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ETHICAL NUTRIENTS



Wednesday 01 Jul 2015

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Reform Pharmacy deal

REFORM Management is inviting pharmacies Australia wide to join their 1,900-strong network to take advantage of the deals on offer. See page four for details.

ASMI voluntary labels

THE Australian Self Medication Industry says country of origin details should not be mandatory for therapeutic goods labels.

In a submission to the govt's review of country of origin labelling, ASMI says all therapeutic goods are already highly regulated and are manufactured in TGA-approved sites - including overseas facilities.

"The supply chains for therapeutic goods may be complex, involving multiple parties, markets and TGA approved sites...the more complex a product's supply chain, the more difficult it will be to identify the point at which it is 'substantially transformed' and its precise 'country of origin'," ASMI said.

Lucentis on the list

NOVARTIS' Lucentis

(ranibizumab) has been PBS listed today for diabetic macular oedema and retinal vein occlusion.

The anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) works by preventing damaged or blocked blood vessels from leaking fluid into the macula and thereby reducing ocular swelling.

The July PBS website update has been posted with other key additions including Xalkori (crzotinib), Vimpat (lacosamide) and a range of generic brands.

CLICK HERE to access the data.

CMA urges deregulation COMPLEMENTARY Medicines Australia says the government review of regulation around complementary medicines provides "the perfect opportunity for greater international streamlining of regulatory requirements".

PSA Pain award

KARALYN Huxhagen has been named as the winner of the 2015 PSA Award for Quality Use of Medicines in Pain Management.

Huxhagen is group facilitator of the Mackay Pain Support Group, with PSA president Grant Kardachi saying she "stood out for her work of integrating care across the health team and targeting patient selfmanagement".

The support group meets once a month and has 355 members.

The award is sponsored by Mundipharma, and Huxhagen will receive registration fees, travel and accommodation to attend the upcoming PSA15 conference in Sydney from 23 Jul-02 Aug.

Perjeta & Kadcyla PBS

ROCHE has announced that effective today, two new HER2positive breast cancer treatments are being funded on the PBS, Perjeta (pertuzumab) and Kadcyla (trastuzumab emtansine).

Perjeta is used with Herceptin, both targeting the HER2 protein found on cancer cells but working in different ways to block the growth and spread of cancer cells.

They also may support the body's own immune system, Roche said.

In a submission to the Department of Health, CMA says the complementary medicines industry has the ability to "grow exponentially" given a supportive business environment.

CEO Carl Gibson said the organisation's recommendations focus on areas of simplification to create an "appropriate regulatory regime" which is supportive of innovation and competitiveness, but doesn't undermine the current high standards for Australian CMs.

"Removal of excessive regulatory burden, and a greater focus on international harmonisation, will assist the complementary medicines industry to bring innovative new products to the Australian market," he said.

The submission says the CM sector also holds enormous potential to contribute to a sustainable healthcare system -CLICK HERE to view.

Selling your pharmacy

PHARMACY Solutions has all the answers to help you maximise your return, and a holiday incentive as well - see page three.

FDA on bioequivalents

GENERIC drug manufacturers have been given a boost by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) supporting a new batch of bioequivalence recommendations, according to the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society (RAPS).

Drugs likely to be targeted early include Sovaldi (sofosbuvir), Northera (droxidopa), Xtandi (enzalutamide) and Olysio (simeprevir) under an Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA).

Solvadi is one of the top selling drugs by total revenue and is therefore expected to attract significant interest.

The FDA has identified around 45 drugs that could be affected by the new recommendations.

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ALIVE! Women's Multivitamin from Blackmores



Blackmores ALIVE! Women's Multivitamin helps with daily energy production and is specifically formulated to support women's needs. It contains a blend of vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and enzymes to enhance immunity, metabolism and stress relief as well as bone, muscle and skin health, the company says. Its key ingredients include B vitamins, zinc, selenium, beta-carotene and vitamins C and D. Adults should take one tablet a day with a meal.

Stockist: 1800 803 760 **RRP:** \$29.99 for 60 tabs Website: www.blackmores.com.au

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Stockist: 1800 222 099 RRP: \$3.99 for 12 mL Website: www.churchdwight.com.au

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DISPENSARY CORNER

A CHINESE technology firm has released a new wireless router specially equipped with a setting for expectant ladies.

Qihoo 360 launched the new gadget with a configuration tool which provides three levels of operation: "wall penetration," "balance" and "pregnant women".

The pregnancy setting is claimed to reduce radiation emitted by the internet access device by 70%.

However rival manufacturer Xiaomi described the "so-called pregnancy mode" as "just a marketing tactic.

"Wi-fi usage is safe, so please rest assured when using it," the company posted on social media.

Qihoo ceo Zhou Hongyi said the new router would be marketed to "people who are afraid of radiation".

Despite the special setting, the World Health Organization says based on a recent indepth review of the scientific literature, "current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to low-level electromagnetic fields".

AND while we're on the subject of pregnancy, a Malaysian clothes manufacturer has released a new line of full-length trousers for women to wear while they are giving birth.

Targeting beliefs by some Muslims about modesty and the unseemliness of uncovered legs and ankles, the copyrighted and seemingly extremely comfortable Mama Pride pants are similar to tracksuit bottoms but have "an opening to let the baby out" while still covering a woman's legs during labour.

The Mama Pride website says the product is also suitable for those undergoing pap smears.

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