



IF YOUR CUSTOMERS ARE TAKING A COURSE OF ANTIBIOTICS

a probiotic such as Inner Health Plus may assist in maintaining the balance of good bacteria.

INNER HEALTH PLUS
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Daily competition

THIS week *Pharmacy Daily* and **MooGoo** are giving readers the chance to win a MooGoo Milk Pail hamper worth \$84.60, starting today with NSW and ACT readers. See **page two** for details.

New antibiotic hope

GERMAN and US scientists say they have discovered a new antibiotic they call teixobactin, discovered in a screen of uncultured organisms. Teixobactin inhibited cell wall synthesis and had thus far proven effective against all mutants of staphylococcus aureus and mycobacterium tuberculosis, suggesting a reduced risk of resistance developing to this new class of antibiotics, the authors said. **CLICK HERE** to access the abstract.

Statins help women

CONCLUSIVE evidence now exists to show that statins reduce cardiovascular risk in women, according to new research out of the University of Sydney and published in *The Lancet*. A meta-analysis of data on 174,000 patients showed "beyond any reasonable doubt" that women gained the same benefits from statins as men, lead author Anthony Keech said. **CLICK HERE** for the abstract.

Phcy intervention post tonsillectomy

COMBINED use of peritonsillar infiltration of ketamine 1.0 mg/kg with tramadol 2 mg/kg provided prolonged analgesic effects, less pain with no side effect, and better haemodynamic stability compared with using tramadol alone in patients undergoing tonsillectomy in a randomised controlled trial. Published in the *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy*, the study enrolled 60 children aged from seven to 12 years and measured haemodynamic stability, pain levels, analgesia consumption and post operative nausea and vomiting. **CLICK HERE** for the abstract.

Dementia research boost

MINISTER for Education and Training Christopher Pyne has announced a new early-career fellowship scheme to support research into dementia. The fellowships would be funded jointly by the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Research Council as part of the government's \$200m Boosting Dementia Research budget initiative (*PD* 11 Aug 14), of which \$46m had been set aside to build the future research workforce, the Minister's office said. Dementia was a complex disease, requiring knowledge from all walks of research, and the fellowships would attract researchers from all fields, early in their careers, Pyne said. Alzheimer's Australia ceo Carol Bennett said without a breakthrough, the number of people with dementia in Australia was expected to reach close to 900,000 by 2050. "Research supported under this initiative will translate into better

Govt funding for hypnotherapy

THE Department of Health has confirmed it makes hypnotherapy and acupuncture available to staff as part of its Smoke Free Workplace Policy. In response to a question by Senator Joe Ludwig about non-conventional therapies provided, the Department said it did not provide non-conventional therapies to Ministers or their staff. The therapies were available to Australian Public Service and State and Emergency Service staff at the Department, it said. Staff needed to seek approval for a proposed smoking cessation plan and its anticipated cost, the Department said. The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that two staff members had been reimbursed for hypnotherapy to the tune of \$1,000 in this financial year, according to a Department spokeswoman. **CLICK HERE** to read more.

treatments, care and services to people with dementia, and their families and carers." Speaking on *2GB*, Bennett said it was estimated that the 330,000 Australians diagnosed with dementia was underestimated, and that better access to diagnostic methods was needed. **CLICK HERE** for more information.

Reducing Rx overdose

CALIFORNIA'S State Board of Pharmacy is working with other medical agencies and the local Department of Health to create strategies to prevent deaths and injuries from prescription-painkiller overdoses, *Drug Topics* reports. Drug overdoses involving prescription painkillers had increased 16% since 2006 in California, with more than 1,800 deaths in 2012, the publication said. Medical Board of California executive director Kimberly Kirchmeyer told the publication the Board wanted to provide tools that would lead to better discussions between providers, pharmacists and their patients.

Evaluating biosimilars

THE UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has announced an update of its methods for providing guidance and advice on biosimilar medicines, as their availability and use on the National Health Service grows. With a rapid worldwide increase in the number of biological medicines that received regulatory approval over the last decade, it is expected that this rate of growth would increase as more biologics lost marketing exclusivity, the Institute said. Top-selling biological medicines that lost, or would be losing, patent protection over the next few years included monoclonal antibodies for use in patients with cancer, rheumatoid arthritis and other inflammatory disease, and insulins for diabetes, it said. **CLICK HERE** for the NICE update.

Win six month supply of nappies

MATER Mothers' Hospitals is offering pharmacy customers the chance to win a six month supply of Mater Nappies. See **page three** for more.

Aussies don't eat enough fruit and veg

ROY Morgan Research has found that only 2% of the population eat the recommended minimum daily intake of fruit and vegetables. A survey of 14,088 Australians aged 14 years and over from November 2013 to October 2014 found more than 60% of the population ate two or less serves of vegetables each day, with 6% eating five or more serves. Women tended to eat more vegetables than men, with those aged 50 years or older more likely to eat three or more serves daily, the research found. Fruit intake was slightly better, with 33% of women and 28% of men eating their recommended daily two serves each day, with 18% of men and 20% of women eating more than that.

However, 62% of 14 to 17 year olds ate two or more serves of fruit per day, Roy Morgan Research said. The research follows the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) finding that only 6.8% of Australians met the recommended intake in its 2011-12 National Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (*PD* 12 May 14). **CLICK HERE** to read more.

Pregnancy pain meds

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has said it is aware of concerns around the use of OTC pain medications during pregnancy. The organisation said research evaluated was determined to be too limited to make recommendations at this time, so use of pain medicines should be carefully considered, with patients urged to discuss options with their healthcare professional. **CLICK HERE** to read more.

