

## Glyceryl trinitrate dissolution too slow

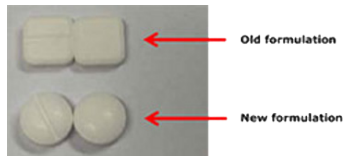
**FOLLOWING** the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA's) 02 Jun Safety Advisory regarding Anginine and Lycinat (glyceryl trinitrate - GTN) tabs being slower than expected in their rate of dissolving under the tongue, as well as being hard to break in half, TGA tests have confirmed that the round tablets do have a problem.

To address this issue, Arrow Pharmaceuticals is working to reformulate the product but this will take some time, the TGA said.

With no other supplier of GTN in Australia, the TGA is working with industry to source alternative supply, but recognises that the current product is preferable to no supply in terms of patient health.

In addition, the packaging is being redesigned to clarify that the drug is to be taken sublingually.

An older formulation of the drug is presented in a square tablet and does dissolve within the required five minutes but consumers will need to be advised to check that their stock is still in date.



If clinically appropriate, the TGA recommends healthcare professionals consider switching patients who use GTN tablets to the GTN spray, Nitrolingual Pump Spray, noting that the spray delivers a different dose (400 micrograms) to the tablets (600 micrograms).

## Amneal Stratterra generic

**AMNEAL** Pharmaceuticals says the upcoming launch of its atomoxetine generic alternate to Stratterra represents a "six million dollar substitution opportunity for community pharmacies".

MD Gavin Upiter said the first-to-market product would be the only generic version of Stratterra available on the PBS, once it becomes listed from next month.

"This launch is evidence of our commitment to maximise profits for community pharmacies," he said with Amneal's supply guarantee and favourable pricing representing an opportunity for community pharmacies to "unlock margin previously not available".

The atomoxetine launch follows Amneal's debut of generic

rizatriptan late last year (PD 20 Nov 2015), with Upiter confirming Amneal is expecting to launch more products in the second half of 2016.

All major wholesalers are now holding stock of Amneal's atomoxetine prior to the PBS listing of the item on 01 Aug.

## Blackmores trusted

**BLACKMORES** has been named as the Reader's Digest Most Trusted Brand in the Vitamins & Supplements category for the eighth consecutive year.

The Trusted Brands Survey polled a 'representative sample' of Australians, with over 2,410 respondents ranking brands on consumer trust levels.

Blackmores md Australia/NZ, Dave Fenlon thanked pharmacists, healthcare professionals and retail partners for choosing Blackmores to "accompany them and their customers and patients on the path to better health."

## DDS \$22k for charity

**DISCOUNT** Drug Stores says it's raised more than \$22,000 via its flu vaccination clinics and fundraising activities for charity FreeToBe.

The money will help contribute to the vaccination, medical care, protection and education of disadvantaged kids in India.

This year DDS administered more than 7,500 flu shots through its 145 stores, donating \$2 from each injection to FreeToBe as part of the charity initiative.

## PSA16 starts today

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's PSA16 conference kicks off this morning at Sydney's Four Points hotel, with the event expected to be opened by health minister Sussan Ley in her first post-election pharmacy appearance.

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



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

## Brenzys TGA tick

**MSD** has announced the TGA approval of its biosimilar Brenzys (etanercept) for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, spondyloarthritis, psoriatic arthritis and psoriasis in adults aged over 18.

The next step is a potential listing on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, with Brenzys set to possibly become the first immunology biosimilar dispensed via community pharmacy because if the product is 'a'-flagged by the PBAC, pharmacists will be able to substitute the product without reference to the prescriber, said MSD medical director Dr Gary Jankelowitz.

Brenzys has also been approved for marketing in Korea (PD 27 Jul).



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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - Central Western NSW (Job# 200002710)  
2nd Pharmacist Ideal new Reg gain exp in fast paced environment.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Limestone Coast, SA (Job# 200013136)  
Popular suburban Pharmacy in need of a Manager; excellent salary.
- **Aged Care Pharmacist** - Gold Coast, QLD (Job# 200013194)  
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## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

