

Win with Neat Feat

This week Pharmacy Daily and Neat Feat are giving away a prize pack each day including BodySaver and FaceSaver.



Leading personal care company, Neat Feat, has developed your sweating solution. Neat 3B BodySaver incorporates an antiperspirant in an emollient and a soothing cream to help combat sweat rash and chafing. Neat 3B FaceSaver is a soothing

gel formulation that evaporates rapidly, leaving the active antiperspirant ingredient as a thin film with an antiperspirant effect that's long-lasting. Visit www.neatfeat.com.

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

Who developed BodySaver?

Online pap smear petition gathers 100k signatures

AUSTRALIAN women are taking a stand against the Government's proposed changes to the Medicare rebate scheme; which pathologists and medical researchers say could render patients paying up to 30 dollars for pap smears.

"It is disgusting that your government is cutting bulk billing incentives for pap smears, MRI's, urine/blood tests, X-rays and ultrasounds," reads the petition posted on Change.org.

"These cuts are unfair to the average Australian, but will especially hurt women. Free and accessible pathology tests are key to ensuring early detection of cervical cancer, STI's, UTI's and pregnancy," it continues.

Referencing Royal College of Pathologists Australasia's president Michael Harrison as saying "pap smears could cost women \$30 and MRI scans as costing \$173"; the petition has already gathered more than 135,000 signatures since it was first posted on Tuesday, and is only 15,000 signatures shy of its

goal of 150,000.

However Federal Health Minister Sussan Ley dispels these claims, labelling them as "misleading".

"There are no changes proposed in MYEFO regarding the cost of either receiving or delivering a physical pap smear examination undertaken by your GP or specialist, nor their billing practices," she says.

"Nor is there any reduction in the dollar-value of the Medicare rebate a patient receives to undertake associated pathology tests.

"Changes in MYEFO relate to any inefficient payment - worth between \$1.40 and \$3.40 - that is paid direct to pathology corporations separate to the Medicare rebate.

"It is therefore not part of the patient's Medicare rebate, as some have tried to claim today."

She says claims by pathologists about the potential cost of raising their prices is incorrect, because they have omitted the value of the Medicare rebate a patient receives to "cover this very cost".

AusPARs update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has updated its Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines to "give a clearer focus on the outcomes, process and rationale on which a decision to accept or reject an application is made".

Visit tga.gov.au for more.

Terry White Group

PHARMACY chain Terry White Group Limited (TWG) has entered into a convertible secured debt facility of \$5.5 million to better "support existing growth strategies".

In a letter to its shareholders, the group explains that "this is a non-current facility that is subordinated to TWG's existing senior debt facility and may require further shareholder approval.

PBAC public summary

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has released additional public summary records relating to March 2015 meetings online.

CLICK HERE to view.

MIMS

Monthly Update

January 2016

New Products

Alacare (5-aminolevulinic acid (as hydrochloride)) is a dermal patch indicated in the treatment of mild to moderate actinic keratoses (AK) lesions on the face and scalp (hairless areas). It is contraindicated in patients with no response to previous photodynamic therapy (PDT) with aminolevulinic acid containing preparations and in porphyria. Alacare is available as a 4 cm² patch containing 8 mg 5-aminolevulinic acid (as hydrochloride) in a pack of 4.

Zerbaxa (ceftolozane + tazobactam) is an antibacterial composed of a cephalosporin (ceftolozane) and a beta-lactamase inhibitor (tazobactam). Zerbaxa (ceftolozane/tazobactam) is indicated for the treatment of the following infections in adults suspected or proven to be caused by designated susceptible microorganisms: complicated intra-abdominal infections in combination with metronidazole; complicated urinary tract infections, including pyelonephritis. Zerbaxa is contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to members of the cephalosporin class, or other members of the beta-lactam class. Zerbaxa is available as a powder for infusion in a pack of 10 vials each containing

ceftolozane (as sulfate) 1000 mg and tazobactam (as sodium) 500 mg respectively.

Jardiamet (empagliflozin + metformin) contains a reversible competitive inhibitor of SGLT2 and a biguanide with antihyperglycaemic effects respectively. It is indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycaemic control in adult patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus who are inadequately controlled with metformin or empagliflozin alone; those inadequately controlled with empagliflozin or metformin in combination with other glucose lowering products including insulin; and in those already treated with empagliflozin and metformin coadministered as separate tablets. Jardiamet is contraindicated in patients with the following conditions. Diabetic ketoacidosis; diabetic pre-coma; renal failure or renal dysfunction (creatinine clearance < 60 mL/min); acute conditions with the potential to alter renal function such as: dehydration, severe infection, shock, intravascular administration of iodinated contrast agents; acute or chronic disease which may cause tissue hypoxia such as: cardiac or respiratory failure, recent myocardial infarction, shock, pulmonary embolism, acute significant blood loss, sepsis, gangrene, pancreatitis; and during

