

Bushfire dispensing

THE Australian Department of Health has issued advice for pharmacists supplying PBS medicines to patients in areas affected by bushfire in Western Australia.

Special conditions apply to enable continued supply of PBS items, emergency relocation of a pharmacy and other emergency-generated situations.

These arrangements are effective immediately and until at least 16 Feb 2014.

CLICK HERE to download the pdf of the government advice.

FDA web crack down

THE US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Cybercrimes Investigations Unit is working with other agencies to track down operators and suppliers of web sites that illegally sell prescription medicines, which are often stolen or counterfeit.

The FDA warned that such sites often claimed to be a Canadian pharmacy.

For more **CLICK HERE**.

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.

Are Thermoskin's products designed in Australia?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Natalia Webster** from **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia**.

NPS: spotlight on savings

THE Commission of Audit will shine a spotlight on areas where savings can be made in the health system this year, NPS MedicineWise executive manager Karen Kaye said.

Pharmacy Daily has asked peak industry body leaders their expectations for the coming year.

In this **PART II** of three responses (see **PD** yesterday for Part I), Kaye said with the implementation of enhanced price disclosure, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme was "demonstrably" not an area of budgetary growth.

"A challenge for the medicines industry will be to demonstrate how we can save money by using medicines wisely."

Kaye said in this environment, debate over generics' pricing and the best outcomes for all would continue, as would the debate over appropriate off-label prescribing.

Industry highlights this year included the enhanced prescribing role for pharmacists with the implementation of the *Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway*.

back to school

Ensure your customers' kids head back to school feeling happy and healthy this year with the help of **Inner Health for Kids**.

If a child has been taking a course of antibiotics, **Inner Health for Kids** may assist in maintaining the levels of normal healthy flora that may have been disrupted.

www.innerhealth.com.au Always read the label. Use only as directed.



"This pathway rationalises use of health professionals' skills and will pave the way for pharmacists to take on new roles and a greater responsibility for patient care."

Pharmacists were well placed to support consumers in better decision making when it came to managing their own health care, Kaye said.

"Taking time out to address the concerns of customers and help them with their medicines questions can greatly improve adherence and medication safety."

The industry should keep achieving the best health outcomes for consumers at the forefront of services, she said, by ensuring the appropriate use of home medicines reviews and Residential Medication Management Reviews for high risk patients.

Pharmacists could also take a responsible approach to complementary medicines, ensuring patients had evidence-based information to make an informed decision about medicines.

Transparency was key due to an increased scrutiny of the commercial arrangements between pharmacies and suppliers, she said.

FDA wart remover alert

THE US Food & Drug Administration has warned that some cryogenic (freezing) wart removers have caught fire during use at home, harming consumers.

The FDA has received 14 reports of such events since 2009.

For details **CLICK HERE**.

Cannabis withdrawal

THE National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC) within the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at the University of New South Wales led a study looking at the effects of Sativex (nabiximols) on cannabis withdrawal symptoms.

Published in *JAMA Psychiatry*, the study found that nabiximols treatment "significantly reduced the overall severity of cannabis withdrawal relative to placebo."

This included effects on irritability, depression and cannabis cravings.

The study found that patients remained in treatment longer during medication use but that placebos were as effective as the drug in promoting long-term reductions in cannabis use once medication ceased.

Sativex was administered as an oral spray, licensed in Australia for treatment of MS patients and contained cannabis extracts, the University said.

To read the report **CLICK HERE**.

TGA Super Hard alert

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a safety advisory alert that Super Hard tablets pose a serious risk to health and should not be taken.

The TGA has found that they contain the undeclared prescription-only substance sildenafil, the active ingredient in Viagra, and the supply of Super Hard tablets is illegal.

Some consumers may have bought the tablets online.

For more detail **CLICK HERE**.

Raven's recruitment

Your Pharmacy Recruitment Experts

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Email: info@ravensrecruitment.com.au
Web: www.ravensrecruitment.com.au

Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Mid North Coast, NSW (Job# 2010353)
Medical Centre Pharmacy, sole Pharmacist, excellent salary package.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Launceston, TAS (Job# 2010282)
Oversee general operations of this pharmacy facility; 38hrs Mon-Fri; \$\$\$\$.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Darling Downs Region, QLD (Job# 2010304)
Overall management of a busy community pharmacy, great team, \$\$\$

Love your work? ... SO DO RAVEN'S!

PBS guidelines online

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) guidelines version 4.4 are now available online, explaining how to prepare a submission to list a new medicine on the PBS. To view **CLICK HERE**.

