

Price Disclosure page

THE Department of Health has updated the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme's Simplified Price Disclosure page.

It now includes an explanation of the steps for the price disclosure calculation method and a worked sample.

Also included are updates to two previous documents that explain the Simplified Price Disclosure amendments to the price disclosure arrangements.

CLICK HERE for more.

Molybdenum trioxide

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has posted a compositional guideline for molybdenum trioxide with the usual option of a printable pdf.

CLICK HERE to access the guideline.



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Flu vax tender update

IN RESPONSE to queries received, the Department of Health has published further information about its pre-release notice regarding an open tender for the supply of Australian antivenoms, Q fever and/or pandemic influenza vaccine (**PD** 21 May) on the Austender website.

The Department said its supply arrangements for Australian antivenoms, Q fever and/or pandemic influenza vaccine were due to expire on 30 Jun 2016.

In the addendum to its pre-release notice, the Department said it intended to host an industry briefing to provide more information on tender timing and requirements, expected to be in late August or early September.

The tender was expected to be released in about September and submissions would be due in mid-December, it said.

There were 11 antivenoms manufactured for a range of Australian animals and marine life including the Box Jellyfish, the Red

Back spider and the Tiger snake and that the scope of products "need not necessarily be restricted to the above list but production capacity/capability would need to be flexible to meet Australian market demand," it said.

The successful tenderer for vaccine supply would need to have manufacturing capacity and capability for circulating influenza virus strains with pandemic potential or a specific strain and the Australian demographic.

Both the Q fever vaccine and skin test would be required, the Department said.

Funds had been allocated across the 2014-15 to 2017-18 financial years, it said.

"The open tender process will result in a new contract(s) to ensure Australia a timely and assured supply of the three products post expiry of the current arrangements."

For more, **CLICK HERE**.

HOS Medication - RGH

RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin this week looks at medications used in high output stomas (HOS).

Stomas are artificial openings in the abdominal wall created after small bowel surgery involving partial or full removal of the small intestine and high output stomas arise consequent to the surgery.

Pharmacotherapies used to control HOS include anti-motility, anti-secretory and other agents such as opioids.

CLICK HERE to read the Bulletin.

Folic acid vital preterm

THE role of folic acid in pregnancy continues to gain credibility according to research by Blackmores Institute.

"It is well-known that folic acid supplementation ... reduces the incidence of neural tube defects in babies and two new studies suggesting that folate also prevents orofacial clefts and preterm birth are adding to the data," said Dr Ruth Hadfield referencing a case-control study published in *Oral Diseases*.

Pharmacy "Essential Financial Skills"

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"With the PBS changes, this workshop has empowered me to analyse my business and put strategies in place to reduce the impact. Geoff is a vibrant presenter."

Fiona Mann, Mannum Chemplus



Pharmacy Accredited A1403FMRC1 This course has been accredited for 28 group 2 CPD credits and 10 group 1 CPD credits for inclusion on a pharmacist's CPD Record. Participants can convert the 10 group 1 CPD credits into 20 group 2 CPD credits by completing an optional assessment within 3 months.

Kardachi AACP chair

PHARMACEUTICAL Society of Australia (PSA) national president Grant Kardachi has been appointed the new chair of the Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy (AACP), co-owned by the PSA and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

A new chair was appointed every two years, with the previous chair being Paul Sinclair, president of the NSW branch of the Guild.

Kardachi's term will start as of 01 Jul and he said he would like to see a restoration of sustainable and appropriately funded professional services for accredited pharmacists, where this would be a focus of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA).

Evidence showed these services provided savings to government and improved health outcomes to patients, he said.

EU guidelines adopted

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has published a list of European Union/International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) guidelines adopted and effective as of 01 June.

Medicine registration and update requirements are synchronous with both the EU and ICH guidelines.

Situations where the TGA has not adopted overseas regulators' guidelines include matters around development and manufacture as well as Product Information data, especially for vaccines.

Others relate to Environmental Risk Assessment, clinical evaluation of vaccines, guidelines around choice of names for human medicines and certain conditions related to injectable medicines.

For a full updated list of those international guidelines adopted and not adopted in Australia, **CLICK HERE**.

MEANWHILE the TGA has also released the recently spent or repealed instruments list of instruments repealed by the Health (Spent and Redundant Instruments) Repeal Regulation 2014; for more, **CLICK HERE**.



Fight the Fakes battle

THE US Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) has seen 11 new organisations join the 'Fight the Fakes' campaign against counterfeit or fake medicines.

