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Which pregnancy supplements?

THE Queensland Department of Health has issued a timely alert around the choice of supplements that should be used by pregnant women and why.

The article identifies folic acid or folate for prevention of neural tube defect such as spina bifida, while iodine is described as essential for baby's brain development and nervous system.

Foods rich in iron to meet increased demand together with vitamin C will also be helpful but evidence for other supplements is sketchy and the Health Department advises consumers to talk to their pharmacist or GP.

Visit health.qld.gov.au for details.

Insurance submission

THE Pharmacy Guild has made a submission to the current Senate inquiry into private health insurance, saying that while private health insurers should be encouraged to proactively manage their patients to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions and readmissions, "their role is not to establish an alternative primary health care system".

The full submission can be viewed at www.guild.org.au.

Guild showcases pharmacy

THE Pharmacy Guild has launched what it's describing as "an invaluable resource for pharmacists, politicians and stakeholders," in the form of a new publication highlighting the value of the current model of community pharmacy and the role it plays in improving health outcomes.

Titled *Community Pharmacy, A Health Care Hub*, the 12-page booklet (**pictured**) includes a range of statistics about the scale of the sector, including that there are over 5,600 community pharmacies employing some 55,000 people.

Revealed in the Guild's *Forefront* newsletter yesterday, the publication also points out that community pharmacies are the most frequently accessed and



most accessible health destination, with over 350 million patient visits annually - facilitated by the vast majority of pharmacies being open after hours, including on weekends.

"We want all Australians to enjoy the benefits of their pharmacies providing an expanded

array of high quality health services - and we are urging opinion leaders and decision makers to join us in taking forward this exciting opportunity," the Guild said.

To download a copy of the publication go to www.guild.org.au.

\$99m from Oct cuts

PRICE reductions due to the 01 Oct 2017 Price Disclosure cycle indicate a revenue reduction of \$99 million per annum, according to a Pharmacy Guild analysis.

The cycle incorporates the removal of originator brands from the calculation, and equates to an average of 9c per script or \$4,488 per pharmacy per year in lost gross profit from reduced trading terms.

The Guild has prepared a detailed spreadsheet for members to help prepare for the cuts - guild.org.au.

Allergy relief

VICTORIAN researchers from the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute have seen success in curing peanut allergies, with an 18 month course of immunotherapy in children producing desensitisation that lasts four years according to a study published at thelancet.com.

New hearing standards framework

THE Federal Government has announced it is working with the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care and the hearing sector to develop a safety and quality standards framework.

Minister responsible for the hearing services program, Ken Wyatt explained, "This aims to ensure clients with hearing loss are provided with responsive services that align with the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme.

"The framework will also help drive continuous quality improvement in the future.

"The framework is being developed in parallel with the valuable work already being done through the Hearing Services Program administered by the Department of Health."

A new Hearing Care Industry Association (HCIA) report revealed that more than 1.3 million Australians are living with hearing conditions that could have been prevented, meaning one in seven live with hearing loss.

The Commission is expected to release a public consultation paper on the hearing standards framework later this year.

Visit health.gov.au for more.

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Dispensary Corner

HAVING silky smooth tresses is probably the least of your worries in the case of a nuclear bomb - but it could be a bit of a problem given that cationic surfactants and polymers are not your hair's best friend in the case of fallout from an attack - what the?

It's true - researchers have found hair conditioners, which usually contain these products, have a nasty way of retaining radioactive dust and fixing it into hair - meaning you can't wash it out and are being continually exposed to radiation.

Skin lotions, moisturising creams and colour cosmetics that have oils are also problematic in that they can attract radiation particles from the air.

These guidelines come from Guam's Office of Civil Defense following the North Korea threats, and probably mean the population there will be adopting a decidedly "natural" look when it comes to hair and makeup.

INTRIGUING research from the UK has found that a third of vegetarians actually eat meat when they are intoxicated.

Over 1,700 vegetarians were polled about their eating habits, with 37% reporting breaking their anti-meat convictions when they had had too much to drink.

The "meat cheaters" were also questioned about whether they would reveal their transgressions or not, with a whopping 70% saying they would never tell their friends they had consumed meat.

One of the authors said people can label themselves however they like, but "what's most important is what you tell yourself".

Pharmacist's stiff penalty

THE Supreme Court of New South Wales has ordered that the pharmacy registration of Mina Attia be cancelled, upholding an earlier ruling that Attia was guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct around the sale of counterfeit Viagra tablets (*PD* 03 Jan 17).

In Mar this year, Attia brought an appeal against a decision of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal in favour of the Health Care Complaints Commission, delivered on 23 Dec 2016, cancelling his registration as a pharmacist and wholesaler after an investigation by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) into the plaintiff's involvement in the wholesale purchase and on-sale of counterfeit Viagra.

The counterfeit Viagra was detected by a pharmacist at the Sydney Children's Hospital who was preparing the drug for some paediatric patients.

The supply of the drug was traced to a company known as Hillmear Trading Pty Ltd of which the plaintiff was the sole director.

Hillmear was a pharmaceutical wholesaler licensed to supply poisons and other restricted substances by wholesale for therapeutic use.

In turn, Hillmear purchased the tablets from a Mr Sajay Rai, who was not licensed to supply it.

Tobacco reengineered

A RELATIVE of the tobacco plant has been "hijacked" to convert it into a polio vaccine factory in new technology that has the potential to transform vaccine manufacture, scientists say.

The team at the John Innes Centre, in Norfolk, says the process is cheap, easy and quick, creating an authentic mimic of the polio virus, which tricks the immune system into mounting a defence.

This would be a significant improvement on the attenuated live virus vaccines that are currently used, scientists say.

The technology is not limited to polio and could be applied to other vaccines quickly and effectively.

Win with Dreambaby®

This week Pharmacy Daily and Dreambaby® are giving readers the chance to win each day an On-the-Go Denim-Look Strollerbuddy® bag.

These new on-trend bags from Dreambaby® in a choice of blue and grey have been designed with both form and function in mind. Attractive and versatile, they are made with handy mesh and fabric pockets plus storage for two drink holders/bottles and much more. You will be able to fit all the essentials needed for life with little ones from nappies to bottles to wipes plus a change of clothes with room to spare! The On-the-Go Dreambaby® Strollerbuddy® Bags are perfect for running mums as well as mums on the run! For more visit www.dreambaby.com.au

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

Given the choice would you choose they grey or the blue version of this Dreambaby® bag?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Rachel from Greenslopes Private Hospital.



Travel Daily
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