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.

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

8 Feb: Pharmacy on the Move; Sydney; more info at: www.psa.org.au

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

21-23 Feb: 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: Cardiology Seminar; Sofitel Gold Coast Broadbeach - visit: www.shpa.org.au

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

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

11-12 Apr: 2nd BioCeuticals Research Symposium; Sofitel Sydney Wentworth; see: www.bioceuticals.com.au

12-14 Apr: FIP Fifth Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress, Melbourne - for details **CLICK HERE**.

Pharmacy adherence win

A NEW study project conducted by the US National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) has demonstrated significant benefits for pharmacy-driven medication adherence programs.

The research showed that patients who opt in to medication synchronization programs offered through their community pharmacy average more than 100 additional days on therapy per year and are 30 percent more likely to take their medication as prescribed than patients not enrolled in a synchronization program.

The study conducted by NCPA and technology partner Ateb involved more than 1,300 patients enrolled in medication synchronization programs at 10 independent community pharmacies across the USA.

"This study confirms that a personalised medication synchronisation service delivered by community pharmacies is impactful, scalable, and able to be replicated in any community pharmacy," said NCPA ceo B. Douglas Hoey, RPh, MBA.

CLICK HERE to see the study.

Bioceuticals serves ace

BIOCEUTICALS, one of Australia's leading providers of practitioner-only supplements, has announced it is the Official Nutrition Partner of Tennis Australia.

BioCeuticals managing director Kerry Cunningham said that BioCeuticals nutritionists will provide education and products to Tennis Australia's athletes and healthcare practitioners.

9 Blocks Nature's Own

NATURE'S Own has announced a new partnership with Channel Nine's 'The Block', hitting television screens nationally at 7.30 pm on Mon 27 Jan 2014.

Luke Fitzgerald, director of Sanofi Consumer Healthcare, the makers of Nature's Own said, "Last year we challenged Bear Grylls to unlock the science behind our products by using his knowledge of nature alone."

"This year we are continuing our relationship with Bear and we are upping the ante."

"In 2014 we will challenge contestants and viewers of *The Block* to use our expertise to unlock better health for themselves."

One viewer will have the opportunity to win a \$20,000 holiday.

"Throughout our partnership with *The Block*, Nature's Own will also be providing pharmacy specific point of sale including wobblers and die-cuts," he added.

New dementia test

A NEW test for dementia, used by the pharmacy industry in drug trials to detect cognitive change in participants, has been launched as a tool to detect subtle changes that could signify early stage dementia.

Melbourne-based Cogstate's computerised test, involving a deck of playing cards, was launched in partnership with Merck as 'Cognigram'.

The results of a study using the tool, published in *BMC Psychology*, correlated well with measures of disease classification and "are useful in identifying memory impairment related to mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease."

For more **CLICK HERE**.

EMA ticks Diane-35

BAYER'S Diane-35 (cyproterone acetate/ethinylestradiol) will be reintroduced to the French market.

Withdrawn after a suspension on 21 May 2013, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) conducted a review of the benefit-risk profile and concluded the benefits outweighed the risks, Bayer said.

The suspension had followed French regulator ANSM's statement that 4 deaths due to thrombosis were linked to the drug's use over 25 years *Reuters* reported.

Bayer said it had been liaising with the TGA in Australia about the drug and had advised them of the positive outcome in Europe.

Immunisation safety

THE Australian Government Department of Health (DoH) has issued a statement on the *Safety of Immunisation*.

The paper points out that immunisation is "one of the most effective medical interventions we have to prevent disease," and goes on to explain herd immunity as the mechanism through which, when enough people in the community have immunity, the risk of transmission of any disease is reduced.

Immunisation has been estimated to save around three million lives each year.

Safety testing and the National Immunisation Program (NIP) are also explained and this is a strong reference site to direct patients with concerns.

CLICK HERE to access.



DISPENSARY CORNER

PET tracker.

Taipei-based tech company BeLuvv have adapted one of their products to create a GPS driven pet tracking device, called 'Puppy'.

The company last year released the Guardian device to help parents track their children's movements or especially their location in the case of a kidnap event.

According to *Gizmag*, Puppy is thin and light enough to be worn on a collar and in case of rain or a doggy swim, is water resistant.

The device connects with its app via Bluetooth Smart which activates when a pet leaves a range of 60 metres, notifying the owner of his pet's wanderings.

It also allows other people to be in the pet's safety network and help in locating a straying best friend.