USP CEO Ron Piervincenzi said such products could harm patients, causing further illness, disability or even death, and could also increase resistance to real treatments.

USP said a WHO-collaborated study of anti-malarial medications in sub-Saharan Africa found that 26% to 40% of samples were sub-standard or of poor quality.

WHO's latest update to its counterfeit medicine page said defining the extent of counterfeiting was difficult, with most industrialised countries with effective regulatory systems, such as Australia, having an extremely low incidence of spurious, falsely labelled, falsified or counterfeit (SFFC) medicines.

"But in many African countries, and in parts of Asia, Latin America, and countries in transition, a much higher percentage of the medicines on sale may be SFFC."

New organisations to join the campaign include the European Association of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers, the Generic Pharmaceutical Association and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers.

Accu-Chek checked

ROCHE Diagnostic Australia, in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), is notifying users of Accu-Chek Spirit Combo insulin pumps with serial numbers between 10171897 and 10281629 of a potential fault that may prevent treatment.

In a small percentage (less than 0.5%) of Accu-Chek Spirit Combo insulin pumps, a faulty component in the vibration alarm may generate an error message ('E7: ELECTRONIC ERROR') and an audible signal at pump start up which will prevent the pump from operating.

New Accu-Chek Spirit Combo pumps with serial numbers from 10281630 onwards are unaffected.

For more information, **CLICK HERE**.

UK aspirin guide change

THE UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance on atrial fibrillation (AF) will be published this month and in its draft guidelines, the organisation recommended that prescribers should not offer aspirin monotherapy solely for stroke prevention to people with AF.

NICE's full draft guidelines said observation of current clinical practice showed aspirin was often prescribed preferentially over warfarin in the elderly.

After looking at studies its Guideline Development Group (GDG) concluded patients at increased stroke risk not be offered aspirin for stroke prevention but that some might still need to take aspirin for indications other than AF.

It agreed that anticoagulants were more clinically beneficial than antiplatelets and should be recommended as first line therapy for patients at increased stroke risk.

The GDG acknowledged that anticoagulation might not be suitable for some patients in which case it could be worth considering dual antiplatelet therapy in preference to no treatment.

NPS MedicineWise design and development manager Aine Heaney said the organisation believed treatment should be based on a systematic assessment of a person's potential risk of stroke using a validated tool such as CHADS₂.

"Our current advice is that aspirin is not recommended for people with a CHADS₂ score ≥ 1 unless

FDA endorses Elocate

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the first antihæmophilic factor, Fc fusion protein for adults and children with hæmophilia A.

Elocate, from Biogen Idec, received orphan status from the FDA and is the first hæmophilia A treatment designed to require less frequent injections when used to prevent or reduce the frequency of bleeding.

The product is still under regulatory review in Australia.

anticoagulation is contraindicated.

"In every case, a patient should discuss their treatment options with their health professional as each patients' situation may differ."

The Heart Foundation national director of cardiovascular health Dr Robert Grenfell said many studies had demonstrated that oral anticoagulation with warfarin and other new anticoagulants were effective for prevention of stroke in AF patients.

"However, aspirin offers only modest protection against stroke for these patients and would not generally be recommended as sole therapy.

"The risks of stroke and bleeding should be considered in the choice of antithrombotic therapy."

For more, **CLICK HERE**.

EMA picks pilot meds

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) has chosen the first two medicines to be included in its adaptive licensing, or 'staggered approval', pilot project (**PD 21 Mar**).

Part of the EMA's aim to improve timely access to new medicines, four applications were potential candidates for the pilot and another 11 were being evaluated.

Fluvax investigation

BIOSL has changed its manufacturing process for Fluvax and initiated a clinical development program, following an investigation into adverse events.

Fluvax was associated with a "significant" increase in reports of fever-related convulsions in young children in the 2010 influenza season, compared with previous seasons, bioCSL said.

Findings published today in two papers in *Vaccine* came from what bioCSL called an "extensive and highly complex investigation" involving clinical data analyses, manufacturing reviews and scientific studies.

"The investigation found that as a result of bioCSL's standard method of manufacture, virus components contained in the 2010 formulation of Fluvax combined to overstimulate the immune system of some young children, triggering increased fever and fever-related convulsions.

"Following consultation with regulators, bioCSL has now implemented increased levels of virus splitting agent into its standard method of manufacturing for Fluvax."

It should not be used in children under five, bioCSL said - **CLICK HERE** and **HERE** for the papers.

