



CA contraception

WOMEN in California, USA can now obtain hormonal birth control - including pills, patches and injections - directly from a pharmacist without a prescription under new legislation which came into effect on Fri.

A one-on-one consultation with the pharmacist is required, along with the completion of a health questionnaire and a blood pressure test in some cases.

US metformin update

AMERICA'S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is updating labelling requirements for metformin-containing medicines used to treat diabetes, after a review of studies found metformin can be used safely in patients with mild impairment in kidney function and in some patients with moderate impairment.

As well as updating labels to reflect this new information, the FDA is recommending that the measure of kidney function used to determine whether a patient can receive metformin be changed to glomerular filtration rate estimating equation (eGFR).

More details at www.fda.gov.

NPS saves millions on PBS

CLAIMING significant impact on PBS costs, diagnostic cost savings, a 2.4 to 1 return on investment and successful safe-use-of-medicines programs, NPS MedicineWise has released its *Annual Evaluation Report 2014-2015*.

PBS savings reported in 2015 based on the 2013-14 financial year, totalled \$69.24 million, the report said.

The quality use of diagnostic programs delivered \$11.6 million in savings from reduced expenditure on CT scans for the period Jul 2013 to Feb 2015, and \$21.45 million in savings for reduced expenditure on vitamin D tests for the period Nov 2013 to Oct 2014.

A cost benefit analysis found that for every \$1 invested in the NPS MedicineWise program 'Balancing benefits and harms of antipsychotic therapy', \$2.40 in benefits was generated.

This included 177 averted strokes and a 7.3% reduction in modelled PBS prescription volume for those aged over 70 years with an estimated saving of over \$4 million as well as over \$2 million in savings for state hospitals.

A GP-based program titled

'Promoting safe use of medicines in older people' showed that participating GPs were more knowledgeable than their non-participating colleagues, although only 2,000 GPs were engaged.

Studies evaluating the impact of the NPS MedicineWise hypertension management program on medication use showed that doctors were influenced positively with respect to guideline adherence.

CLICK HERE for the report.

S3 plan for ulipristal

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has launched a consultation about several changes to the Poisons Standard, including creating a new Schedule 3 entry for "morning after" pill ulipristal to allow for emergency post-coital contraceptive use.

The TGA is also seeking comment on a proposal to amend the S4 entry for piper metysticum (Kava) including the addition of a mandatory warning statement to be added to all Kava packaging.

There's also a proposal to increase the pack size of unscheduled fexofenadine from the current "not more than five days' supply" to "not more than 10 days' supply" in a primary pack containing 20 dosage units or less.

A consultation document was released last week and interested parties are invited to respond by close of business on Fri 06 May.

Antibiotic allergies

THERE is a high prevalence in Australia of older patients being incorrectly labelled as having an antibiotic allergy, and correcting this to reduce over-prescribing of broad spectrum antibiotics could be a "high yield and a low risk task" according to research published today by the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

A team from Austin Health, the University of Melbourne, Monash University and Alfred Health found many of the allergies in 453 patients were actually non-genuine.

See the research at mja.com.au.

Parkinson's resource

NEW healthcare professional designed resources have been released to assist pharmacists and other health workers to counsel Parkinson's Disease (PD) patients and their carers.

The online storytelling resource is intended to help people better understand and manage their disease, employing everyday language in a narrative that more clearly explains without so-called "techno-talk".

Jacinta Johnson, South Australian pharmacist and adviser to the *Parkinson's Xplained* project, said, "Parkinson's disease is such a complex disease, it's often challenging for pharmacists to ensure the patient will retain a clear understanding of their diagnosis and medications when they leave the pharmacy."

CLICK HERE for access.

HOW ARE YOUR CREDITS CLOCKING UP?

The CPD year is half-way through. Dial up your credits with our CPD activities ▶



Have You Got the Advantage?

Talk to us today about flexible business models tailored to suit your pharmacy

By Pharmacists For Pharmacists



THE ULTIMATE BUSINESS SUPPLEMENT



THE ULTIMATE MULTI-STRENGTH FORMULA



For further information contact:

STEVEN KASTRINAKIS
M. Pharm, B. Pharm, MPS MACPP
CEO-Head of New Business

E: Steven.kastrinakis@advantagepharmacy.com.au

Pharmacy DAILY

Monday 11 Apr 2016

PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

Do you have the Pharmacy Daily app?

ANDROID APP ON Google play

Download on the App Store



Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Annie McArdle, Mater Mothers' Hospital, Parent Liaison and Information Midwife.**



Diabetes in pregnancy

GESTATIONAL diabetes mellitus (GDM) is a specific type of diabetes that only occurs during pregnancy. GDM occurs as a result of changes in hormone levels as pregnancy progresses, which can interfere with how some women's insulin works.

