

# Pharmacy DAILY

Thursday 28 Mar 2013

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## Protect against bugs

NPS has outlined three steps to protect against a 'superbug plague'.

The steps include: only taking antibiotics when they are needed; when on antibiotics, only take them in the manner prescribed; and always practice good hygiene.

See [www.nps.gov.au](http://www.nps.gov.au).

## Winners are grinners

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the lucky winners of last week's Bosistos competition: Juliana Kobryn, Blooms the Chemist Springwood; Kathrina Casella, Ayr Hospital Pharmacy; and Joanne Campbell Macquarie Hospital.

## Pharmacy for Sale

### Sydney CBD (#1564)

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- \* Turnover 2011/12 \$1,455,032

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## APESMA expands services

**THE** pharmacy union APESMA has expanded its services to members, vowing to be a "stronger union than before".

To that end, the union's pharmacy division is now known as Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA), and will feature extended services including continuing professional development (CDP), independent advocacy for pharmacists, and a team of workplace and employment legal experts.

Speaking about the shakeup PPA President, Dr Geoff March said "This is more than a name change, it's a significant investment in the future of the pharmacy profession".

In terms of new services on offer

for pharmacists, March said that members will be able to complete CPD via an agreement with the Society of Hospital Pharmacists Australia.

"PAA members will have access to shpacpd, which has been specially tailored to meet their needs and assist them in meeting the Pharmacy Board of Australia's requirements for registration under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme," the PAA said in a statement.

Meanwhile, in terms of advocacy, March said that the PPA's new team of legal staff "will be able to help end the entrenched culture of underpaying pharmacists and breaking Australia's workplace laws".

To learn more about the PAA visit [professionalpharmacists.com.au](http://professionalpharmacists.com.au).

## Aciphex US approval

**AMERICAN** children suffering from gastroesophageal reflux disease now have access to a new treatment, following the FDA approval of Aciphex Sprinkle Delayed-Release Capsules 5mg and 10mg.

The PPI product is approved for use in children aged between 1 and 11, see [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov) for details.

## Code access granted

**MEDICINES** Australia has made access to its Code of Conduct and the Code of Conduct Guidelines even easier, via the launch of a new smart app.

Free of charge, the MA Code iPad app enables instant access to the Code as well as other "related information".

"There are a number of features such as options to bookmark pages, share content and a help desk," said Medicines Australia Chief Executive Dr Brendan Shaw.

"The MA Code iPad app will also enable us to share answers to questions and provide updates much more efficiently," Shaw added.

## New AusPARs

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has published new AusPARs for bortezomib (Velcade) and sitagliptin/metformin (Janumet).

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### Travel Specials

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Priced from \$440 and valid for stays between 01 April and 30 September, the deal includes a three night stay in an apartment, complete with kitchen facilities.

For more details 1800 766 377.

### Get on an e-couch

**AUSTRALIANS** suffering from depression and anxiety may be better off on an e-couch, according to a University of Sydney study.

Published in *Plos One*, the research involved 562 participants, and looked at e-couch, an online program which includes 12 modules of psychoeducation, cognitive behaviour therapy and interpersonal psychotherapy techniques.

During the study, researchers compared the health outcomes of participants using e-couch to those using a similar online program which provided users with info about depression, nutrition, physical activity, blood pressure and cholesterol and heart health.

According to the results, participants who used e-couch improved by 40%, compared to those just given health information.

"Interestingly, those who used e-couch also showed better adherence to medical treatments and some improvements in their lifestyle," said study head Professor Nick Glozier.

## Mental health spend up

**THE** Australian Government has upped its spend on mental health care according to the AIHW.

The comments come as part of the AIHW's latest data release, which revealed that between 2010-11 the Govt increased its mental health spend by \$450m to \$6.9b.

"This equates to about \$309 spent per Australian on mental health related services in 2010-11, an increase from \$248 per Australian in 2006-07," said AIHW spokesperson Dr Pamela Kinnear.

Breaking down the figures, the lion's share of the spend went to state and territory mental health services (\$4.2b), whilst \$1.8b was reserved for specialised mental health services for admitted patients in public hospitals.

The data also revealed that the average spend per patient per day was \$842, whilst around 10,800 specialised mental health beds were available in 2010-11 (around two thirds of which were supplied via public hospitals).

Meanwhile, the AIHW also revealed that amongst the spend,

\$852 million was paid in Medicare benefits for mental health services, a figure which according to the AIHW equates to around 5% of Medicare expenditure.

### Ethical awards

**SANOFI'S** Sharon Wong has taken out Medicines Australia Code of Conduct Award, for full marks in the Code of Conduct Program.

The award was announced last night at a glittering awards ceremony held last night to celebrate ethical sales and marketing.

Other winners on the night included: Rachel McGregor, Abbott; Sharon Elliott, AstraZeneca; David Tran and Andrew Blank, Boehringer Ingelheim; Helen Duck and Blessed Ramos, GSK; Jaime Gunther and Sally Bishay MSD; Rodney Foong, Novartis; Jessica Ellershaw, Pfizer; and Clair Morris, Sanofi, who all took out Medicines Australia CEP Achievement Awards, for the highest marks across all five core Programs.

### DISPENSARY CORNER

#### STRONG bones?

A trio of young American teens have started a strange new internet craze titled 'gallon smashing'.

The bizarre trend involves teens walking into supermarkets and convenience stores and throwing milk cartons on the ground, before 'slipping' and faking injuries.

The clip of these not-so-amazing feats are then uploaded onto YouTube and watched by thousands.

Thus far none of the teens have been hurt, however authorities are currently seeking them for property destruction.

## WIN THE DIVACUP PRIZE PACK



Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** 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.

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To win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**What is the best cleaner you can use on The DivaCup?**

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

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Megan Tonkin** from **Wembley Pharmacy**.



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