or immediately following surgery where insulin is essential. Due to its metformin component, Jardiamet is contraindicated in patients with conditions which can lead to severe hepatic insufficiency such as acute alcohol intoxication and alcoholism. Jardiamet is available in 4 strengths namely Jardiamet 5/500 containing empagliflozin 5 mg, metformin hydrochloride 500 mg; Jardiamet 5/1000 containing empagliflozin 5 mg, metformin hydrochloride 1000 mg; Jardiamet 12.5/500 mg containing empagliflozin 12.5 mg, metformin hydrochloride 500 mg and Jardiamet 12.5/1000 containing empagliflozin 12.5 mg, metformin hydrochloride 1000 mg respectively. Each of these strengths is available in packs of 60's.

Safety Related Changes

Andriol (testosterone undecanoate) is now indicated as androgen replacement therapy in testosterone deficiency in males when confirmed by clinical features and biochemical tests.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.

Pharmacy DAILY

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Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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Leisure Inn Sydney

Get away for the weekend and stay in a Superior Queen Room at the Leisure Inn Sydney Central. Located just a short stroll from Darling Harbour, guests will receive complimentary Wi-Fi and an ice cream on arrival. Prices start from only \$119 per night and includes complimentary late check out. A minimum of two nights stay is required, with all bookings fully prepaid, non-refundable and non-amendable. The sale is valid from now onwards until 31 March. Visit bookings.ihotelier.com to book.

Park Regis Griffin

Explore the streets of St Kilda Melbourne and stay at the Park Regis Griffin Suites from just \$129 per night. Bookings include a complimentary bottle of wine on arrival, breakfast-for-two, Wi-Fi and complimentary late check out. A minimum of two night stays in required, with full payment made at the time of booking. Refunds, cancellations and amendments will not be applied. The sale runs from today through to 31 March. To take full advantage of this deal or for more information, visit bookings.ihotelier.com/park

E-cigarettes no better

ON THE back of Public Health England's decision to use e-cigarettes as an aid to help smokers kick the bad habit; researchers are now saying that personal vaporisers are "no better" than traditional cigarettes.

According to research published in the *Journal of Oral Oncology*, vapour from two popular brands of e-cigarettes may damage DNA or even kill human cells.

Results from the study concluded that cells treated with nicotine vapour are more likely to be damaged or die than those exposed to the nicotine-free variety, however the effects still occurred only to a lesser extent.

MD drug trials

DASATINIB, a drug commonly used to treat leukaemia, is showing promise as a treatment that could slow the muscle-wasting condition, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Working by blocking chemical signals that stimulate cancer cell growth, researchers at University of Sheffield found the same drug could also switch off similar signals in a protein commonly implicated in Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

As Dasatinib has already been cleared for clinical use, researchers are hoping progress can be quickly made towards treatment for DMD.

Senior author Jessica Wang-Rodriguez, a pathologist, says that the process of cell damage can still lead to cancer.

"Based on the evidence to date I believe they are no better than smoking regular cigarettes," she told *Stuff.co.nz*.

Electronic cigarettes for therapeutic uses, such as quitting aids, is currently legal in Australia, however it must be registered by the Therapeutics Goods Administration to be sold lawfully.

Baby formula export

BOXES of Australian baby formula are being exported to China from within a travel agency in Melbourne, who has subletted part of its building in Glen Waverly to a freight company.

The agency is denying any involvement in the scandal, with a staff member telling *The Herald* that she could not even confirm which company was exporting the sought-after product.

Demand for Australian milk powder in China has grown exponentially since 2008, following melamine contamination which killed six babies and rendered 300,000 ill.

Australian-made instant formula over 10kg must be sourced by registered exporters.

DISPENSARY CORNER

A SPANISH tech company is taking pre-natal care to the next level with the launch of Babypod, a pink speaker device designed to be inserted into the vagina to "stimulate vocalisation of babies before birth with music".

"Babies learn to speak in response to sound stimuli, especially melodic sound. Babypod is a device that stimulates foetuses before birth through music. With Babypod, babies learn to vocalise from the womb," states the blurb on the company's website.

Researchers from Bingham Young University in the US have found that five-month old babies do in fact respond to aural stimulation; however Babypod cites a study done by the Institut Marques that foetuses hearing external noise clearly is "solely possible via the vagina".

The device can be used from the 16th week of pregnancy and recommended to be used in 10-20 minute intervals.



IT'S REALLY a question of canine anatomy, but this week the internet has widely debated the topic of how dogs should wear pants, following the surfacing of this (**below**) crudely drawn meme.

If a dog wore pants would he wear them like this or like this?



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