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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a full page from **The Methadone Guy**.

The Methadone Guy

PHARMACISTS paying too much for their methadone bottles are being invited to check out those from **The Methadone Guy**, with Australia-wide delivery of Health Department approved bottles available by registering online at www.themethadoneguy.com.au. For more details see **page three**.

Orphan drug update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has updated its list of designated orphan drugs, with the addition of thiotepa (Tepadina) and chenodeoxycholic acid.

Thiotepa powder for injection is indicated for the conditioning treatment prior to haematopoietic progenitor cell transplantation, while chenodeoxycholic acid capsules are used to treat inborn errors of primary bile acid synthesis.

NZ vitamin D alert

THE New Zealand Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority (Medsafe) has issued an alert to consumers and health professionals that the funded medicine Vit.D3, which contains colecalciferol, also contains soya oil.

This is important information for patients with a peanut or soya allergy who may also react to Vit. D3 - **CLICK HERE** for details.

Flu vax go-ahead in ACT

ACT community pharmacists can now administer flu vaccinations following a decision from the ACT government on Tue.

To administer the flu vaccine, a pharmacist must have completed appropriate training, conduct it in accordance with the practice standards outlined in the 'ACT Pharmacist Vaccination Standards' and maintain appropriate records of each vaccination.

"Appropriate training" requires a pharmacist to hold current AHPRA registration, have completed an APC-compliant course delivered by a Registered Training Organisation, hold a current ASCIA anaphylaxis e-training certificate, hold current first-aid certification and have professional indemnity insurance.

Adherium inhaler trial

NEW Zealand asthma device specialist Adherium will supply more than 5,500 of its Smartinhalers for use in a global independent clinical study being overseen by the Medical Research Institute of New Zealand (MRINZ).

The Novel START study is a "Randomised Controlled Trial of the efficacy and safety of an ICS/LABA reliever therapy regimen in asthma," with the project spanning New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom and Italy.

As part of the study MRINZ will monitor each randomised subject's compliance and inhaler use, with Adherium's Smartinhaler platform used to capture the data "in an objective and accurate manner".

The President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia ACT Branch, Amanda Galbraith, said "The ACT decision brings Australia one step closer to the pharmacy vaccination practices of int'l jurisdictions such as the UK, US and Canada."

"The decision will make a big difference to consumers seeking to be immunised, and the accessibility and convenience of community pharmacies has been shown to lift the immunisation rate among consumers," Galbraith said.

The move leaves Victoria as the only Australian jurisdiction yet to allow pharmacists to deliver vaccinations, but Galbraith says "progress is imminent" in Vic.

For more on the requirements to administer the flu vaccine, see the 'ACT Pharmacist Vaccination Standards' document **HERE**.

Canada pharma sale

CANADIAN pharmacy owner Katz Group has agreed to sell 470 retail pharmacies currently operating under the Rexall Health brand to US health giant McKesson Corp.

The \$3 billion deal will significantly expand McKesson's footprint in Canada, particularly in Ontario and Western Canada.

McKesson already has a large presence in the country as one of Canada's major pharmaceutical suppliers and distributors.

Vit D antihistamine

NEW research from the College of Pharmacy, AGT University, India, has found that vitamin D has an antihistaminic effect by both inhibiting histamine H1 receptors and the release of histamine from the cells.

An inverse correlation between plasma vitamin D level and development of asthma is well established and there is a direct correlation known between occurrence of asthma and histamine level, so the logical corollary was to investigate whether these two relationships are linked, said the researchers.

CLICK HERE for the study.

UK e-health move

BRITAIN'S Royal Pharmaceutical Society has released a decision tool for community pharmacists, guiding them as to how to access a patient's electronic "Summary Care Record" (SCR).

SCRs are an online summary of key clinical information taken from a patient's National Health Service GP record, and authorised health professionals are able to view a patient's SCR (with the patient's consent) to find out information relevant to clinical decision making.

Rollout of access to SCR's to community pharmacies in England was announced last year, with community pharmacists to receive a one-off allowance of £200 for joining the scheme.

For more information on the state of electronic health records in the UK see the RPS website at www.rpharms.com.

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TFE Easter Sale

TFE Hotels is offering 30% off hotel accommodation across Australia for bookings made by 10.00am 30 Mar.

Stay days are any time in the year starting 01 Mar 2016, and is valid for hotels throughout Australia, New Zealand and Europe.

The deal applies to Travelodge Hotels, Rendezvous Hotels, Vibe Hotels, Hotel Kurruajong, Rendezvous Port Douglas, Medina Apartments and Adina Apartment Hotels.

No cancellations or changes are allowed and each stay must be fully prepaid.

To book, visit the website at www.TFEhotels.com.

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CLICK HERE for details.

Convinced about multivitamins?

AUSSIES are becoming more convinced about the perceived benefits of multivitamins, a Canstar Blue survey shows.