WIN A CANCER COUNCIL PACK

This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving four readers the chance to win a **Cancer Council BB Crème & Body Lotion**, valued at \$33.90.

Cancer Council BB Crème is a 3 in 1 formula that corrects skin tone and offers SPF 30 protection. The crème is made with ingredients including; grape seed extract to help reduce signs of ageing, vitamin E to increase moisture, mushroom extract to fight bacteria build up and mica to help reflect light, giving skin a flawless finish. The BB Crème is available in light and medium tint.

Cancer Council Body Moisturiser with SPF 30 is a rich crème with aloe vera to soothe dry skin, and vitamin E to nourish, hydrate and protect skin.

To win, be first to send in the correct answer to the question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

True/false: Cancer Council cosmetics nourish skin whilst protecting it from UV damage?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Jodi Gayton** from **Symbion**.



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 newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Evo Normal Person's Shampoo and Conditioner for men

Get your man a good, concentrated, sulfate-free shampoo (to make his day that little bit safer) to clean without leaving the sort of residue that really belongs on his garage floor - get **Evo Normal Person's Shampoo**. And, for all those short-tall-skinny-fat-slow-fast-rugby-playing-accountant-types, and any other normal souls who don't fit this stereotype or any other definition, **Evo Normal Person's Conditioner**. Evo offers a deep cleansing shampoo and conditioner to remove product build-up and balance the scalp.

Stockist: 1300 437 436

RRP: \$24.95 each

Website: www.evohair.com



DISPENSARY CORNER

GYMNASTIC emphasis.

No doubt you have your pharmacy staff running through a series of morning exercises to vitalise their day's work.

Community activist, 65 year old Diane Barker of Phoenix, Arizona recalled her cheerleader dancing days to grab attention prior to addressing a public hearing by performing a few gymnastic moves herself, *Yahoo News* reported.

Local officials suddenly became very official and censured her behaviour by mail, even though she was dressed appropriately and was making a point about the benefits of general fitness, bicycle riding and taking public transport, the publication reported.

Barker surprised everyone with her ensemble of cartwheels and splits finale, it said.

DISPENSING love.

It's probably only a matter of time before your dispensing robot, if you have one, develops artificial intelligence and starts trying to give you hugs, if developments in Japan are anything to go by.

Tech company Softbank has created a robot that it claims can interpret human emotion, the *Telegraph* reported.

The company called it 'Pepper', for some unknown reason, and it reportedly uses a cloud-based artificial intelligence system to interpret human vocal tones, expressions and gestures, the publication reported.

If you're keen to purchase said robot, perhaps for novelty value in your pharmacy or as your adoptive heir, it's going for about A\$2,064, the *Telegraph* said.

HEAVIER glass, my good man.

How heavy is your tea mug? Oxford Professor of Experimental Psychology Charles Spence claimed that a heavy glass makes a drink taste better, as weight was associated with quality, the *Telegraph* reported.

Weleda Men's Gift Pack for Fathers' Day

This is a soothing duo of **Shaving Cream** and **Men's Intensive Cream**. Revitalise and purify the skin with Weleda's natural Men's Facial Care and shaving products. Formulated with carefully selected high quality natural ingredients, they promote a balanced healthy-looking skin as well as a smooth and gentle shaving experience. Give your man a new experience with Weleda's designed-for-men bracing but sensitive skin smoothing formulation making him irresistible, looking and feeling in control.

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The sports nutrition category in Australia is set to be transformed with the launch of a unique new range, **IsoWhey Sports**. Developed by leading protein specialists IsoWhey, IsoWhey Sports is scientifically formulated to assist with achieving optimal sports performance and recovery. The range boasts protein powders with whey protein bases and no artificial colours, flavours, sweeteners or added fructose. IsoWhey has long been a leader in the whey protein market with the IsoWhey name synonymous with high-quality protein powders, minus the additives. Tap into the enormous growth of the sports nutrition supplement market, by providing a range for the nutrition conscious athlete.

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Carmex Launches 'I Heart Carmex' Limited Edition Jar



What could be better than a jar of your favourite Carmex lip balm to keep your lips smooth through winter? A limited edition **I Heart Carmex** jar, of course! To give some love back to their loyal customers, Carmex has created a once-off limited edition I Heart Carmex Original Flavour Jar, launched in Australia in May. It's the same famous formula in a unique new jar, bringing Carmex lovers kissable lips and gorgeous love hearts – what more could a girl ask for?

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