

NSW MenW vaccine

NSW Minister for Health Brad Hazzard has announced a \$9 million state-wide free immunisation program for teenagers against the meningococcal W strain.

The \$100+ vaccine, which also covers meningococcal A, C and Y, will protect year 11 and 12 students from what has been called an aggressive "hypervirulent" strain of the meningitis-causing organism.

The 17 and 18 year-old demographic, believed to be comprised of around 180,000 individuals, is at greater risk of contracting the disease because of their closeness to peers through social behaviour such as kissing and sharing cigarettes.

Those who have left school at that age can access the vaccination free of charge from their GP.

RBNZ Nurofen fine

RECKITT Benckiser New Zealand (RBNZ) has been fined \$1 million for marketing Nurofen products that misleadingly purported to target specific types of pain.

The NZ action follows a successful prosecution by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (PD 29 Apr 16) which resulted in a \$6 million fine.

TWC specialty meds pact

TERRY White Chemmart yesterday announced a "breakthrough partnership" with ZEST which will see the large scale delivery of specialty medicines and associated support programs through community pharmacy.

The deal will see EBOS offshoot ZEST deliver a "holistic package of patient programs" across the TWC network of 500 pharmacies.

This will include secure and timely delivery of specialty medicines; specific training of pharmacy staff on handling, storage, patient counselling and pharmacovigilance; and patient support including medication management & advice.

Terry White Group ceo Anthony White said the programs would help meet the needs of patients with serious conditions, in a highly accessible environment, at the same time reducing the need for multiple hospital visits.

"Specialty medicine is a growing sector and I am extremely proud of the leadership role we will be able to play," White said.

EBOS executive gm of institutional healthcare, Stuart Spencer, said the new agreement was a major step forward in pharmacy based patient care, giving patients access to a



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significant geographic spread of pharmacies.

"Terry White Chemmart is a partner that is passionate about upskilling its people and it also has the in-store facilities and resources to introduce allied health professionals into the healthcare equation to further improve patient experience," Spencer said.

The partnership, which will begin to roll out through Terry White Chemmart pharmacies this month, will also be able to capture rich dispensing and adherence data.

PSOTY wildcard win

PERTH-BASED student pharmacist Tessa Drew has won a wildcard entry into the finals of the PSA Pharmacy Student of the Year (PSOTY) competition.

Drew, a fourth-year student at Curtin University, was named wildcard winner along with runners up David Paulmert (Griffith Uni), Erin Randall (Uni of SA), Louise Woodhams (Curtin), Van Nguyen (Uni of Sydney), Chloe Minns (Uni of Qld) and Gemma Latter (James Cook Uni).

All will compete in the finals at PSA17 in Sydney 28-30 Jul.

CMA ceo can't sleep

COMPLEMENTARY Medicines Association (CMA) ceo Carl Gibson has quipped that he "won't sleep until melatonin is rescheduled".

He said CMA is disappointed that melatonin won't be made available to Australian consumers without a prescription as it is in other areas around the globe including the US and Canada.

This follows a decision by the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling that melatonin for human use will for now remain in Schedule 4 of the Poisons Standard.

Gibson said a chief concern was the amount of unregulated melatonin being purchased online from dubious overseas sources.



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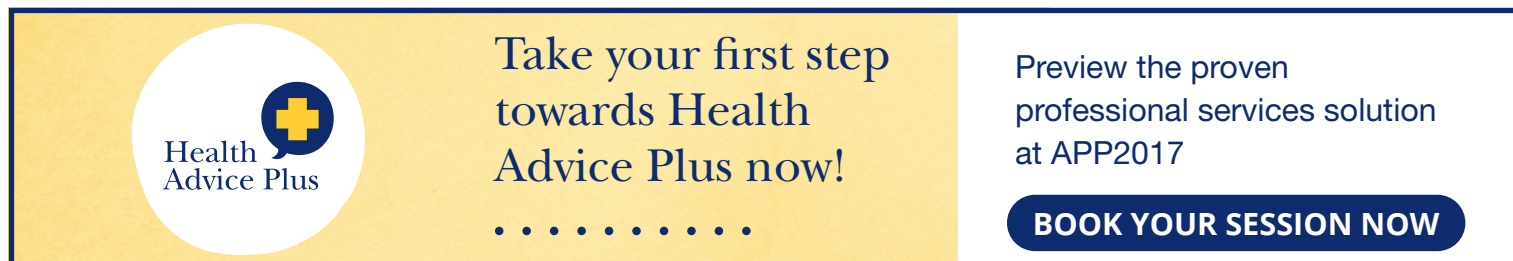
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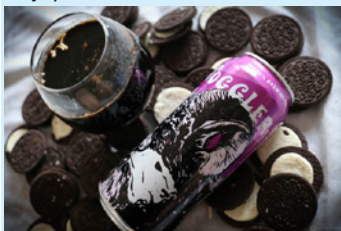
Dispensary Corner

A US beer company has come up with a new brew which seems unlikely to help with the American obesity crisis.

