

New learning module

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care and NPS MedicineWise have developed an online learning module on taking an accurate and complete medication history when patients are admitted to hospital.

The module has been designed for junior medical officers, nursing and pharmacy staff.

The 'Get it Right! Taking a Best Possible Medication History' learning module is available from learn.nps.org.au.

APLF: Lessen generic confusion

THE Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum (APLF) has said all pharmacists should emphasise the active ingredient in dispensed medicines to avoid confusion when it comes to multiple brand names for generics.

At its most recent meeting on 14 Oct, the Forum said it believed it was potentially confusing for consumers to have "a plethora of brand names for a single generic entity".

It was concerned about the possibility of medication errors associated with the use of unfamiliar brand names on generics and said healthcare professionals should, where possible, reinforce the active ingredient when prescribing, dispensing or administering medicines.

In addition, the Forum said manufacturers were encouraged to use the active ingredient name rather than creating a new one.

"As an alternative the APLF believes that if a manufacturer wishes to differentiate their product from another, it would be sufficient for the manufacturer's

logo to follow the active ingredient name."

The Forum said it would be writing to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) regarding this issue.

Generic Medicines Industry Association (GMiA) acting ceo Belinda Wood said the TGA was conducting a review of medicine labelling to reduce medication mistakes, to which the organisation was contributing.

One proposal was to specify a minimum font size for the active ingredient, and while GMiA supported a focus on the active ingredient, APLF's proposal would require a "major change" to labelling of generics at "significant cost" to manufacturers, Wood said.

Evidence would be needed to show removing the brand name did not have the opposite effect of causing more confusion, she said.

Foundation course offer

THE Complementary Medicines Australia is offering a 20% discount on the Foundation Course in Complementary Medicines when booked before 31 Dec - see **page three** for more.

PSA ignites careers

APPLICATIONS are now open for the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) 'ignite' Pharmacist Leadership Program 2015.

The program has been developed by the PSA to spur development of the leadership and career aspirations of early career pharmacists (ECP).

National president Grant Kardachi said the purpose of 'ignite' was to develop high-performing ECPs into future health leaders and included workshops, speakers and mentoring - **CLICK HERE** for more.

Three complaints upheld by MA

THREE complaints against Medicines Australia members have been upheld, including a complaint against GlaxoSmithKline which brought a \$40,000 sanction and an order that the promotional material in question for Seretide be withdrawn from use.

The complaints, detailed in the organisation's quarterly report, also included three for which no breach of the Medicines Australia Code of Conduct was found.

Shire Australia Pty Ltd was fined \$20,000 for promotional material for Mezavant which breached the Code and Bayer Australia was fined \$10,000 for detail aids for Nexavar, Medicines Australia's quarterly report said.

CLICK HERE for more

AusPARs reports

AUSTRALIAN Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines (AusPARs) have been added for drospirenone and ethinyloestradiol (as betadex clathrate) (YAZFlex) and taliglucerase alfa rpc (Elelyso).

CLICK HERE for more.

RGH E-Bulletin

THIS week's edition summarises the contemporary approach to asthma management and the role of fluticasone furoate/vilanterol.

The Australian Asthma Handbook is referenced.

CLICK HERE to access.

Humira PBS listing rejected

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee agreed to the inclusion of generics of the multiple combination options of amlodipine and atorvastatin, formerly only available as Caduet from Pfizer, on the PBS at its July meeting.

An application to have Humira (adalimumab from AbbVie) supplied on authority for the treatment of moderate to severe active ulcerative colitis was rejected on economic and comparator grounds.

The application for fluticasone with vilanterol (Breo Ellipta from GSK) to be available as a Restricted Benefit was accepted for treatment of COPD on a cost-minimisation basis.

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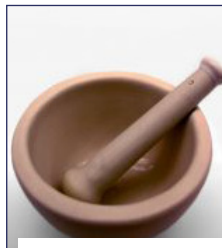
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Pharmacy JLT trial

CURTIN University researchers have developed and trialled a self-administered questionnaire called the Jodie Lee test (JLT) for pharmacists to use with patients with symptoms of bowel disease.

Published in *The Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice* in March, the paper was titled 'Development and validation of a clinical decision-making aid for screening bowel symptoms in community pharmacies' and sought to stratify patients into those requiring medical follow-up for symptoms and those with self-limiting symptoms.

The authors concluded the JLT had a high sensitivity for identifying patients with symptoms of serious bowel disease, as well as those with relatively benign disease.

CLICK HERE to access the study.