Of the 1,693 consumers surveyed in January, 71% said they are convinced the multivitamins they buy live up to their claims, a 7% increase on January 2015.

This leaves a significant 29% of people who take multivitamins, but aren't convinced of their effectiveness.

Surprisingly, 5% of respondents said they "simply don't know why" they take multivitamins and another 5% took them because their family or friend suggested them.

The majority of respondents (43%) took multivitamins because of the perceived health benefits, 23% said they take them to give them more energy and the remaining 13% said they were prescribed by a health professional.

"These type of supplements divide medical and consumer opinion, and the manufacturers face a challenge to convince people about their merits," said head of Canstar Blue, Megan Doyle.

As part of the study seven brands were rated on ease of

consumption, taste, value for money and effectiveness, with Berocca coming out on top.

Berocca was the only brand to achieve a five-star rating for effectiveness and it also scored five stars on overall satisfaction.

The survey found Queenslanders (75%) and those in the age brackets of 50s and 40s were most likely to be convinced by multivitamins, with consumers in WA (68%) the least likely.

18-29 year olds were found to be least likely to be sure of the effects. For more, **CLICK HERE**.

Zika - Guillain-Barré Syndrome link

A STUDY has found evidence for Zika virus infection causing Guillain-Barré syndrome, an autoimmune condition.

Researchers used blood samples from 42 patients diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome and found 41 of those had anti-Zika virus IgM and all had neutralising antibodies against Zika.

Symptoms of the syndrome emerged around six days after Zika infection - see the report **HERE**.

DISPENSARY CORNER

THIS is just fusilli.

Looking like something out of *Pirates of the Caribbean*, New Zealand can now boast the first ever legal marriage celebrant, or "Ministroni", for the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, reports *The Dominion Post*.

The religion came into the existence in 2005 when their prophet Bobby Henderson exposed the little known fact that the world was actually created by a flying spaghetti monster.

The religion's followers are called Pastafarians and they often dress in pirate regalia (pictured below) because they believe pirates were created by their god.

Naturally, they wear colanders on their heads to mark special events - why wouldn't you?



MEANWHILE, the end of the blue rinse may be in sight, as scientists at University College London have identified the gene responsible for grey hair.

The study of over 6,000 people confirmed greying has a genetic component and is not just environmental.

Scientists already knew the gene IRF4 played a role in hair colour but for the first time they were able to link it to going grey.

Understanding how the gene influences hair greying could have potential cosmetic and forensic applications, including the creation of visual profiles based on an individual's genetic makeup.

For more information on the study, **CLICK HERE**.

Win with Plunketts

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Plunketts are giving away an Aloe Vera prize pack every day including Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera gel, spray and moisturiser.

Aloe Vera is easily absorbed by your skin, soothing and cooling dry irritated skin. Australian made, Plunkett's Aloe Vera Gel and Spray contain 99% of the highest quality 100% certified organic aloe. Nothing is closer to Aloe Vera straight from the plant, but Plunkett's is in a convenient tube. Visit www.plunketts.com.au

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

In which country is Plunkett's Aloe Vera made?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Donna Delgado from Woodlake Village Pharmacy.



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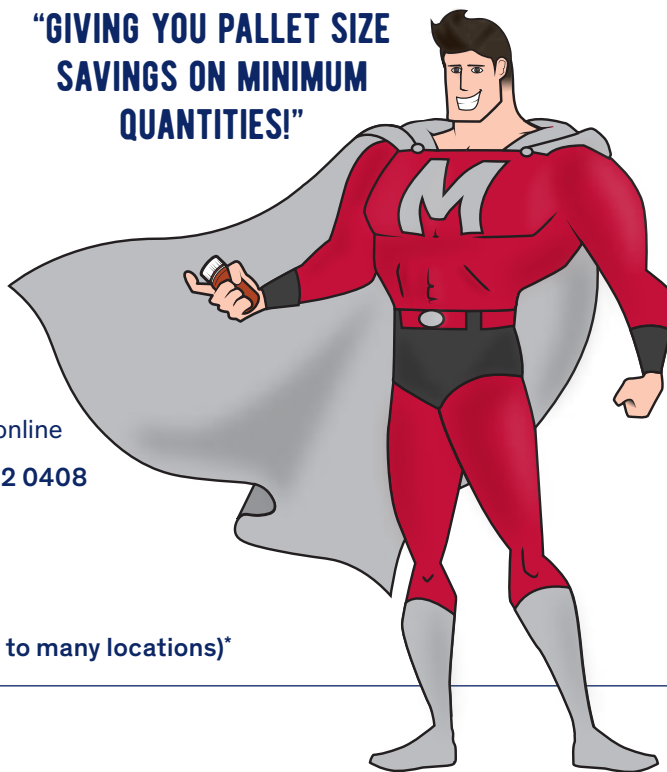
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