.

Meanwhile, the report also noted that viral hepatitis (including chronic hepatitis B and C) is the second most common form of liver disease affecting more than 500,000 Aussies, whilst productivity impact of liver diseases was found to be \$4.2b.

Of this figure, \$2.1b in productivity losses were associated with lower employment participation, and absenteeism resulted in an additional cost of \$207m.

The report also noted that informal care for people with liver diseases is often undertaken by family members or friends and represents an economic opportunity cost of approximately \$259m.

Other major findings of the report

included the fact that viral hepatitis is the main contributor to the estimated \$432m health costs for treating liver diseases each year in Australia.

Meanwhile the report calls for the establishment of a national database for chronic liver diseases, as well as the development of a model liver clinic that delivers multidisciplinary care to patients.

In addition, the report calls for nurse-led community based model of care in collaboration with primary care physicians and integrated into hospital based liver centres; and national liver cancer screening program for the 70,000 Australians in high risk groups.

"Liver damage, in many cases, is attributable to one or more of three major public health issues – high-fat diet, alcohol and viral hepatitis," said study contributor Professor Geoff McCaughan, Head of the National Liver Transplant Unit, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

"Many forms of liver disease are therefore preventable and many more, if detected early, can be treated effectively.

"Prompt and effective action will significantly reduce the financial, physical and emotional burden of this challenging disease," he added.

## Urinary issues

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is advising Australian health professionals and consumers that selected lots of AMS 800 Control Pumps may not function as intended by the manufacturer, American Medical Systems Inc (AMS).

AMS 800 Control Pumps are used in artificial urinary control systems, which are implanted in patients with moderate to severe incontinence to simulate normal urinary function.

Investigations undertaken in response to customer complaints have found that selected lots of two models of control pumps supplied in Australia were released despite not fully meeting the manufacturer's product release criteria.

The item numbers for the affected models are: 72400098 and 72404127.

All affected stock has been removed from the field.

Healthcare professionals that have patients with symptoms that suggest their artificial urinary control system is not functioning as intended should be referred to a urologist, preferably the implanting urologist.

For more information see [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

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## Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au).

### Dreambaby essentials

Pharmacy favourite, **Dreambaby**, has launched a new **Essentials Grooming Kit**, which is made up of all the necessities for infant grooming, including hairbrush (with toddler sized handle), comb (non-scratch with rounded teeth), nail clippers (curved and sized for small fingers and toes), toothbrush (compact head, smooth bristles), emery boards and scissors (rounded tips), all contained within a plastic storage case.

**Stockist:** (02) 9386 4000

**RRP:** \$19.95

**Website:** [www.dreambaby.com.au](http://www.dreambaby.com.au)



### A touch of peach

Following on from the success of **Carmex's** Moisture Plus lip balm in Pink Sheer Tint, the company has launched a new **Carmex Moisture Plus lip balm in Peach Sheer Tint**. The balm is enriched with Shea Butter, Vitamin E and Aloe, and features an all important SPF 15. The product also provides a natural looking colour boost to lips, and comes in a sleek slant tipped tube which allows for smooth and easy application.

**Stockist:** 07 5470 2708

**RRP:** \$8.99

**Website:** [www.mycarmex.com.au](http://www.mycarmex.com.au)



### French nails in a flash

**Estee Lauder** is getting back to basics with its **Pure Color Nail Lacquer French Nudes Collection**. Ranging from fair to dark and warm to cool, these flattering flesh tone shades provide nails with a subtly feminine, barely there look. The range includes chocolate brown, creamy cocoa, milky beige and soft pink hues to with natural shades that perfectly match skintone to extend and elongate fingers or shades that contrast skintone for a more dramatic and daring nail look.

**Stockist:** 1800 061 326

**RRP:** \$38

**Website:** [www.esteelauder.com.au](http://www.esteelauder.com.au)



### Get that pesky eye make-up off

To provide more effective make-up removal and gentleness in the wake of advances in the staying power of eye make-up, **Clarins Research** has reformulated the brand's bestselling eye make-up removers. As such, the brand's **Gentle Eye Make-Up Remover** and **Instant Eye Make-Up Remover** are now formulated with organic floral waters of rose and cornflower with softening and calming benefits and enriched with organic chamomile extract which soothes and relaxes. In addition, To take care of lashes, Clarins Laboratories has also enhanced the formula of their eye make-up removers with D-panthenol, also known as provitamin B5, with stimulating and restructuring properties. Benefits of D-panthenol include the fact that it coats lashes with a protective covering film, helping encourage lash growth and providing soothing benefits.

**Stockist:** (02) 9663 4277

**RRP:** \$36

**Website:** [www.adorebeauty.com.au](http://www.adorebeauty.com.au)



## DISPENSARY CORNER

### NATURE or nurture?

A seal pup has defied nature to end up 6.5kms from the coast line, deep within a Swedish forest.

The pup was discovered by a hiker in Uppsala in Sweden.

"A somewhat confused person called and said he was out walking in the woods where he had found a seal pup," a police spokesperson told media.

"I thought he was joking at first," the policeman added.

According to experts, it is believed that the pup may have gotten separated from its mother whilst splashing in a river and ended up swimming the wrong way into the forest.

The pup has since been released back into a habitat more suited to a seal.



### RID yourself of fear.

The owners of a public swimming pool in England tested the mettle of their patrons, by hosting a movie screening of *Jaws*.

The aqua-themed movie evening saw guests pack into and around the pool for a screening of the family favourite *Finding Nemo*, which was followed hopefully by an intermission and loo break, and then with a screening of the infamous *Jaws*, a movie which single-handedly may be responsible for more shark phobias world-wide, than any other Hollywood blockbuster.

To add to the evening, the movie's sound was audible both above and below the water.





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