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Bonus 2015 calendars

API urges pharmacists who would like to order their 2015 customer calendars to do so by 30 Jun to receive 50 free bonus calendars.

Personalise your calendars with your pharmacy details to have a daily presence in your customers' homes.

See **page 4** of today's **PD** for details including pricing.

APC call for portfolio

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) is calling for Expressions of Interest for the development of an online Practice Portfolio for pharmacists (the 'Pharmacist Practice Portfolio').

With the overall aim of providing a collection and assessment mechanism for evidence of professional education activities for pharmacists, interns and students, the system's primary objective is to support a robust and sustainable practitioner credentialing system for registered pharmacists.

Interested companies are asked to contact Kristina Carroll, director of information services for the Council on 02 6262 9628 or kristina.carroll@pharmacycouncil.org.au.

PBS co-payment increase

THE Federal Government has released the 2014-15 budget in which it has announced the establishment of a \$20b Medical Research Future Fund (**PD** breaking news yesterday) and increased Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines co-payments.

Treasurer Joe Hockey presented the budget last night following the Commission of Audit report (**PD** 02 May); not many of the report's recommendations appear to have been adopted, bar the increased co-payments.

The government said it would achieve savings of \$1.3b over four years from 01 Jan next year by increasing these co-payments by \$5 to \$42.70 for general patients and by \$0.80 to \$6.90 in 2015 for concessional patients.

Safety net thresholds would also increase each year for four years from 01 Jan next year, with general safety net thresholds to increase by 10% and concessional safety nets to increase by the cost of two prescriptions each year.

These savings would be invested in the Future Fund.

The budget also outlined \$2.1m over two years to the Pharmacy

Guild of Australia for the Guild's administration of the payments for programs under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

\$16.5m would be provided over five years to "reduce red tape" by enabling paperless claiming for PBS medicines dispensed from medication charts in hospitals, a measure which would also increase patient safety by reducing dispensing error risk during transcription from charts, it said.

A major announcement was the establishment of the research fund in 01 Jan 2015, which was projected to grow to \$20b by 2019-20 through all health savings in the budget plus the uncommitted balance of the Health and Hospitals Fund.

It would be spent on further medical research in the medium to long term.

The budget also confirmed \$7 patient contributions for GP visits, out of hospital pathology and diagnostic imaging services which it said would save \$3.5b over five years.

To read the budget, **CLICK HERE**.

SAMD consultation

THE IMDRF Standalone Medical Device Software Harmonisation group is calling for comments on its document regarding regulatory risk categorisation and control framework for software as a medical device (SaMD).

The consultation closes on 31 May.

For more information, **CLICK HERE**.

UK inhaler consult

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is looking for comments on providing salbutamol asthma inhaler access and a spacer for emergency use in schools.

There is no provision for this currently, because the inhalers are prescription-only medicines.

The draft report to the Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee on the post market review of PBS medicines used to treat asthma in children is available by **CLICKING HERE**.

New Healthnotes app

HEALTHNOTES has released a mobile web app through which 700,000 enrolled patients can manage their medications via smart phone.

The app allows patients to select medications they would like dispensed and choose a pick up date and time.

Individual pharmacies or groups could also brand the mobile web app with their logo, the company said.

HCP HF Scholarships

THE Heart Foundation Health Professional Scholarship supports health professionals (including allied health professionals and health service managers) to undertake a PhD in an area of cardiovascular research.

Applications close 20 Jun.

To apply, **CLICK HERE**.

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Priceline Pharmacy	231
Terry White	157
PharmaSave	135
Soul Pattinson	36

*Membership numbers obtained from the individual pharmacy groups' websites on 3 April 2014.

Call (03) 9860 3300 now to discuss how an affordable Pharmacy Alliance membership can immediately benefit you.



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Pharmacists as HCPs

MORE than 300 independent community pharmacists from across the US met in May in Washington D.C. for the 2014 National Community Pharmacists Association conference on national legislation and government affairs.

The band was making a powerful case to government around transparency of generic pricing and better utilisation of pharmacists by recognising them as health care providers.

"Independent community pharmacists' efforts to improve patient outcomes require government action on three issues where the remedies are readily apparent," said NCPA ceo B. Douglas Hoey.

