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Naproxen S2 proposal

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is inviting comments on a proposal to amend the Schedule 2 entry for Naproxen to include a modified release dosage form of 600mg or less of the medication per dosage unit in packs of 16 or less, when not labelled for the treatment of children under 12 years of age.

Also up for consideration is a proposal to include sodium oxybate for human therapeutic use in Schedule 8.

The matters are on the agenda for the Mar 2014 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling, with comments sought in electronic form by 19 Dec 2013 to SMP@health.gov.au.

Nesina on PBS 01 Dec

TAKEDA Pharmaceuticals Australia announced that Nesina (alogliptin), a new DPP-4 inhibitor, is to be reimbursed on the PBS from 01 Dec 2013.

Nesina is an oral medication indicated to improve glycaemic control in adults with Type 2 diabetes when added to other anti-diabetic medications.

Global meds to \$1t in 2014

IMS Health has released a study that forecasts global spending on medicines will reach US\$1 trillion in 2014, driven by greater access to more and new medicines.

The world's rapidly expanding middle class together with stronger economic prospects in developed nations will also bring total spending on medicines to US\$1.2 trillion by 2017.

The report, *The Global Use of Medicines: Outlook through 2017*, found that growth in global spending on medicines increased 2.6% to \$965 billion in 2012, and is forecast to grow at a 3-6% compound annual rate over the next five years.

With new product launches dominated by innovative specialty medicines, particularly for the treatment of cancer, payer concerns about rising costs for these drugs will intensify in both developed and emerging markets, IMS said.

Spending on specialty medicines is expected to reach US\$230-240 billion in 2017, up 38 percent from the US\$171 billion spent in 2012.

Other highlights from the

research include that structural changes within healthcare systems globally are creating divergent trends between insured & uninsured patients; a gradual increase in global medicine spending growth will unfold during the next five years, but remain at modest levels; specialty and biologic segments of branded medicines will outpace overall spending growth; and an average of 35 new medicines with the potential to transform disease treatments are forecast to be launched annually.

See the full report by going to www.theimsinstitute.org.

PPA thanks Sue Kirska

UNION group Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA) today paid tribute to the hard work and vision of Sue Kirska who recently stepped down as President of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists Australia (**PD** 20 Nov).

PPA ceo Chris Walton said Kirska had worked tirelessly to see pharmacists better utilise their skills to improve community health.

"Sue sought to constructively address the barriers created by those who only saw pharmacists' roles existing in the four walls of a community pharmacy," he said.

Walton also welcomed Michael Dooley as the new SHPA President, saying he "looks forward to working in partnership towards our shared vision for a better health outcome where pharmacists can play more of a role in primary healthcare teams."

TGA devices update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has published its inaugural *Medical Devices Safety Update* which aims to help health professionals keep abreast of potential issues with medical devices used in Australia.

For details **CLICK HERE**.



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WIN A PLUNKETT'S PACK

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving two lucky readers the chance to win a **Plunkett's Aloe Vera** pack.

Get Fresh Summer Skin with Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera!

Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera is now available as a moisturiser for everyday use. This light, refreshing cream is 90% pure certified organic aloe vera plus the restoring goodness of natural Vitamin E. Aloe Vera is "Nature's Medicine Plant" and is renowned for its cooling, soothing and moisturising properties. These Australian-made products do not contain fragrance, colour, parabens or alcohol. To win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.



Does Plunkett's Hi-Potency Moisturiser contain Fragrance?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners, **Emily Keleher** from **Good Price Pharmacy Warehouse** and **Anna Silkeci** of **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia**. The correct answer was **True**.



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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Mid North Coast, NSW (Job# 2010007)
Beautiful location - partnership opportunity - high end salary - exp team.
- **Pharmacist Dispensary Manager** - East Gippsland, VIC (Job# 2010250)
Great family-friendly location; excellent salary pkg; 4 hrs from Melbourne.
- **Dispensary Manager** - Capricornia Coast, QLD (Job# 2010012)
Relaxed location to enjoy after fast paced dispensary with lots of diversity.

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Corolan on PBS 01 Dec

THE National Heart Foundation of Australia has welcomed the Federal Government's decision to subsidise chronic heart failure medicine Corolan (ivabradine) saying it will help improve the quality of life for many of the 300,000 people living with the debilitating disease.

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.

