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Paracetamol schedule

THE TGA's Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling has confirmed changes to the S2 and S3 listings of paracetamol, with an implementation date of 01 Jun.

The Health Department delegate has decided to vary a previous interim decision on combination products in view of the dosage levels of paracetamol and ibuprofen, considering it is more appropriate to limit the S2 entry to 12 dosage units per pack, rather than three days' supply "as this would ensure the total paracetamol available in the pack would not be excessive".

The S3 listing for paracetamol combined with ibuprofen will apply to a primary pack containing 30 dosage units or less.

Full details at tga.gov.au.

NPS issues CM warning

NPS MedicineWise this morning advised consumers to "take complementary medicines with care," following a *Four Corners* episode shown on ABC TV last night.

The program was based on a joint investigation between the New York Times and America's PBS Frontline show, and claims to raise "troubling questions about the quality and safety of vitamins and dietary supplements".

NPS MedicineWise ceo Dr Lynn Weekes said more than half of all calls to Medicines Line about complementary medicines relate to drug interactions, with the most enquiries regarding Vitamin D and calcium preparations, multivitamin products, fish oil, glucosamine products and St John's wort.

"Although complementary medicines can have benefits, they can still have side effects, interactions and cause allergic reactions, and they also undergo less testing in general compared to other types of medicines so they still need to be used with care".

Weekes said with complementary medicines in the spotlight NPS MedicineWise is urging people to be open with their health professional and tell them about all medicines they are taking.

"Talk to your pharmacist or doctor in the first instance to find out whether a complementary medicine might be the right course of treatment for you," she said.

DoseAid talks to Fred

FRED Dispense users will soon be able to order DoseAid dose administration aids (DAAs) using the new myDoseAid software.

PractiCare announced the release of the program yesterday, with DoseAid national manager Seth Grantley saying the team was looking forward to introducing its customers to myDoseAid.

"Now that our software is compatible with Fred Dispense, customers will be better placed to satisfy increased demand for DAAs and leverage their value for the benefit of their patients and their business," Grantley said.

He said PractiCare was currently working on integrating myDoseAid with other dispense systems.

MyDoseAid offers a range of new features including bulk substitutions, in-built signing sheets and reports, while Fred Dispense users also have access to Quick Dispense, said to be an easy way to quickly dispense scripts.

For more, call DoseAid Customer Support on 1300 306 748.

Pfizer buys Anacor

WITH the failed Allergan deal well behind it, pharmaceutical giant Pfizer has secured an agreement with Anacor to acquire the company for US\$5.2 billion.

This brings an eczema gel into Pfizer's mix, with Anacor shares soaring to \$99.80 - up 56% - on the announcement.

Not quite a millionaire...

LEWIS Williams, a pharmacist from Craigieburn in Victoria had a one in 100 chance of becoming a Maxigesic Millionaire yesterday.

He entered a trade promotion open to all Australian pharmacists over the past four months, and was the winner drawn from all qualifying entries at the end of the promotion.

That gave him the opportunity to pick from one of 100 envelopes at a ceremony in Sydney yesterday, with one of them containing the lucky \$1 million prize.

Unfortunately his lucky streak didn't continue, but he didn't walk away empty handed, leaving with a \$10,000 consolation prize.

AFT Pharmaceuticals gm Calvin MacKenzie said the positive response to the promotion



indicates the growing popularity of Maxigesic, which is the first analgesic combining paracetamol and ibuprofen to be registered for use in Australia.



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Not so horny Rhino

SILDENAFIL comes in many forms, but most of them are illegal in Australia, with the TGA issuing a safety advisory about Platinum 3000 Rhino 7 Capsules.

The product and place of manufacture have not been assessed by the TGA for safety.

Electronic S8 warning

A **SIGNIFICANT** number of pharmacists have lost their records of Schedule 8 medications due to "ransomware" which has impacted their electronic drug registers.

Scammers manage to install programs such as CryptoVirus on target computers, meaning the data is encrypted unless the victim pays a "ransom" to get it back.

According to a communiqué from the Victorian Pharmacy Authority, pharmacies notifying it of the problem have commonly reported being able to recover or recreate dispensing records, but not being able to recover electronic registers because they had not correctly backed up the data.

