

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a full page from Symbion inviting pharmacies to join the **Pharmacy Choice** group.

01 Oct price update

THE Department of Health has released details of indicative PBS pricing resulting from the 2015 October Cycle of Price Disclosure, with the updated information also including the Dispensed Price for Maximum Amount (DPMA) and other special patient contribution as applicable.

DPMA details are provided for Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy injectibles, with the indicative price disclosure related price changes being made available in advance of the 01 Oct 2015 effective date "to assist companies and other stakeholders".

For details see www.pbs.gov.au.

ACMS, ACCS dates

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has released the lodgement schedules for the 2016 meetings of the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling (ACMS) and Advisory Committee on Chemicals Scheduling (ACCS).

The meeting dates are 15-17 March 2016, 19-21 Jul 2016 and 15-17 November 2016.

The lodgement deadline for general scheduling applications for the Mar 2016 meeting is 14 October, while delegate-initiated scheduling applications are due by 02 December 2015.

It's anticipated that the public notice of the delegate's interim decisions from the March 2016 meeting will be released on 12 May.

For the full schedule of meetings and dates see www.tga.gov.au.

Accreditation under fire

HEALTH ministers from across Australia say they're concerned about a range of issues relating to the "high cost, lack of scrutiny, duplication and the prescriptive approach to accreditation functions" highlighted in a review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Professions.

The COAG Health Council met on Fri and considered the report into the review conducted by Kim Snowball, the former director-general of WA Health.

A series of recommendations from the report will go "some way" to improving the accreditation arrangements - including a consolidated fee structure and processes - but the ministers believe "more substantive reform" is needed.

The Australian Pharmacy Council said it believes it is "well on the way" to meeting the challenges highlighted.

In a statement issued yesterday

Easy ski conf travel

THE new availability of American Airlines flights from Sydney to Los Angeles has opened up the availability of cost-effective flights to the Canyons/Park City Ski Conference in early January 2016.

CPD Conferencing also has some last minute spots for the upcoming Borneo conference - for details call Ben or Lorraine on 02 9233 6466.

AHPRA closure

THE Queensland office of the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency is closed today due to the Ekka Show Day public holiday, and will reopen tomorrow morning at 9am.



Your one stop pharmacy shop

Gaviscon cocktail?

RECKITT Benckiser has released a new educational video for pharmacists to provide an update on Gastro-oesophageal Reflux Disease (GORD) and the so-called 'acid pocket'.

The video aims to help visualise the Gaviscon mode of action by showcasing the skills of Stuart Nankivell, an expert bartender - and community pharmacist.

To check out the tasty 'Gaviscon-inspired' cocktail see the video at pharmacydaily.com.au/videos.

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Thanks to HOYTS Corporate Solutions you can win two tickets to see any film at your nearest HOYTS cinema. Valid until November 2015 you have plenty of time to see a film of your choice.

To win, be the first person from WA, SA or NT to answer the question correctly. Send your answers to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What are the names of the HOYTS Corporate LUX packages?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

APC president Debra Rowett said a recent organisational restructure and efficiency review had been undertaken, along with a review of fee structures.

"From January 2016 providers with more than one university program will be charged less," she said with intern training program fees unchanged since 2010 and the fee structure for CPD providers having been adjusted to reflect the audit and support work required (**PD** 23 Jul).

The APC also corrected some figures in the review, relating particularly to the cost of the Intern Written Exam which is conducted by APC on behalf of the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

Pharmacy was ranked second out of the 14 Australian health professions in terms of the cost per program, but this is incorrect because the Intern exam is unique to pharmacy, and is responsible for more than a third of expenditure, Rowett said.

"This has not been considered in the comparative analysis undertaken," she added.

Going forward the APC will actively consult with stakeholders to make accreditation processes accountable, achieve improved health outcomes and "create an environment in which excellence can flourish".

Meningococcal facts

THE Tasmanian Dept of Health and Human Services has released a fact sheet on meningococcal disease.

The posting defines the disease & describes symptoms, transmission modes, diagnosis, treatment, prevention and immunisation.

CLICK HERE for the fact sheet.



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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted 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

Gloup medication lubricant - medication swallowing support

Gloup is the first purpose designed **medication lubricant** that makes swallowing tablets, capsules, vitamins and powders a safer and more pleasant experience. Gloup is a slippery gel consisting of food based ingredients that are not known to have interactions with medications. The company says Gloup ingredients break down almost immediately once the medication hits the acidic environment of the stomach, thus having minimal impact on the absorption of the drug. The product contains no sugar, lactose or gluten.

Stockist: 1300 892 806

RRP: \$14.95

Website: www.gloup.com.au



Cocoa Butter and Vanilla Milk Shower Cream from Radox

Radox **Cocoa Butter** and **Vanilla Milk Shower Cream** pampers the skin and provides it with deep hydration. The cream features a moisturising formula to soften and smooth the skin, leaving behind a cocoa butter scent. Cocoa Butter and Vanilla Milk Shower Cream is pH balanced, dermatologically tested and soap free the company says and the products are not tested on animals.

Stockist: 1800 061 027

RRP: \$5.99

Website: www.unilever.com.au

Clear Eyes Wipes by Murine

Clear Eyes wipes by Murine are hypoallergenic wipes formulated to gently clean the eyelids and lashes. They are suitable for use on sensitive skin and the delicate area around the eyes, and can be used daily to remove ocular secretions, scales, crusted matter and make-up. The wipes contain chamomile extract and are pH-balanced to match the natural pH of human tears, making them ideal for contact lens wearers. Murine says they are ophthalmologically and dermatologically-tested, and free from alcohol, fragrances and preservatives.

Stockist: 02 9300 1900

RRP: \$14.95

Website: www.murine.com.au



Vagisil Feminine Itching Cream Medication

Vagisil Feminine Itching Cream Medication relieves itching, discomfort, burning and irritation in the external vaginal area quickly and discreetly. The anaesthetic in Vagisil works fast and is ideal to be kept on-hand in the bathroom cabinet for fast, easy and gentle relief whenever an awkward itch arises. This product is not for prolonged use, but for the relief of minor external vaginal irritation only, when not associated with untreated vaginal infections. Avoid contact with eyes.

Stockist: 1800 062 019

RRP: \$8.99

Website: www.vagisil.com



DISPENSARY CORNER

A MAN has been arrested in the US state of Tennessee after he allegedly robbed a pharmacy.

Nothing particularly unusual in that - except that in this case he attempted to disguise himself by slathering his face with Calamine lotion.

Officers released the photo of the suspect (below) which shows the traces of the lotion remaining when he was arrested trying to leave the scene in a taxi.

Police said he threatened to use a gun, but ended up leaving the CVS pharmacy empty handed.

Ironically the man was on bail awaiting trial on charges that he and three others had attempted to rob the same pharmacy in May.



HI, cholesterol!

A British woman has beaten odds of more than 11 billion to one by cracking open an egg with a whopping four yolks.

The eggstraordinary incident occurred after the 63-year-old spotted the "mega monster" egg when it was delivered to the shop where she works as a volunteer.

The quadruple-yolker was almost 8cm long, 15cm in diameter and weighed nearly 250g - about three times the size of a normal Extra Large egg.

"I imagine there must have been a certain amount of clucking when that was laid," she said.

"An ostrich would have been proud of it."

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