



PRO PAIRA
Skin Care for Problematic Skin
Cancer Prone skin
[find out more](#)

Bradycardia drug interaction

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has warned that symptomatic bradycardia can occur when amiodarone is taken with either the hepatitis C drug Harvoni (ledipasvir/sofosbuvir) or with Sovaldi (sofosbuvir) together with another direct acting antiviral hepatitis C treatment.

Information about this risk had been included in the drug labels for Harvoni and Sovaldi, the FDA said, and it recommended healthcare professionals not prescribe either combined with another direct acting antiviral.

A spokesperson for the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said the organisation was aware of the information from Gilead Sciences about the potential for bradycardia to occur in patients on concurrent amiodarone and Harvoni, which was not currently registered in Australia, or Sovaldi.

The TGA will review the information to ascertain whether action was required, the spokesperson said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the FDA alert.

Actavis to exit Oz generics

ACTAVIS has confirmed it will exit the Australian generics business, as part of the acquisition of Allergan Australia and New Zealand.

However the company has said it will not give the specific job losses or cost reductions.

In the first year of combination, the company said it was making about \$1.8b in savings.

The combined company intended to treat departing employees with respect and fairness, it said.

It would continue to supply the Australian market through current distribution channels while alternatives were looked at, but that there would be no change to the NZ market, Actavis said.

Arzerra PBS listed

ARZERRA (ofatumumab) in combination with chlorambucil will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme as of 01 Apr for patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia who have not received prior therapy and are inappropriate for fludarabine-based therapy, GlaxoSmithKline has said.

The company did not respond to a query about how long this switch would take.

It would seek shareholder approval to change the combined company name to Allergan in May or June, with a head office in Sydney and headed by Allergan ANZ vice president and md Glen Curran in the ANZ markets, it said.

A *PD* reader said when the Melbourne office closed last year, there were 20 redundancies.

At the time of the restructure announcement, Actavis ANZ vice president Ron van der Pluijm said positions in Melbourne would be relocated to Sydney for employees who wished to relocate (*PD* 02 May).

A CHS spokesperson said the company had an ongoing contract with Actavis and was aware of possible changes, but could not comment further.

Allergan said globally it would invest about \$1.7b in R&D this year.

PSA position on OTC codeine analgesics

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has released a position statement on minimising potential harm from inappropriate use of OTC codeine-containing analgesics, which has re-iterated its call for a national real time recording of controlled drugs system (*PD* 17 Jul 14).

The PSA said it was concerned with the "rising levels of harm" from inappropriate use of OTC codeine-containing analgesics and encouraged pharmacists to record all sales of S3 medicines in the dispensing system regardless of state requirements.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the statement.

PSA NSW Intern of the Year

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced intern Laura Norman from Gunnedah as the PSA MIMS Australia NSW Intern of the Year for 2014.

Sun seals merger deal

SUN Pharmaceutical Industries has now begun the integration of Ranbaxy's business into the broader organisation following the closure of the merger first announced in April (*PD* 10 Apr 14).

The merger places Sun as the largest Indian pharmaceutical company, the company said.

Chemist Warehouse Federal judgement

THE Federal Court of Australia has recommended that the application by Mario Verrocchi and Jack Gance, trading as Chemist Warehouse, against Direct Chemist Outlet (DCO) and Ian Tauman be dismissed.

The application had been made that DCO had intentionally caused and was likely to cause confusion with customers as to the identity of the pharmacies as a result of not adequately distinguishing themselves from Chemist Warehouse in terms of visual attributes of marketing, namely the appearance of stores, catalogues and website.

Judge J. Middleton further ordered that both parties confer to file and serve a joint minute of orders that reflects the judgement reasons by 27 Mar, or in the case of disagreement, serve a separate minute of order with substantiation.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Reasons for Judgement.

Win with audiclean

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and *Audiclean* are giving readers the chance to win an Ear Cleansing Wash (RRP \$17.95), Ear Wax Remover (RRP \$10.95) and Ear Swimmer's Ear (RRP \$12.95).



Audiclean is a range of effective and easy to use ear care products meant to prevent and treat ear discomfort. Ear Cleansing Wash and Ear Wax Remover are 100% natural solutions to prevent and treat wax build-up. The Swimmer's ear formula dries excess water in the ear and inhibits bacteria growth.

To win, be the first person from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the following question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

How does Audiclean Swimmer's Ear spray work?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Donna Delgado from Jardines Chemmart Pharmacy.