Weekly Comment

WELCOME to PD's weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is Dr Charlotte Mooring, Obstetrician at Mater Mothers' Hospitals.



Helping women with morning sickness.

Morning sickness is common in women who are in the early stages of their pregnancy. Symptoms of morning sickness include nausea and vomiting, which are caused by an increase in pregnancy hormones. Morning sickness can cause anywhere between mild and severe discomfort and the symptoms will vary between women. An easy thing to recommend to a woman with morning sickness is ginger, which can be taken in tablet form, tea or non-alcoholic ginger beer. Vitamin B6 is also quite helpful for morning sickness and can be found in foods such as bananas, nuts, green beans, carrots, cauliflower, potatoes, lean meats and fish. Vitamin B6 can also be taken in the supplement form if the recommended daily intake isn't being met from food. Another symptom that goes hand-in-hand with the first trimester is constipation. This can leave some pregnant women feeling sluggish. The best way to combat this is through prevention and this can be done by drinking plenty of water, eating fruit and vegetables and adding fibre to the diet. If further measures are needed, pear or prune juice are a good start, but there are other medications, including some laxatives, that can be used safely in pregnancy too. For more information on morning sickness visit www.matermothers.org.au.

GP rebate petition hits 35k signatures

A PETITION calling on Minister for Health Sussan Ley to abolish its revised co-payment model has garnered more than 35,400 signatures.

Launched by the Australian College of General Practitioners, the petition on Change.org hit more than 17,400 signatures in just over 24 hours, the organisation said.

The revised model would see consultation rebates cut by \$20 from 19 Jan and has sparked planned rallies from doctors in at least two major cities, to be held in February (PD 09 Jan).

CLICK HERE to read more.

Standards survey

THE Pharmacy Practitioner Development Committee has released an online survey as part of the review of the National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia (PD 29 Jul 14), consisting of 23 questions.

CLICK HERE for more.

PHARMAC on monthly dispensing

PHARMAC is welcoming feedback on a proposal to move back to monthly dispensing, rather than three monthly, on certain pharmaceuticals.

These include clobetasol propionate cream, ointment and scalp application (Dermol) and betamethasone valerate cream (Beta Cream).

The change would occur from 01 Mar and feedback must be made by 27 Jan, the organisation said.

CLICK HERE for more.

New NOAC approval

THE US Food and Drug Administration has granted marketing approval to a novel oral anticoagulant (NOAC), Daiichi Sankyo's Savaysa (edoxaban), to reduce the risk of stroke and dangerous blood clots (systemic embolism) in qualifying patients and to treat deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism (under certain conditions).

CLICK HERE for more.

WIN A MOOGOO MUM AND BABY PAIL HAMPER

We're on the search for Pharmacy Daily readers' chubby cheeked babies!



We've got five MooGoo mum and baby pail hampers to give away to our favourite chubby cheeks, starting today with NSW and ACT.

Each prize pack is valued at \$84.60 and contains: Natural SPF 40 Sunscreen, Mini Moo Natural Bubble Wash, Anti-Ageing Face Cream, Lip Balm SPF and a calf soft toy.

If you think you know the chubbiest baby out, email your photo by COB this Friday to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

RESEARCH bites.

Pharmacy research, we're sure, can be challenging and hard work, but at least you don't have to milk snakes as part of your work.

Unless you're part of the team at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, that is, who are working to develop anti-venom that will work against the bite of every sub-Saharan African snake, BBC News has reported.

To do this, researchers have to milk venom from more than 400 venomous snakes in their laboratory, the publication reported.

To watch an interview with the lead scientist, Dr Robert Harrison, **CLICK HERE**.

CALL for koala mittens.

The Guild and the Asthma Foundation SA have partnered up to provide free asthma reliever medication to pharmacies affected by the recent bushfires (PD 09 Jan), but these koalas need a slightly different treatment.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare has called on Australians to donate or make cotton koala mittens, to cover the animals' burned paws and allow them to return to the environment safely, the Telegraph reported.

Posted on Facebook, the call to action has been shared more than 13,000 times, with some fairly adorable mitten photos posted by supporters - **CLICK HERE** to view.

WORKPLACE safety - from animals.

You're generally safe from injury via animal in pharmacies, so the animal-related injuries, including head-butting pigs, which cost NZ's Accident Compensation Corporation NZ\$20m last year, were unlikely to have occurred in one - **CLICK HERE** for more.

BUY + WIN

Mater Mothers' Hospitals nappies

Mater Mothers' Hospitals is offering your customers the chance to **WIN** a six-month supply of Mater Nappies. There are four prizes to be won!

Entry is simple—customers just need to purchase one product from the Mater range and complete the online entry form at www.matermothers.org.au.



The Caring Continues

To stock Mater products in your store order from Symbion or API or call **1300 162 837**



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Proceeds support Mater Little Miracles to help fund specialist life-saving care and research for babies Australia-wide.

PDE no.	Product
A – 584339 S – 081582	Mater Body Balm for pregnancy
A – 584118 S – 119881	Mater Baby Wash
A – 584215 S – 119865	Mater Baby Moisturiser
M – MBC005	Mater Nappies – Newborn First Weeks
M – MBC006	Mater Nappies – Newborn
M – MBC007	Mater Nappies – Infant
M – MBC008	Mater Nappies – Crawler
M – MBC009	Mater Nappies – Toddler

A – API, S – Symbion, M – direct from Mater