

NZ regulators looking at Nurofen too

THE Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand says it understands that the NZ Commerce Commission - the Kiwi equivalent of the ACCC - is also investigating the issue of Reckitt Benckiser's pain-specific versions of Nurofen which are all in fact identical products (**PD** Mon).

The ACCC earlier this week ordered that Nurofen Back Pain, Period Pain, Migraine Pain and Tension Headache be removed from retail shelves in Australia.

The ruling only applies to Australia but PGNZ ceo Lee Hohaia said in the light of the decision "we will be reminding members of their obligation to provide full advice to patients so patients understand the cause of their pain, the appropriate treatment and the best product available".

She said many patients still insist on the targeted Nurofen products even when told that the ibuprofen dosage is equivalent to that of the standard Nurofen products.

\$621m for new PBS listings

THE government has allocated an additional \$621 million over the next four years for new and amended Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme listings, according to the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) released by treasurer Scott Morrison yesterday.

However on the revenue side, the government is also expecting to save \$549 million due to "higher than expected savings from existing pricing policies" under the PBS.

New listings introduced since the May budget include medications for the treatment of schizophrenia, chronic gout, metastatic stomach or gastric cancer, Crohn's disease and myeloid leukaemia.

Other parts of the health budget impacted by the MYEFO include the removal of bulk-billing incentives for pathology and diagnostic imaging services, with health minister Sussan Ley saying she doesn't expect the majority of consumers to be affected due to the "high level of competition in

the sector".

Other savings will be achieved by reduced funding to some health workforce programs which Ley said had "not been well targeted".

However new funds will be provided to boost the investment in multidisciplinary health training delivered by institutions that already operate a University Department of Rural Health.

China milks Aust dry

SUPERMARKET sales of infant formula have almost doubled over the last three years to \$430 million, despite a declining local birth rate and no significant change in breastfeeding rates according to a report in today's *Financial Review*.

It's believed that around 50% of the infant formula sold is being sent overseas to meet massive demand from China, with onsellors producing receipts from Coles or Woolworths to prove the formula is an authentic Australian product.

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Ask the pharmacist

NPS MedicineWise is urging consumers to talk to their pharmacist about the 01 Jan changes which will see 17 types of common medicines delisted from the PBS (**PD** 04 Nov).

Some of the more common over-the-counter medicines affected by the changes include Astrix (aspirin), Spren 100 (aspirin), Panamax (paracetamol 500mg tablet, 100ml liquid and 200 ml liquid), Panadol Osteo (paracetamol; 665g modified release tablets), Chlorsig eye drops (0.5%) and ointment (1%), Dulcolax suppositories (10 mg) and Gaviscon P and Mylanta P.

NPS ceo Dr Lynn Weekes says, "If you or someone you care about takes one of these over-the-counter medicines on medical advice, it is best to speak with your pharmacist or your prescribers as soon as possible so you know how the changes will affect you."

PSA president Joe Demarte said the changes mean some products could cost more and may cause patients to reach the safety net later.

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The UK speakers, range from pharmacy group CEOs and owners through to doctors who have leadership roles in primary care. They will be accompanied by Australia's pharmacy industry leaders.

Pharmacists attending the conference will be gaining credits from this CPD accredited event.

THE SOCIAL PROGRAM

Outside of conference times, delegates can access a unique view of the best football the UK has to offer, coupled with golf and some retail therapy.

While in Manchester, visit the famous home of Manchester United – Old Trafford and the state of the art home of Manchester City Football Club – Etihad Stadium.

Delegates will also visit the famous Anfield Stadium, the iconic home of Liverpool Football Club and over two weekends have the opportunity to watch two English Premier League games.

For further information [click here](#) or contact Steve at Private League on **0419 500 222** or email: steve@privateleague.com.au

Tamworth wins PotY 2015

THE inaugural Good Price / GuildCare Pharmacy of the Year award was presented to Tamworth Good Price Pharmacy late November at a gathering of 30 pharmacists to the Brisbane Good Price Pharmacy Warehouse head office for their annual pharmacists' workshop.

Tamworth pharmacy partner Grey Willday is **pictured** receiving the award from John Daniells, GuildCare National Account Manager.

The pharmacy team (**pictured below**) logged a large number of services recorded through GuildCare over the year and managed a broad range of professional services.



Clinical Interventions, MedsCheck and Staged Supply services in GuildCare, as well as referrals to other health care practitioners were implemented, along with other initiatives including Sick Leave Certificates and Vaccination Services, the announcement said.



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Do you have the Pharmacy Daily app?

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D-life app launch

DIABETES NSW has launched a new app aimed to help young people living with type 1 diabetes to better manage their condition whilst transitioning into adulthood.

Dubbed 'D-Life', the app provides helpful reminders from blood glucose level checks (BGL), to three-monthly HbA1c tests which shows an average BGL reading for the previous 10-12 weeks.