The VPA reminded pharmacists that drug registers - either electronic or paper-based - must accurately reflect the actual quantities supplied and balance remaining at all times.

Pharmacies were also urged to ensure they have adequate storage for S8 poisons, reviewing stock levels and implementing larger or additional drug safes if necessary.

PHARMAC RFP works

NZ PHARMACEUTICAL authority PHARMAC has approved funding for four medicines based on a "request for proposals" (RFP) specifically aimed at medicines for rare disorders.

PHARMAC ceo Steffan Crausaz said the new approach under the "rare disorders contestable funding pilot" had succeeded in attracting bids for medicines not previously seen in NZ.

"We've used our evidence-based approach to make decisions on the best value medicines from bids received, and at the same time maintained our ability to fund other medicines as well," he said.

PHARMAC has made NZ\$5m per year available over five years to fund the rare disorders medicines, with the most recent drugs funded including icatibant (Firazyf) for hereditary angioedema, galsulfase (Naglazyme) for enzyme deficiency disorder MPS VI, silxurimab (Sylvant) used to treat an immune disorder called Castleman's disease, and bedaquiline (Sirturo) which treats drug-resistant tuberculosis.



DISPENSARY CORNER

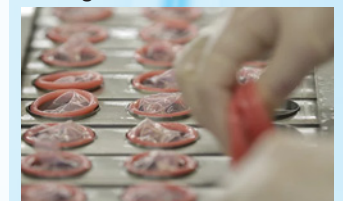
SEXUALLY active Aussie athletes heading to Rio de Janeiro in August need not fear contracting diseases with the entire Australian Olympic team to be given a supply of Zika-proof condoms.

Australian pharmaceutical company Starpharma Holdings Ltd is collaborating with Ansell to distribute their special "Dual Protect" condoms.

Lubricated with a special gel, they are said to provide almost total protection against Zika and a host of other viruses.

Things must get pretty steamy over at the Olympic village with these extra-strength prophylactics being handed in addition to the 300,000 male and 100,000 female condoms already available there in free dispensers.

Lets hope they save some of their energy for competing in the actual games too!



EATING your own hair for 20 years comes with consequences, like a three kg hair ball clogging your stomach.

At least, that's what happened to a 31-year-old Indian woman who was admitted to hospital last week with severe stomach pain.

Scans revealed the giant mass in her stomach and she admitted she'd been munching on her locks since she was about 9 years-old.

The blockage was so bad she couldn't even take a sip of water without vomiting.

It turns out strange eating habits run in the family with her daughter also found to have a hair ball weighing nearly one kg in her digestive tract.



Guild Update

The value of community pharmacy

GUILD Members have been invited to take part in the new chapter of the successful national consumer advertising campaign 'Discover More, Ask Your Pharmacist'.

Chapter 2 of the campaign, set to launch in mid-June, builds on strengthening community pharmacy's position among consumers as a trusted source of health service and advice.

The next phase will continue to centre on the animated community pharmacy run by a husband-and-wife team (Eugene and Petunia) providing a range of health services in the town of 'Whatchooan-Sea' and will also introduce new characters.

The first phase of the campaign focused on television and digital advertising, as well as in-store material featuring the call to action of 'Discover More. Ask Your Pharmacist'.

Chapter 2 will have a more focused target audience, including women aged up to the age of 55 which includes women 'caring up' for parents and 'caring down' for children.

The campaign's objective is to encourage more customers to visit their local pharmacy for advice and services.

WIN WITH kids

This week Pharmacy Daily and Key Sun are giving readers each day the chance to win a prize pack including Key Sun All Naturals Kids Sunshine D + Vitamin D and Calcium + Magnesium.

Key Sun All Natural Kids food supplements are mum and dad's go to natural and healthy treat, developed and formulated specifically for the needs of children. With the added goodness of essential nutrients, Key Sun All Natural

Kids lozenges provide a great tasting all-natural treat that kids love. Find out more [HERE](#).

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

What delicious flavour do the Sunshine D + vitamin D lollipops come in?

[Click here for a hint](#)

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Adrian McCaffrey from Key Pharmaceuticals.



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