HELP YOUR CUSTOMERS BREAK FREE FROM THE SYMPTOMS OF MEDICALLY DIAGNOSED IBS

Ethical Nutrients IBS Support contains the extensively researched and exclusive probiotic strain, *Lactobacillus plantarum* (299v) which may help reduce the symptoms of IBS including:

- Pain
- Constipation
- Diarrhoea
- Bloating
- Gas

Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist consult your healthcare professional.

ETHICAL NUTRIENTS
PROFESSIONAL NATURAL MEDICINES



Travel Specials

Accor's 'Stay Three Pay Two' sale

STARTING 24 Mar and running until 14 Apr, Accor's more than 1,400 hotels, including the 130 in Australia, are offering a third night free of charge in a 'Stay Three Pay Two' promotion.

Rates start at \$69 per night at Ibis Styles, Cairns, \$86 per night at Ibis Adelaide and \$126 per night for Pullman on the Park while the Sebel Resort in Noosa starts at \$199 (all rates averaged over the three nights).

Accor's brands include Sofitel, Pullman, MGallery, The Sebel Apartments, Novotel, Mercure and Ibis and are all included in the sale.

To book, go to www.accorhotels.com.

Maalifushi by COMO offers

THE Maalifushi by COMO is offering a number of specials for guests staying between March and December.

Staying three nights will get guests another, complimentary, night while staying five nights will get guests two free nights.

Guests booking at least 30 days in advance will receive 5% off their stay.

To book, [CLICK HERE](#).

E-cig insufficient evidence

THE National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) ceo has said there is insufficient evidence as to whether e-cigarettes benefited smokers in quitting.

In a statement developed in consultation with Chief Health Officers from states and territories, Professor Warwick Anderson also said there was not enough evidence as to the extent of e-cigarettes' potential harms.

"It is recommended that health authorities act to minimise harm until evidence of safety, quality and efficacy can be produced."

The NHMRC said the statement was developed in response to a rise in use of e-cigarettes in Australia and their marketing as a method to help smokers quit, with further research needed to assess their safety, quality and efficacy.

The statement follows the recent World Conference on Tobacco

or Health, where a panel on e-cigarettes agreed that more research into potential harms and health benefits was "urgently needed" and that marketing to children should be banned, which the Heart Foundation said it had been actively campaigning for.

A spokesperson for the Therapeutic Goods Administration has said e-cigarettes and cartridges had not been evaluated by the TGA as safe or effective (**PD** 01 May 14).

The Federal Department of Health has a tender for the preparation of a discussion paper on options for Australian governments to minimise the risks associated with the marketing of electronic nicotine delivery systems, or e-cigarettes (**PD** 08 Dec 14).

\$15m for lab to product research

THE Minister for Health has announced \$123.5m for medical research grants, including \$15m to take 26 projects from the laboratory to commercial products.

More than 100 researchers and projects would receive funding through the National Health and Medical Research Council grants, with 30% of the 241 National Health Priority Area funded grants for cancer research, 25% for cardiovascular disease and 20% for diabetes.

6CPA update

THE Pharmacy Guild has said it is continuing negotiations with the Federal government on the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA).

Writing in *forefront*, executive director David Quilty said the Guild had told government the negotiations needed to be finished and a new Agreement signed as quickly as possible.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

DISPENSARY CORNER



TO SLEEP, perchance to dream.

If you're dispensing a whole heap of sleeping tablets, be aware - apparently, more than eight hours sleep has been associated with a 46% increased risk of stroke in a meta-analysis recently published in *Neurology* and first reported by *The Conversation*.

Brief sleep times of less than six hours were also associated with an increased risk of 19%, suggesting that six to eight hours is the sweet spot regardless of how well one sleeps.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the study.

DANCE in time, grandma!

If you've been telling your elderly customers about the benefits of exercise, make sure you warn them that in China, they'll have to dance one of 12 government approved routines.

Apparently, dancing in public squares is popular in the nation, particularly among older women, but after complaints from residents about the loud music, the government has decreed that any groups wanting to get their groove on in public will have to conform to national standards and regulations conceived by an "expert panel", with 600 instructors trained, *BBC News* reports.

BREATHE MORE, SNORE LESS.

Did you get your mute Starter Pack at #APP2015?

Mute is a new breathing technology from Rhinomed, alleviates the frequency and severity of snoring in 75% of users*

PRE-ORDER NOW

For more information call 0422 822 832



Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

Sign up free at www.pharmacydaily.com.au.

Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

Publisher: Bruce Piper

Editor: Alex Walls info@pharmacydaily.com.au

Reporter: Mal Smith

Advertising and Marketing: Magda Herdzyk advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Travel Daily CRUISE WEEKLY travelBulletin business events news Pharmacy DAILY

Pharmacy Daily is a publication of Pharmacy Daily Pty Ltd ABN 97 124 094 604. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.