New metformin data

RESEARCH undertaken with the Bupa Health Foundation found metformin can be used as an intervention to prevent progression of insulin resistance to type 2 diabetes in obese, but not morbidly obese, middle-aged women.

Unlike other drugs used to treat diabetes, metformin does not cause low blood sugar.

It is now being investigated as a potential prevention and treatment for various forms of cancer, including breast cancer and uterine cancer.

The data was presented by lead researcher Professor Susan Davis, director of the Women's Health Group at Monash University, at the International Menopause Society 14th World Congress on Menopause in Cancun, Mexico.

Co-payment concern

PHARMACY bodies have questioned the increased co-payments for Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines proposed in the 2014-15 budget.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia said it was concerned about the impact on patients, particularly those taking multiple medications.

"This significant increase in co-payments means that the role of the community pharmacy network, and pharmacists as medication managers, will be even more critically important and needs to be properly remunerated in the next pharmacy agreement."

The Guild said the last time there was an increase in the co-payment, a study found decreases in the use of some prescription medicines by pensioners.

It said the budget had reaffirmed the savings from the PBS and it was disappointed that the government had not made any provisions for the impact of price disclosure on community pharmacy.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia national president Grant Kardachi said the increased co-payments meant added challenges for patients and could mean added financial pressure.

"The increase in the co-payment may mean that some patients feel they need to make a decision about the medicines they are taking and this raises very serious issues regarding patients' safe and effective use of medicines."

Pharmacists should not be put in a position where they had to counsel patients about managing

medicines based on financial considerations, he said.

Medicines Australia (MA) ceo Dr Brendan Shaw said it was pleasing to see recognition of the importance of the PBS and that savings would go to research.

"A medical research fund in Australia will create an environment in public and private research which can deliver the results that Australian patients deserve."

He acknowledged the increased co-payments, saying MA recognised the government had to make changes to keep the system sustainable.

The Generic Medicines Industry Association (GMiA) said it welcomed the continued investment in medicines on the PBS and the absence of further pricing reform.

The budget provided certainty for the industry and chair Mark Crotty said GMiA looked forward to "constructive dialogue" with the government about access to medicines through the PBS.

NICE pharmacy role

THE UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has identified pharmacy as a source of managing reduced hospital A&E admissions for children with constipation.

NICE has created a new quality standard aimed at helping all healthcare professionals, including pharmacists, to improve care of children and young people with idiopathic constipation.

The new standard sets out six statements designed to reduce emergency admissions as well as prevent recurrence, and includes a full assessment with history and physical examination.

Spondyloarthropathy therapy options grow

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved two new indications for an anti-TNF treatment option.

CIMZIA (certolizumab pegol) is now indicated for ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) under specific conditions.

WIN WITH BIOSPORT



This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a BioSport Moulded Reflex Sole and a hat, valued at \$33.

The Moulded Reflex Soles have the magnetic technology of BioSports Gel Reflex Sole mixed with BioSport's ongoing initiative to provide the body with better support. It's like getting a reflexology treatment all day long! Moulded Reflex Soles have specially designed foot beds to ensure support, comfort, and shock absorption.

For more information, visit www.biosports.com.au

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

How many therapeutic magnets are embedded in the insoles?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner Nicole Vizard from Lachlan Health Services.



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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!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au



DISPENSARY CORNER

GETAFIX pharmacies.

In the 'fantastic senses of humour' bin, this pharmacy in Valencia, Spain surely takes the cake for its roll door design.



Layer on the shine with Sally Hansen Triple Shine nail colour

Sally Hansen is bringing maximum radiance to the season's most covetable colours with the new **Triple Shine Nail Colour**. Triple Shine Nail Colour is formulated with an Ultimate Shield Complex, exclusive to Sally Hansen. It is a carefully balanced blend of solvents and colour solids that work synergistically for high impact colour and maximum shine. It delivers Triple Shine benefits via The Gloss-Tech Brush designed specifically to apply the Triple Shine formula and an exclusive complex of vitamins to deliver a natural iridescence and lasting shine.