The app will also offer advice on a range of other topics such as sex, alcohol, drugs and how to manage big nights out.

"We want young people living with type 1 diabetes to have access to information that is credible, relevant, and helps them stay safe as they venture out in life," said accredited diabetes practitioner, Karissa Woolfe.

Antidepressant-autism link

CHILDREN born to mothers who took antidepressants during the last six months of pregnancy are more likely to be diagnosed with autism, according to new research out of Canada and published in *JAMA Pediatrics*.

The rate of autism overall was 0.7% in the study with that rate rising to 1.2% among women who took antidepressants during the second or third trimester.

Lead researcher, Susan Hyman, said despite the increase the majority of women who use SSRI's during pregnancy will not conceive a child with autism.

CLICK HERE for the study abstract.

PBA Dec Newsletter

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has published its last newsletter for 2015, with a summary of the Board's achievements through the year, including the release of audiovisual materials for pharmacy students and other guidance references.

CLICK HERE for access.

WIN WITH KEY SUN

This week Pharmacy Daily and Key Sun are giving away every day a prize pack of 2 x Key Sun Sunmilk.

Key Sun Sunmilk Coconut SPF50+ Spray is a high protection sunscreen offering broad spectrum protection from UVA and UVB in an easy to use spray bottle. Thereby protecting against premature skin-ageing, skin reddening and sunburn. Key Sun Sunmilk Coconut SPF50+ is 4 hours water resistant. Visit www.keysun.com.au



To win, be the first from **WA** to send the correct answer to the following question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

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

Colour Max Eyeshadow Palette by Face of Australia

Face of Australia **Colour Max Eyeshadow Palette** features eight colours to help create a variety of looks. The compact also includes a step-by-step guide to make application easier. The soft, silky eye shadows glide on easily and can last for hours without fading or creasing. Colour Max eyeshadows are produced in banks of eight location-shades all packed into a stylish compact and are available in Smoky and Nude. This makes a great Christmas option for someone special.

Stockist: 03 9338 5222

RRP: \$14.95

Website: www.faceofaustralia.com.au



Mineral Mascara by Inika - a chemical-free stocking filler

Inika **Mineral Mascara** is a chemical-free mascara. The formula contains jojoba seed oil and mineral pigments to moisturise and protect lashes while delivering rich colour. The mascara features a 'double z' brush with two different edges: one to lengthen and the other to enhance volume. The product is free from chemicals and synthetic ingredients, and is ideal for those with sensitive eyes. Available in Black and Brown.

Stockist: 1300 765 332

RRP: \$39.00

Website: www.inika.com.au

Ethical Nutrients Bone Builder with Vitamin D Powder

Bone Builder with Vitamin D Powder by Ethical Nutrients provides calcium from hydroxyapatite which may assist in the prevention and treatment of medically diagnosed osteoporosis. The product can strengthen bone in children and older adults by enhancing bone mineral density. Bone Builder may also reduce bone loss in postmenopausal women and osteoporotic fractures in older people, says the company.

Stockist: 07 3117 3300

RRP: \$24.95

Website: www.ethicalnutrients.com.au



Burt's Bees Baby Bee Bubble Bath

Burt's Bees **Baby Bee Bubble Bath** is 99% natural, using coconut and sunflower oils to create a gentle lather which won't irritate baby's sensitive skin. Glycerin and soy protein ensure skin is conditioned and soft while vanilla fruit extract and orange oil gently fragrance the bubble bath to create a relaxing bath time atmosphere. The formula is tear-free and contains no sulfate, paraben and phthalates, the company says.

Stockist: 1800 813 661

RRP: \$19.95

Website: www.burtsbees.com



DISPENSARY CORNER

IF THE mere thought of spiders alone is enough to make your skin crawl, then news of this two-minute 'miracle' treatment is sure to make your day.

Researchers at the University of Amsterdam have found that just a single dosage of propranolol - a beta-blocker traditionally used to treat high blood pressure - is enough to significantly reduce the physical symptoms of fear in participants with arachnophobia, after brief exposure to a tarantula.

Known also for its amnesic effects, propranolol treatment is anchored on the theory of "reconsolidation", first discovered 15-years ago by Dr. Joseph LeDoux, who hypothesised that core memories can be modified or altered in order to lessen psychological impact.

Forty-five arachnophobes were enlisted in the study, exposed to the tarantula for two minutes, before being randomised to receive either a single 40mg dosage of propranolol or a placebo.

Those that received the treatment demonstrated a significant reduction in avoidance behaviour, with the effects remaining for one-year after the study concluded.

"The proposed revolutionary intervention involves one single, brief intervention that leads to a sudden, substantial and lasting loss of fear," said Dr Merel Kindt, one of the authors of the study.