The Virginia-based Veil Brewing Company says its latest 'Hornswoggler' variety combines beer with thousands of Oreo chocolate biscuits which are used to "condition" each batch.

Hornswoggler already has a base of "robust chocolate milk" so the additional Oreos is said to add an extra blast of sweetness.

The additional sugars mean the cans apparently have to be kept as cold as possible for maximum enjoyment.



THIS is why pest control is important for your home.

A woman in India has survived a brush with death after a live cockroach was extracted from the base of her skull.

The lady told doctors she had a "burning headache" as well as a crawling sensation in her right nostril - so they took an X-ray and spotted the insect lodged between her eyes.

The health professionals managed to extract the cockroach, still alive, via her nose in a 45 minute procedure.

If it had died while inside her head the resulting infection would have likely impacted her brain.

It's believed the insect became trapped after crawling into her nostril while she was asleep.

ACP urges new approach

AUSTRALIAN College of Pharmacy president Georgina Twomey says Australia needs a model of product down-scheduling which allows pharmacists with mandated training and screening tools to supply certain products.

She claimed selective arguments appeared to be used by authorities to justify medicines scheduling decisions in Australia.

"We are urged to work in multidisciplinary teams but scheduling decisions don't always support the development of collaborative care and balance the needs of consumers to access medicines without the barrier of a mandatory medical appointment."

Her comments follow last week's decision by the TGA's Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling when it announced that erectile dysfunction and lower urinary tract symptoms therapy vardenafil would not be down-scheduled to S3.

Although six out of seven submissions supported the S3 supply of vardenafil, she said, the

Committee's decision appeared to hinge on the fact that "we don't have a mechanism to mandate pharmacist training in Australia".

In the past, Twomey said, industry had been criticised for not being proactive in matters of pharmacist awareness of medicines which are about to be down-scheduled.

However in this case, a "very proactive and collaborative process supported by a men's health GP and medical specialists" had developed "extensive and robust" training modules for pharmacists to identify patients for whom vardenafil should not be supplied without assessment by a doctor.

Twomey cited the situation in New Zealand, where in 2014 sildenafil was reclassified from a prescription medicine to a "prescription medicine; except when supplied by a pharmacist who has successfully completed the approved training".

Twomey said that the New Zealand model would make more effective use of pharmacist skills and increase consumer access.

Soluble GTN tabs

THE TGA has approved the supply of an alternative product for glyceryl trinitrate (GTN) tablets (Anginine and Lycinate), namely Nitrostat supplied by Pfizer in the US.

The tabs come in 300 mcg and 600mcg forms, and are designed for sublingual disintegration, with the approval following a safety advisory issued last year (PD 29 Jul) about a new GTN formulation being slower to dissolve - tga.gov.au.



Guild Update

QCPP improvements

THE Quality Care Pharmacy Program is launching an improved QCPP from 1 July this year.

The enhanced QCPP Requirements assess 'AS85000 Quality Care Pharmacy Standard' in a way which provides greater flexibility for your pharmacy business to innovate and grow. While QCPP Requirements will look different, getting ready for assessment will be business as usual; meaning accredited pharmacies won't need to make significant changes to their Operations Manual (policies and procedures).

The enhanced QCPP Requirements will be less complex, more robust and provide greater continuity. The revision promotes flexibility, innovation and growth in your pharmacy business.

Discover the QCPP improvements from early March at www.qcpp.com and at APP2017 - the QCPP team will be introducing the enhancements at Stand 75.

WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS

This week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away the entire Flawless range each day - a prize valued at \$135.

The Flawless All In 1 Foundation is a concealer, foundation & skin loving ingredients in one product. Shade matched to all other existing DB Liquid Foundations so you can mix and match, it provides great coverage that is easy to apply. The new Bronzer Stick is designed to define and illuminate your features, creating that enviable sun kissed glow has never been easier. The Strobing Stick is a light reflecting complexion booster that instantly highlights and brightens skin for a radiant effect. The Lip & Cheek Cream adds a hint of colour for a naturally flushed glow on the lips & cheeks. **CLICK HERE** to see more.



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

How many shades in the Flawless Foundation range?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Gayleene Chapman from Health Focus Pharmacy, Macksville.

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: Level 2, Suite 1 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Part of the Business Publishing Group.

Publisher/Editor in chief: Bruce Piper

Managing Editor: Jon Murrie

Reporter: Mal Smith

Contributors: Nathalie Craig, Jasmine O'Donoghue, Bonnie Tai

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Melanie Tchakmadjian advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Editorial: info@pharmacydaily.com.au

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