

## Golden Ant alert

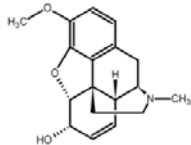
THE TGA has issued a warning about Golden Ant tablets (pictured) which have been found to contain the undeclared prescription-only substances sildenafil and chloramphenicol.



TGA investigations have shown a number of people in Australia may have bought the products online.

## Codeine dependence screen tools call

THERE is a need to develop extra support tools for healthcare professionals including patient screening tools for identifying codeine dependence, according to a *BMJ Open* study.



Issues include assessment of patient understanding of their medication and the risk of dependence, the authors said, adding that the support structure for managing codeine-dependent patients in primary care requires further examination.

**CLICK HERE** to access the study.

## New hypertension guide

TREATMENT guidelines for patients with hypertension were this morning unveiled in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, with the update from a group of clinical experts facilitated by the National Heart Foundation.

One major change is the recommendation of a lower target blood pressure ( $\leq 120$  mm Hg) in high risk patients, reflecting a 2015 trial which showed benefit in a selected high risk population.

The guidelines also now recommend confirmation of clinic blood pressure through other measures such as ambulatory and home blood pressure assessment, as these are stronger predictors of outcome in patients with uncomplicated mild hypertension.

Professor Gary Jennings from the

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

Please contact Pharmabroker 02 8878 9777

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

**FIND OUT MORE**

## NICE directors sought

PEOPLE with relevant experience are invited to apply for one of the five non-executive director posts for the board of the UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).

Applications close 01 Aug.

Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute said the guidelines were "adapted for Australian conditions at a time when knowledge of the field has been moving rapidly".

He said the guidelines deal with the paradox that most people who have heart attacks or strokes caused by elevated blood pressure do not meet the conventional definition of hypertension.

Jennings said uncontrolled high blood pressure is "one of the greatest preventable risk factors that contributes significantly to the cardiovascular disease burden".

## Managing med errors

CONSTANT vigilance and review, and improved communication with other healthcare practitioners and patients may reduce errors in the medication management process, according to Prof Sarah Hilmer from Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital.

Writing in this month's *Medicine Today*, Hilmer said medication errors

are common and may result in serious adverse drug reactions, particularly in older patients with polypharmacy.

Medication reconciliation is identified as vital at high-risk times such as transitions between the acute sector and the community, or on admission to a residential aged care facility, while innovations in electronic medication management can help reduce some errors.

**CLICK HERE** to access the article.



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## Weekly Comment

Welcome to  
PD's weekly  
comment  
feature.

This week's  
contributor is  
**Veena Lingam;**  
**Business**

**Development and Professional  
Services Manager, Healthnotes.**



### Extraordinary or ordinary?

AS leaders we are in a constant battle between what we desire to be and what we actually are going to be. I was able to recently reconnect with my favourite beading store that I frequented as a full-time mum who used craft to keep the creative juices flowing. Most stores I knew had shut down and were replaced by online versions and so I was delighted. "You're still in business!" I said. "How did you manage this now that it's been 10 years?" The designer / business owner said, "I've had to continue to reinvent myself to keep my customers coming".

Anyone can be a leader. All we have to do is choose. Extraordinary or ordinary? Extraordinary is creating possibility and opportunity for you, your team and the people around you. Why function in a world of ordinary and continue doing what you have done forever! Find a new operating system as Dan Pink in his Ted talk "The puzzle of motivation" says. This new operating system is made of three things; Autonomy, the urge to direct our own lives; Mastery, the desire to get better at something that matters and Purpose, the yearning to do what is important to you. Stop and Think! We know what we know and we know what we don't know. The challenge is to explore possibilities in the realm of what we don't know.

## HPS-Healthscope contract

HPS, described as one of Australia's largest independent providers of pharmacy services to private hospitals, public hospitals and cancer centres, has re-signed its national contract with Healthscope Limited.

Healthscope operates private hospitals, medical centres and International pathology services out of its Melbourne-based headquarters and is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (HSO).

HPS ceo Tony Wyatt said his company would use the opportunity to build upon the existing decade-long partnership through an extension of services.

"Hospitals are looking for a pharmacy partner they can trust to help them care for their patients.

"This extended contract is a sign of the trust that Healthscope has in us," Wyatt said.

A number of "innovative and tailored solutions" are scheduled to be rolled out to Healthscope's hospitals, including a WebPas two-way data exchange which will allow electronic medication summaries to be received upon discharge.

Healthscope ceo Robert Cooke

said HPS' innovative solutions ensure Healthscope patients gain access to new and emerging treatments and provide them with the highest quality of care.

"Both companies share a vision for delivering first-rate healthcare to hospital patients and we are very fortunate to have developed an outstanding relationship which will continue to grow," Cooke said.

HPS presently services 34 of Healthscope's 46 hospitals across the country, with Wyatt saying the contract represented "enormous certainty for the future and provides a solid foundation to support exponential growth".

### AusBiotech ceo quits

DR Anna Lavelle, the ceo of AusBiotech, has announced her resignation after leading the organisation for the last 11 years.

She will be succeeded in the role by AusBiotech chief operating officer, Glenn Cross.

AusBiotech is the national organisation dedicated to the development and prosperity of the local biotechnology industry.

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### Bexsero vax demand

**INCREASED** global demand for GSK's Bexsero (meningococcal B) vaccine has impacted on Australia's supply, the company has confirmed, with the supply of the vaccine expected to be intermittent over the next six months - 1800 033 109 for details.



### Dispensary Corner

**WE'VE** heard doing puzzles is a good way to keep an ageing brain active - but one German woman took it a bit far when she interfered with a work of art at a local museum.

The 91-year-old was part of a senior citizen's tour to the Neues Museum in Nuremberg, where a \$100,000 creation called 'Reading-work-piece' by avant-garde artist Arthur Koepcke was on show.

The crossword-themed artwork (pictured below), created in 1965, includes the phrase "insert words," with a police spokesman saying "The lady told us she had taken the notes as an invitation to complete the crossword".

Fortunately the work can be restored, according to Museum Director Eva Kraus.

"We do realise that the old lady didn't mean any harm... nevertheless as a state museum we couldn't avoid making a criminal complaint.

"Also for insurance reasons we had to report the incident to the police," she added.



## Win with SkinB5

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **SkinB5** are giving away each day a prize pack including Acne Control Extra Strength Tablets, Caplets, Cleansing Mousse, Moisturiser, and 5 Minute Mask.

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