In most cases, the condition is temporary and goes away after the birth of the baby. Approximately one in 20 pregnant women will develop gestational diabetes.

The Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society recommends testing for gestational diabetes in all pregnant women. An oral glucose tolerance test will be performed between 26 and 28 weeks of pregnancy.

The aim of treatment is to maintain blood glucose levels within a normal range for the rest of the pregnancy. Approximately one in 10 women with gestational diabetes will require insulin injections during pregnancy to maintain normal blood glucose levels. Following a healthy diet, having a healthy weight gain during pregnancy and exercising regularly will help to control blood glucose levels during pregnancy. If women cannot manage their blood glucose levels with diet and activity alone, medication such as insulin or oral metformin is sometimes needed. As gestational diabetes usually occurs later in pregnancy, the baby's physical development is not generally affected, especially if the GDM is well controlled.

MedCPD for pharmacists

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has announced the release of a new Medicines Management CPD alert, titled *MedCPD*.

To be issued monthly, the alert is designed to provide an update on SHPA's CPD events and activities for anyone who works in medicines management such as pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and assistants, pharmacy interns and pharmacy students.

Subscription to *MedCPD* gives first release access to SHPA's new events, new online CPD content, branch continuing education lectures, webinars and more.

India cellulose switch

INDIAN authorities are looking at a proposal which would see the country switch from gelatin-based to cellulose capsules.

The move is particularly relevant to the millions of Indian vegetarians, but previous attempts to offer a non animal-based alternative had been strongly opposed by the pharmaceutical industry.

A final decision is likely by the end of next month, with concerns such a move may make medicines more expensive because gelatin is cheaper than cellulose.

It aims to help pharmacy personnel keep track of the CPD available through SHPA with relation to events and activities that are relevant to individual practice and learning plans.

Although *MedCPD* is available to SHPA members and non-members, members receive discounted registration rates for all SHPA CPD events and access to online registration and content.

More info at shpa.org.au.

Quad vax available

HEALTH Minister Sussan Ley has announced that the quadrivalent influenza vaccine is now available for at-risk Australians for free, as promised originally in Nov last year (*PD* 09 Nov).

The \$31.3 million in funding for up to 4.48 million free doses of the new flu booster has already begun to be sourced, with this year the fourth element added when the Brisbane strain proved to be particularly virile.

High-risk groups highlighted in the statement were the over-65s, certain Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, pregnant women and those with a medical condition, such as severe asthma, diabetes or heart disease.



DISPENSARY CORNER

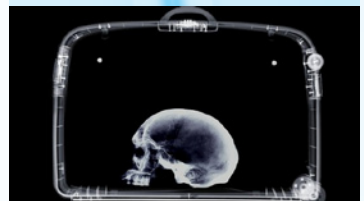
THE arrest of a German scientist came as somewhat of a surprise, after airport officials at Rome's Fiumicino airport discovered a human skull in his suitcase.

The traveller was en route to Dusseldorf, and told police he had purchased the skull at a market for about A\$70.

The skull was clearly visible on the luggage x-ray (**pictured**).

"It was well polished, but without its lower jaw," he said, insisting he had bought it for scientific purposes.

However border police charged him with the illegal possession of human remains, with the skull sent to Italy's Polizia Scientifica forensic scientists to figure out where it came from.



STAFF at a Starbucks coffee shop are in trouble after they labelled a customer's white chocolate mocha as "Diabetes Here I Come".

The super sweet drink (**below**) caused particular offence because the purchaser has two sisters who are diabetic.

Pet names had not been allocated to other coffees.

A Starbucks spokesman said the firm was "disappointed" at the incident, and was working with employees to apologise for the unfortunate experience.



Win with MILKY FOOT



This week Pharmacy Daily and Biorevive are giving away Milky Foot Active each day.

Milky Foot Active is an effortless at home pedicure treatment which combats foot odour and removes hardened dead skin through an intense peeling action after just one simple application. Milky Foot Active comes with all the benefits of the original Milky Foot but with a new special foot odour fighting formula. Visit www.milkyfoot.com.au

To win, be the first person from NSW or ACT to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What added benefit does Milky Foot Active have compared to the original Milky Foot Intense Exfoliation Pads?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

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: Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia

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

Part of the Business Publishing Group.

Publisher: Bruce Piper info@pharmacydaily.com.au

Reporter: Mal Smith

Contributors: Nathalie Craig, Jasmine O'Donoghue, Bonnie Tai

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

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

Travel  CRUISE  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.