- 13-14 Aug:** Infectious Diseases Seminar; InterContinental Adelaide Hotel; for more info visit: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)
- 18-19 Aug:** Pharmacy WA Forum; Crown Perth; for details visit: [www.cvent.com](http://www.cvent.com)
- 20-21 Aug:** Fitness & Health Expo; Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre; details at: [www.fitnessexpo.com.au](http://www.fitnessexpo.com.au)
- 27-28 Aug:** 2016 Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar; Crowne Plaza Coogee, Sydney; details at: [www.pharmeducation.com.au](http://www.pharmeducation.com.au)
- 27-28 Aug:** Cardiology Seminar; Rydges Sydney Central; see: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)
- 6 Sep:** Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Brisbane; for more info call: 1800 777 648
- 7 Sep:** Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Sydney; for more info call: 1800 777 648
- 9-11 Sep:** Pharmacy Connect; Four Points by Sheraton Darling Harbour Sydney; see: [pharmacy-connect.com.au](http://pharmacy-connect.com.au)
- 9-10 Sep:** The Friendlies Conference 2016; Old Woolstore Hotel, Hobart; visit: [pharmacyconference.com.au](http://pharmacyconference.com.au)
- 12 Sep:** Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Melbourne; for more info call: 1800 777 648
- 14 Sep:** Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Launceston; for more info call: 1800 777 648

## FIP pharmacy disaster guide

**THE** International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has issued the "first global guidelines that support continued access to medicines and pharmacy expertise during natural disasters".

Produced by FIP's Pharmacy Emergency Management Working Group following wide consultation, the document describes actions under each of the four phases of an emergency - prevention/risk mitigation, preparation/readiness, response and recovery.

It summarises activity under different target groups such as governments, pharmacy organisations, manufacturers and distributors, in terms of regional or local action.

For example, the document calls on governments to consider providing emergency authorisation for expansion of pharmacists' scopes of practice.

Other issues canvassed include patient record protection and tips on preparing the pharmacy in case of specific disaster types and includes a list of medicines to stock for emergency situations.

See [www.fip.org.au](http://www.fip.org.au).

## Homeopathy charges

**A BRISBANE** woman selling homeopathic vaccinations and boosters online for diseases including whooping cough, polio, meningococcal and malaria has been found to be selling nothing but refined sugar.

Health professionals have slammed her as "grossly misleading and dangerous" with pharmacists at the Queensland University of Technology revealing them to be sugar, reports the *Courier Mail*.

QUT's head of Clinical Sciences Professor Lisa Nissen said in light of their findings the matter will be referred to the TGA.

"It's dangerous for punters out there who don't know any better," she said, adding, "there are people swayed by pseudoscience and it puts them at risk."

## Oct 2016 PBS prices

**INDICATIVE** 01 Oct pricing resulting from the 2016 October Cycle of Price Disclosure have now been published on the PBS website.

The changes reflect the removal of originator brand data (**PD** 19 Jul) - for details see [www.pbs.gov.au](http://www.pbs.gov.au).

## Win with Dreambaby®

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Dreambaby® are giving away each day 2 packs of four Strollerbuddy Stroller Clips and a Stroller Hook.



Dreambaby® Strollerbuddy Stroller Clips, available in new season colours including, purple, pale blue, green, orange, grey and pink are fun, attractive and have so many functions to help you and your little one enjoy a day out and about! The

Dreambaby® Stroller Hooks (RRP\$8.95) are stylish and built to last, lightweight and versatile. The soft yet heavy-duty handle clips easily onto just about every stroller handle and won't slide around.

To win, be the first from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**What are Dreambaby Strollerbuddy Stroller Clips made from?**

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Andrea Willing from Symbion.*

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## Dispensary Corner

**AN ORLANDO** man was arrested over a smattering of donut crumbs on his car seat which police mistook for crystal meth.

Sugar might be as addictive as crack, but last time we checked it's still legal.

Police claim that upon testing the white flecks they came up as meth, however, the case has now been dropped with confirmation from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement that the specimen tested was in fact icing from a Krispy Kreme doughnut.

You'd think police of all people would be familiar with what doughnut crumbs look like, but apparently not.

The man is reportedly furious about wrongfully being taken into custody and plans to file a lawsuit.



**FIRST** we heard about water being turned into wine, but how about your own urine being turned into beer?

Researchers at the University of Ghent in Belgium can do just that and via solar power too.

To help raise awareness about their machine which can convert urine into safe drinking water, the researchers took it to a 10-day music festival where they collected close to 1,000 litres of urine from attendees, turning it into drinkable water before brewing it into beer.

From sewer to brewer... then probably back to sewer again, what a harmonious cycle.