

## Vax trial "irresponsible"

**THE** Australian Medical Association (AMA) has written to Queensland's chief health officer about patient safety concerns regarding the trial of pharmacists providing flu vaccinations.

President Dr Steven Hambleton said the Queensland trial should be stopped immediately.

"Vaccinations...should be performed by appropriately trained and accredited health professionals - doctors - or under direct supervision of doctors in a safe and private clinical environment," adding that patient safety could be at risk if pharmacists participate in the "irresponsible" trial.

He said issues included privacy, training and side effects.

As reported yesterday (PD 14/01), immunisation expert at the National Centre for Immunisation Research & Surveillance (NCIRS) at the Westmead Children's Hospital, Professor Robert Booy, said the trial was taking a considered and careful approach in getting appropriate training and regulatory approval to do an important pilot study.

Pharmacy Guild national president George Tambassis said, "The AMA's criticisms are not driven by concerns about patients but their preference to retain control over all aspects of the health system, even if it means reduced access for patients."

The Guild said that vaccination was within the current scope of practice of pharmacists with additional training, was already safely conducted in the UK, Ireland, NZ, Canada and the USA and the pilot followed consultation with Qld DoH with appropriate legal approvals.

## Mental health help study

**GRIFFITH** University is looking for community pharmacy staff as part of a project that looks to improve the skills of pharmacy staff with regards to working with mental health consumers.

The Mental Health and Community Pharmacy Project is funded by a \$2.1 million federal grant as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement R&D program managed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

The project has had its first round of training and would finish by training another 100 pharmacies across Queensland, Western Australia and northern New South Wales, a spokesperson for the Griffith University said.

Project manager Bradley McConachie said 63 pharmacies had been trained across these

regions with the majority of participants rating it as 'Excellent/Good' in a questionnaire.

The training included building communication skills and helping staff develop medication support plans to assist mental health consumers with managing medication.

Study leader Professor Amanda Wheeler of the Griffith Health Institute said the research team had spoken with more than 250 consumers and carers about their needs and pharmacy experience.

Professor Wheeler said the training was about pharmacies supporting GPs, working collaboratively with them and other mental health professionals to ensure consumers got the best out of their medication.

Participants received professional development points and financial compensation.

The workshop dates are Brisbane on the 04 and 19 Feb, Perth on 19 Feb and Sydney CPD by the SEA 22 Feb.

## Merck drug approval

**A NOVEL** antiplatelet agent vorapaxar, a thrombin receptor antagonist, should be approved, a preliminary review of data has found.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Merck & Co Inc's drug, with the brand name Zontivity, had had "robustly positive" clinical trials, *Reuters* reported.

Medical experts were expected to recommend whether the drug should be approved or not tomorrow, with the FDA generally following suit, the publication reported.

To read more **CLICK HERE**.

## Hydralyte in the heat

**HYDRALYTE** has made an emergency delivery of its iceblocks to the Australian Open.

The company said the iceblocks were delivered to chief medical officer Dr Tim Wood, who requested them Friday afternoon.

Hydralyte said with the heatwave in full swing, it was concerned about the health and wellbeing of the ball kids in particular.

Rehydration continues to be a hot topic with temperatures in Australia ranging up to 46° C this week.

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## WIN A THERMOSKIN SPORTS PACK

**Pharmacy Daily** has teamed up with **Thermoskin** this week and is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a Thermoskin pack from their New Sport Range, valued at \$65.

Leading Australian injury prevention and rehabilitation brand, **Thermoskin**, provides effective treatment with its New Sport Range of products designed to be worn during active performance.

The range is made with three-level super stretch fabric, offering sports participants the necessary compression, support and warmth at key injury prone body sites.

Thermoskin's Sport Range Prize pack includes a Wrist Adjustable, Ankle Adjustable and Thermoskin Drink Bottle

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).

**What is the Thermoskin Wrist Adjustable product for?**

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Noelene Morris** from **Marlin Coast Amcal Pharmacy**.



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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!