30 Nov- 1 Dec: Workshop: Mental Health First Aid, St Leonards, more info at: www.psa.org.au

8 Dec: Apply First Aid, St Leonards; more info at: www.guild.org.au/nsw

4 Feb 2014: Cardiovascular Disease & Type 2 Diabetes Risk Assessment; Brisbane; call: (07) 3831 9246

21-23 Feb 2014: CPD by the SEA - NSW Convention; Novotel Sydney Manly Pacific - www.cpdbythesea.com.au

21-13 Feb 2014: Foundation Clinical Pharmacy Practice Seminar; InterContinental Adelaide - see more at: www.shpa.org.au

28 Feb - 1 Mar: Blackmores Institute Symposium; Australian Technology Park, Sydney, more info at: <http://wired.ivvy.com/event/BIS13/>

1-2 Mar 2014: Cardiology Seminar; Sofitel Gold Coast Broadbeach - visit: www.shpa.org.au

7-9 March 2014: PSA Annual Therapeutic Update; Crown Plaza Terrigal; see www.psa.org.au/conferences

13-16 Mar 2014: Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual National Conference APP 2014, Gold Coast - see www.appconference.com

CHF welcomes price cuts

THE Consumers Health Forum has congratulated new health minister Peter Dutton for "pressing ahead with legislation to accelerate price cuts for prescription medicines".

As revealed in *Pharmacy Daily* yesterday, Dutton, while strongly supportive of the community pharmacy sector, has indicated that the govt is "not in a position to ameliorate the impact of the 2 August changes to price disclosure".

CHF spokesman Mark Metherell said the government move "vindicating the CHF's call for cheaper medicines in the face of a misleading campaign by pharmacy owners who have profited handsomely from inflated prices over the years".

He estimated that the changes from next month will reduce Australia's medicines bill by about \$250 million annually.

"We applaud the Health Minister, Peter Dutton, for standing firm on this issue.

"As he says, price disclosure is a free market solution which brings market forces and discounting

practices to bear in a way that would not otherwise occur for subsidised prices," Metherell said.

The CHF is also calling for the government to release the Senate committee report into the review of chemotherapy funding, after Dutton's comments at the Pharmacy Guild annual dinner on Tuesday where he confirmed that money would not be taken from the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement to redress the chemo reimbursement crisis.

"CHF asks that Mr Dutton release the report so the public can have a better understanding of an issue that prompted so much anxiety among cancer patients," Metherell concluded.

FDA restricts pain meds

THE US Food and Drug Administration is recommending the re-classification of Vicodin and other hydrocodone-containing products from the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Schedule III list of controlled substances to the more restrictive Schedule II list.

B. Douglas Hoey, ceo of the USA's National Community Pharmacists Association said, "This will likely pose significant hardships and delay relief for many patients."

Nursing home and long-term care patients are to be most affected.

Diabetes GP workload

A new report from the University of Sydney's Family Medicine Research Centre has found that the time invested by general practitioners into chronic disease management - particularly Type 2 diabetes - has increased to 8% of their workload.

General Practice Activity in Australia 2012-13 and the companion report *A decade of Australian general practice 2002-03 to 2012-13* from the Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH) program highlights the changes over the last decade in Australians' reasons for seeing a GP and what happens during those visits.

MHRA clamps down

THE UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has clamped down on homeopathic medicine advertising online to ensure that items are promoted within the terms of their authorisation or registration.

Similarly the MHRA has forced companies to amend their advertising to ensure that prescription only medicines are not promoted to the public.

The MHRA has also decided that effective from 01 May 2014, all herbal medicinal products sold in the UK will require either a full marketing authorisation (MA) or a traditional herbal registration (THR) in order to remain on the market.

The ruling follows a public consultation on proposals to end the current transitional arrangements which permitted the 'sell through' of unlicensed herbal remedies which were legally on the market in April 2011.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A DAYCARE centre in Canada has probably gone a little too far in encouraging healthy eating, after fining a woman for failing to pack a nutritionally balanced lunch for her children.

Kristin Barkiw was surprised to receive a \$10 penalty from the Little Cub's Den for not including all five food groups in the leftover roast meal she supplied for her three and five year old kids.

Apparently the lunch included cold roast beef, carrots, potatoes, an orange and some milk - but caused concern among staff because it didn't include a "grains" component.

Fortunately the quick-thinking daycare staff had some Ritz crackers on hand which they added to the meal to ensure there were no adverse health impacts due to the alarming omission.

FORMER North Korean dictator Kim Il Sung was known as the "Eternal President" and it appears he took the title in earnest, with a new book revealing that he asked a team of medical experts to help him live longer.

According to the book written by his former doctor, when he turned 65 the strongman formed a research institute which had the aim of helping Kim to live to the age of at least 120.

The scientists analysed thousands of herbs and medicinal plants based on traditional Chinese medicine.

They also conducted a number of novel experiments, one of which aimed to try to make the dictator laugh more often.

"We invited a stage actor to perform a comedy, and got five and six year olds to do adorable things," the doctor wrote.

As the leader aged other techniques were tried, including taking blood transfusions from healthy young men.

Unfortunately it was all in vain, with Kim Il Sung dying of a heart attack in 1994, aged 82 years.