

COPD, Ezetimibe submissions public

THE public submissions process for the post-market reviews of COPD medicines and Ezetimibe has now closed, with submissions addressing the probe's terms of enquiry having now been published on the PBS website.

COPD input was provided by a range of organisations including NPS MedicineWise, AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Medicines Australia, the Asthma Foundation SA, Lung Foundation Australia, while Ezetimibe commentators included Amgen Australia, Sanofi, Merck Sharp & Dohme and the Council of Australian Therapeutic Advisory Groups.

See www.pbs.gov.au.

Medicine labels to change

NEW medicine labels will begin to appear from the end of this month, under revised standards which will be made public next week.

The changes formally come into effect from 31 Aug but there is a four year transition period to allow sponsors sufficient time to transition to the new arrangements.

The new standards will be available on the Federal Register of Legislation on 17 Aug, with the requirements aiming to make Australian medicine labels "clearer and more consistent," according to the TGA.

Under the changes active ingredients will be more prominent, while most OTC medicines will have a Critical Health Information panel.

Non-prescription medicines will be required to list more substances that could cause an allergic reaction, such as crustacea, fish, eggs, soya, milk and tree nuts.

Prescription medicines will also

have a designated space for a dispensing label, to ensure other information on a carton or bottle is not inadvertently obscured.

"Labelling requirements have not been updated for many years... these changes help bring Australian medicine labels up to date and align them with international best practice," the TGA website advises.

Pharmacists are advised the changes may lead to questions from consumers, with printable materials to explain the move to be made available in late 2016.

Strontium off PBS

EFFECTIVE 01 Aug osteoporosis medicine strontium (Protos) is no longer available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in Australia, and must instead be obtained as a private prescription.

NPS MedicineWise has posted a document summarising the implications and options for patients using strontium.

See www.nps.org.au for details.

July orphan updates

ADDITIONS to the list of designated orphan drugs in July were three.

They were Ipsen's telotristat etiprate tablets for the treatment of Carcinoid Syndrome, Merck Serono's avelumab IV solution for the treatment of Merkel Cell Carcinoma and Stivarga (regorafenib) from Bayer, used to treat hepatocellular carcinoma.

Go to www.tga.gov.au for details.

JPPR editors sought

THE official journal of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA), the *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research (JPPR)* is seeking to appoint three suitable applicants to the position of Assistant Editor.

The roles are in an honorary capacity, each appointment being for an initial period of two years, with an option to renew for a further two years if mutually agreed.

JPPR said they envisage these appointments will suit mid-career pharmacists who are interested in developing insights into the publishing processes associated with the production of the journal.

To be eligible for appointment, applicants need to be registered to practice pharmacy in Australia and fulfil other criteria.

Visit jppr.shpa.org.au for details.

Did you know that goat's milk contains prebiotic oligos which are structurally closer to breast milk*



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02 8878 9777

FIND OUT MORE

* When compared to standard cow's milk;
Source: Urashima and Taufik, 2010.

AHPRA recruiting

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced persons to be appointed to a Scheduled Medicines Expert Committee.

The role of the Expert Committee is to advise the National Boards on policy related to the use of scheduled medicines, with appointments for a three year period and appointees to start in Sep 2016.

Visit ahpra.gov.au for more info.

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mundicare Itch Relief in a gel or spray

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Eylure **Pro-Lash Individuals** are individual lashes that dramatically alter the thickness of the eyelashes for up to four weeks without re-application. They come in three variants: Short, Medium and a Combination pack (short, medium, long as pictured). The pack includes Lift Off Remover as well as the Superfix Adhesive. Eylure Pro-Lash Individuals are also available in Individual Short Lashes and Individual Medium Lashes.

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Stockist: 1300 308 108

RRP: \$16.99

Website: www.brauer.com.au



Dispensary Corner

THOSE Brazilians are certainly hygiene-conscious - at least when it comes to giving toileting instructions to athletes staying in the Rio Olympic Village.

Special posters have been put up outside the bathrooms (pictured below) with a series of graphical instructions including one reminding the visitors that they should not attempt to catch fish in the toilet bowls.

US Olympian Elena Delle Donne made the most of the comedic opportunity, telling her 200,000-plus Instagram followers "I guess I won't be toilet fishing today".

Other prohibited bathroom activities include throwing rubbish, vomiting, squatting and defecating in urinals.



PROPOSED safer driving legislation in New Jersey has some people concerned because it could potentially stop motorists drinking coffee while on the road.

The 'distracted driving' plan would extend existing bans on use of cellphones to "any activity unrelated to the actual operation of a motor vehicle".

The sponsor of the bill, John Wisniewski, said the outcry against the plan is worse than one of his previous proposals which would have imposed a 25c per gallon increase in fuel taxes.