



Inappropriate asthma prescribing

INAPPROPRIATE prescribing of inhaled corticosteroids-long-acting β -agonist (ICS-LABA) combination therapy could be putting children with asthma at unnecessary risk of adverse effects, a review of asthma deaths in NSW has said.

Writing in the *MJA*, Westmead Clinical School Children's Hospital Macintosh Professor of Paediatric Respiratory Medicine Peter Van Asperen said the Australian asthma handbook emphasised that ICS-LABA combination therapy should not be used as first-line preventer therapy in children; rather LABA add-on therapy should be reserved as one of three options for step-up treatment - [CLICK HERE](#).

AbbVie appoints

SIAN Stubbs has taken on a new role as regulatory affairs manager for AbbVie, moving from her former position as associate director of regulatory affairs and quality at Merck Serono.

CHF: More price disclosure

THE Consumers Health Forum (CHF) has called for further measures to accelerate price disclosure as part of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA).

In a pre-Budget submission, the CHF said this would make sure Australians paid prices similar to the market price of medicines.

There was scope for further work around price disclosure, including reducing the time lag between medicines coming off patent and associated price reduction, it said.

The submission also said should the government support an

extended range of services for pharmacists, the fee for service items should not be included in the 6CPA but should rather be assessed through the Medical Benefits Schedule process.

Funding for Home Medicine Reviews should be adequately funded with "improved monitoring of usage", the CHF said.

The organisation said it was "clear" the current agreement was "almost entirely structured" to protect the interests of pharmacy owners, with "almost all" funds channelled through pharmacies and location rules that protected established owners' interests.

A Pharmacy Guild spokesperson said this was "ill-informed" and contradicted CHF's own analysis of the 5CPA in 2010, which concluded that the views of consumers had been specifically sought and some concerns taken into account.

The CHF urged the government not to finalise the 6CPA until the Australian National Audit Office's 5CPA performance audit was released - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Pharmacists should not be on SOL: Guild

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has called upon the Department of Industry and Science (DOIS) to keep pharmacists off the Skilled Occupation List for 2015 following the decision for removal in 2014 (*PD* 04 Jun 14).

The Guild submission to the DOIS quoted its own internal modelling from Nov 2014 which estimated oversupply of 4,088 FTE pharmacists in 2015, 4,637 in 2020 and 6,988 in 2025.

The submission said there was an imbalance of distribution of pharmacists, with regional and remote areas undersupplied.

Professional Pharmacists Australia also argued that there was oversupply with 7,749 students enrolled in pharmacy degrees in 2013 (*PD* 25 Nov 14).

[CLICK HERE](#) to see submissions.

HCP drug screening

HAIR testing for drug use with urine tests will be compulsory for all health practitioners, including pharmacists, who have a history of substance abuse.

AHPRA and National Boards are working in concert to monitor health practitioners - [CLICK HERE](#).

WIN WITH PROPAIRA FOR ECZEMA

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Propaira are giving readers the chance to win a prize pack to the value of \$49.90 containing one Propaira Ultra Calming Lotion 100mL and Ultra Calming Cleansing Gel 100mL.



Propaira Ultra Calming Lotion and Cleansing Gel have been designed to combat itchiness, dryness, redness, burning, stinging and tingling, and

support the integrity of the skin barrier, Propaira says. According to the company, Propaira for Eczema range is suitable for use on the face, body and hands for people of all ages, and is steroid-free, with the key ingredients being niacinamide, ceramide, zinc gluconate and colloidal oatmeal.

To win, be the first person from WA to send the correct answer to the following question to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What is the role of ceramide in Propaira eczema products?

Need a hint? [Click here](#).

Congratulations to yesterday's winner Barbara McFarlane from Sanofi!



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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

New Thyroid Assist from Ethical Nutrients

For customers wanting to support healthy thyroid function, Ethical Nutrients now has what it describes as a comprehensive herbal and nutritional formula in **Thyroid Assist**. It contains milk thistle, rhodiola, ginger, rosemary, zinc, iodine and selenium. Ethical Nutrients says that Thyroid Assist provides the key nutrients required for thyroid hormone production and to assist in healthy thyroid function.

Stockist: 1800 777 648

RRP: \$34.95 for 30 tablets

Website: www.ethicalnutrients.com.au



BETTER than medicine?

Can pharmacies start dispensing dogs?

It might save a bit of time for dog owners in hospital, given the story of Nancy Franck, undergoing chemotherapy in hospital in Iowa, whose dog Sissy wandered 20 blocks into the hospital lobby.

Apparently, surveillance footage showed the dog wandering around the corridors, trying to sniff out Franck, *Orange News* has reported.

Hospital staff took the dog up to Franck for a few minutes, with Franck saying she was glad the dog had thought of the visit, the publication reported.

NOT the sharpest knife in the drawer.

If only all pharmacy robbers were as stupid as Welsh criminal Logan Rhys James.

When Gwent Police posted a photo of James with a 'wanted' description on Facebook, the 19 year old commented on the post, saying "Catch me if you can", the *Telegraph* reported.

The teenager was arrested two days later, with Superintendent Marc Budden thanking "the public, the media and Mr James himself for drawing attention to our efforts to return him to prison", a subsequent post on the page said.

SIGN language.

If your pharmacy is located next to a busy road, you could take a leaf out of the city of Hayward's book, in Northern California, and combine humour and road safety.

The city has placed traffic signs along a road known for speeding cards that say things like "Heads up! Cross the street, then update Facebook" and "35 - it's a speed limit, not a suggestion", the *Associated Press* reported.

Milky Foot Active for fresh, soft clean smelling feet

Milky Foot is an innovative DIY foot treatment that contains ExMilac (milk ferment filtrate) and almond-based mandelic acid to exfoliate hardened, dead skin in one application, the manufacturer BioRevive says. Five to seven days after applying Milky Foot, dead, rough skin peels away to reveal beautiful, baby-soft feet, the company says. Milky Foot Active now includes tannic acid to combat foot odour. NB: Not recommended for diabetics.

Stockist: 1300 790 978

RRP: \$32.95 for one size

Website: www.milkyfoot.com.au



Yves Saint Laurent Anti-Cernes Multi-Action Concealer

Yves Saint Laurent Anti-Cernes Multi-Action Concealer is a densely pigmented concealer specially formulated for the delicate skin under the eye area, but can be used anywhere on the face, the company says. The bevelled top and creamy texture allow for precise application, eliminating the look of imperfections while reducing inflammation and puffiness. Light diffusing pigments fade away even the worst blemishes. The concealer is suitable for all skin types and is now available in three shades: Ivory Beige, Nude Beige and Pink Beige.

Stockist: 1300 651 991

RRP: \$55.00

Website: www.loreal.com.au



Davinci Shave Groom Cube

The Shave Groom Cube is a shaving-essentials pack for men. The cube includes Davinci Natural Bristle Shave Brush, which creates pre-shave lather. It also contains the low-foam formula Davinci Shave Cream, as well as the Davinci After Shave Balm, a non-greasy, fast-absorbing balm to condition skin post-shave and soothe razor burn and irritation. The Davinci stainless steel Whisker Tweezers tackle stray hairs on the neck, face and eyebrows while the Davinci Compact Clipper trims sideburns, neckline or chest hair.

Stockist: 1800 651 146

RRP: \$19.99

Website: www.davincimen.com



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