Relief ACP oral gel recall

DISCUS Dental Australia is undertaking a recall for certain lots of Relief ACP Oral Care gel and product kits containing the gel.

In five lots of the product, one side of the syringe was filled with a teeth whitening gel containing hydrogen peroxide, rather than phosphate, gel - **CLICK HERE**.

The real co-pay cost

THE CSIRO in its *Australian Health Review* has investigated GP co-payments in a report out of the University of Sydney and Macquarie University.

The authors argued that a compulsory minimum co-payment for GP consultations would exacerbate the "substantial economic burden faced by individuals and families" and offered alternative recommendations that could help "harness unsustainable health spending while promoting an equitable and fair system."

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

PIC shuts down

THE Pharmaceuticals Industry Council (PIC) will no longer operate.

Comprised of AusBiotech, the Generic Medicines Industry Association and Medicines Australia, the Council was formed following the end of the government-endorsed Pharmaceuticals Industry Action Agenda, with the aim of increasing Australia's share of the pharmaceuticals industry by 2012.

The Council could not be contacted at time of writing as to why it had ceased operations.

Herpes stroke risk

PATIENTS with herpes zoster are at increased risk of stroke within six months of being diagnosed, according to a new study out of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The authors said that antiviral therapy might lead to a reduced stroke risk in this situation and the findings had implications for vaccination programs.

CLICK HERE for more.



DISPENSARY CORNER

SCRIPT for Mr Roboto.

While **PD** is all for it, and would love to hear about any such attempts by pharmacists, apparently addressing your customers in a "robotic voice" can get you suspended.

Apparently, the New York City Health Department worker was suspended for 20 days without pay for answering an IT help line in an "over-enunciated monotone", *Associated Press* reported.

The worker said he was articulating a pre-written script carefully as his Brooklyn accent could be difficult to understand, but the judge wasn't buying it and called him a "disgruntled employee" who was acting out, the publication reported.

We prefer to think he's just a really big **Linguo fan**.

PHARMACY of the future.

You know those made-up medicines people joke about with a wistful sigh, like sleep in pill form?

Well, judging from what professors from Imperial College London and the University of Glasgow have said, these things might not be so far out of reach.

Said professors have opined that time travel, invisibility cloaks and teleporting could all happen in the lifetimes of today's school children, the *Telegraph* reported.

These lucky whippersnappers could be surfing the centuries by 2100 and teleporting by 2080, the publication reported.

This was because, with regards to teleportation, there was no law saying it couldn't be done, and time travel into the future had already been achieved, albeit in tiny amounts, it said.

Come on, hovering skateboards...

Guild Update

Recall- Zovirax Ophthalmic ointment

GUILD Members and pharmacy managers are reminded that GlaxoSmithKline, in consultation with the TGA, is undertaking a retail level recall of unsold Zovirax Ophthalmic ointment (3% aciclovir), after metal particles were found in three different lots of the active pharmaceutical ingredient which was used in 11 batches of Zovirax Ophthalmic ointment.

This recall may result in a product shortage for this medicine.

The TGA is working with sponsors to arrange supply of alternative treatments.

No other Zovirax branded products are affected by this issue. For more information contact GSK on 1800 033 109 or visit the TGA website by **CLICKING HERE**.

WIN Lavish Lip Gloss

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Designer Brands** are giving readers the chance to win a four pack of Lavish Lip Gloss.

Lip colour is the most used colour cosmetic among Australian women and as a result Designer Brands is updating its lip category. And it all starts with Designer Brands Lavish Lip Gloss. This new and improved formula is highly pigmented for intense colour. The gloss is ultra-shiny, yet doesn't leave lips feeling sticky or tacky. The paraben-free formula of Designer Brands Lavish Lip Gloss also contains vitamin E and beeswax for soft and supple lips. It's available in 12 on-trend shades, including seven new shades and five classic best-sellers from the previous range.

To win, be the first from **QLD** to send the correct answer to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



What is the pink shade in the range?

Hint: www.dbcosmetics.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's winner,
Shalveena Singh from **API**.

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NEW:

The Foundation Course in Complementary Medicines

from the Complementary Medicines Industry Association

The Foundation Course in Complementary Medicines has been specifically designed for pharmacy and sales assistants and those taking their first steps in the complementary medicines industry.

The 60 hour self-paced course comprises six on-line modules, with introductory videos. The information is presented in easy to follow formats and all modules contain practical examples, reflections, case studies and interactive quizzes to embed learning.

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Foundation Course	\$499	\$750

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