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### MagniShades – the stylish alternative to prescription sunglasses

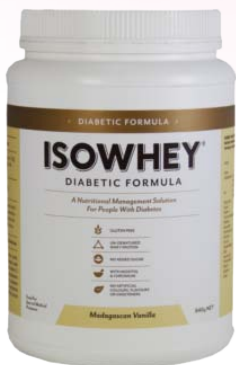
**MagniShades** is a great solution for women and men who need glasses to read while spending time outdoors. Now you can be at home or on holidays, sit by the pool or on the balcony and enjoy reading without switching between sunglasses and readers or buying expensive prescription sunglasses. They are available in 11 fabulous styles and colours with a choice of four diopters and an eye catching counter stand that holds 24 MagniShades with 100% UV protection.

**Stockist:** 0411 112 175

**RRP:** \$29.95

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

(operational 17 January 2014)



### Pharmacist dispensing-only: IsoWhey Diabetic Formula

**IsoWhey Diabetic Formula** has been rebranded to feature a new, clinical look that better reflects its premium nutritional formula. Still boasting the same premium formula, IsoWhey Diabetic Formula is now available in an upgraded Madagascar Vanilla flavour and has been specifically developed as a high-protein formula to help support healthy sugar metabolism. It should be recommended as part of a healthy diet, lifestyle and exercise program under the management of a healthcare professional. The formula contains no added sugar, gluten, yeast or artificial sweeteners - it is only sweetened with steviol glycosides, which have a negligible effect on blood glucose levels.

**Stockist:** 1300 476 943

**RRP:** \$68.95

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

### Fab Iron from Fab Health for that get up and go feeling

Australian women require up to 18mg of iron per day, but most consume less than 10mg within their daily diet. Daily iron supplementation is especially important for vegetarians, vegans, teenage girls, women, for those planning to become pregnant, during pregnancy and whilst breast feeding when healthy iron levels are generally not met. To help cover this dietary shortfall, the **Fab Iron** range of iron supplements delivers the right amount of iron; they are easily digested and are gentle on the stomach.

**Stockist:** Pharmaceutical wholesalers

**RRP:** \$19.95 for 250 ml

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



### Peace and serenity in a bottle - Love Lavender Oil, Pure 10 ml

At last ... a Lavender oil that stands above all others in the market place - 100% pure, organically certified, ethically sourced and representing true value. **Love Lavender** is the ONLY certified organic Lavender Oil in Australia that meets the strict specifications required to be listed on the ARTG as a therapeutic product. Love Lavender Oil can be used for the temporary relief of anxiety, stress, headache, insomnia, nervous tension, wounds, sunburn, minor burns, skin inflammations, muscular aches and pains - a must for any first aid kit.

**Stockists:** 03 8587 4600

**RRP:** \$19.95

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

## DISPENSARY CORNER

### DOCTOR's orders.

A football manager in Scotland has banned himself from giving match-day interviews on the advice of his doctor.

Kenny Shiels, manager of Morton Football Club, said his doctor had advised him that there was a medical condition for his passionate outbursts and that he would be leaving match-day interviews to his assistant, David Hopkin, *BBC Scotland* reported.

"There's a name for it. If someone asks you a question, you're emotionally imbalanced at that time and you feel an urge to tell the truth."

### UNHEALTHY reward.

A desperate Ohio dog owner who had lost her best friend, a husky named Zoro, resorted to offering an unusual and unhealthy reward for the return of her dog.

According to the *Dayton Daily News*, twenty-three-year-old Abigail Miller of Dayton offered a case of beer and a pack of cigarettes as a reward because she could afford it and thought it would be unusual enough to gain some viral attention.

Perversely, a healthy man who located the animal refused the reward so she intended offering him some food instead.

### NO corkscrew handy?

Now there is a clever way to open a bottle of wine without a corkscrew, as long as you have a man's shoe and a solid wall.

In a YouTube sensation a man demonstrates the unlikely prospect of accessing his wine without a corkscrew by firstly removing the foil from the neck of the bottle, inserting the base of the bottle into the heel of the shoe and then ramming the heel of the shoe containing the bottle against a wall a few times.

This gradually forces the cork out to make it possible to extract by hand.

**CLICK HERE** to see the video.