Stockist: 1800 812 663

RRP: \$9.95

Website: www.cotyinc.com



Salin Plus - create the salt "micro climate" found in salt caves

Salin Plus is a salt therapy device that's creating a revolution in respiratory health in Australia, by reducing the frequency and severity of associated symptoms, with the simplicity of salt. Salin Plus acts like a cleaner for the entire respiratory system, from the middle ear to deep down into the lungs. The device emits tiny salt particles into the air that travel through the respiratory system when inhaled. The antibacterial properties of salt helps to cleanse the airways, while the salt acts as a decongestant by thinning the mucus and helping to expel it. Salin Plus is also an air purifier, removing airborne pollutants such as dust, pollen and pet dander.



Stockist: 1800 011 653

RRP: \$239.95

Website: www.salinplus.com

Bisolvon Chesty Forte Liquid on-the-go Sachets

Bisolvon Chesty Forte Liquid on-the-go Sachets, the much anticipated pharmacy only product, will be on pharmacy shelves from 01 Jun – just in time to mark the first day of winter. Bisolvon Chesty Forte Liquid Sachets provide the same double strength formula in a convenient single dose, ideal for work, school or travel. Boehringer Ingelheim said the new product is part of the company's commitment to helping pharmacists and pharmacy assistants better meet the needs of their customers.

Stockist: 1800 226 315

RRP: \$14.50 - \$18.50

Website: www.bisolvon.com.au



CYBERDYNE Systems.

Healthcare really is a miraculous discipline, with advancements we only heard of from sci-fi now within reach, such as the latest prosthetic which the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved for marketing - an arm that is controlled by signals from electromyogram (EMG) electrodes that detect the contraction of muscles close to where the prosthesis is attached.

In other words, the FDA's approved a functional prosthetic arm, complete with an on-board processor which translates the signals into specific movements. It's called the DEKA Arm System and it can convert electrical signals into up to 10 powered movements, is the same shape and weight as an adult arm, and allowed about 90% of study participants to perform activities such as using keys and locks, preparing food and using zippers.

WHY, Lord, why?!

As the Heart Foundation Twitter account (@HeartAust) said, bad news, all - a study of almost 800 people has shown no link between levels of resveratrol, found in grapes (or red wine) and chocolate, and people's longevity or incidence of cancer and heart disease rates - boo hoo!

CLICK HERE for more.

Expanded Cenovis kid's range: Vita Sprinkles Multivitamins



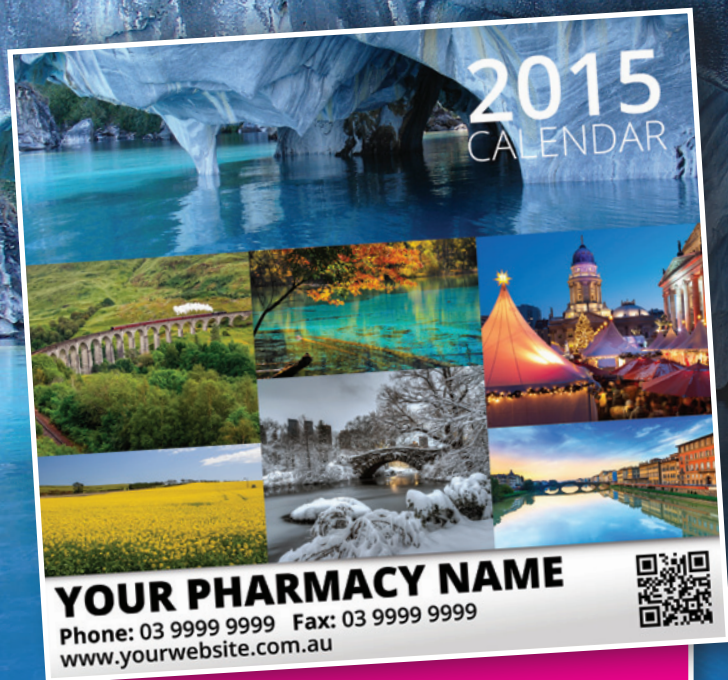
Cenovis Vita Sprinkles are a brand new, high quality formulation in an Australian first kids friendly format - a multivitamin that is completely undetectable when mixed into or sprinkled on any food. Great for parents whose kids tend to pick the vegetables or fruit out of their meal – mix it into a bowl of spaghetti bolognese, soup, yoghurt or even just into a toast spread for a little extra dietary peace of mind. Now available flavour-free and in chocolate flavour.

Stockists: 1800 732 273

RRP: \$12.95

Website: www.cenovis.com.au

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