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## NSAID warnings

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has proposed an additional advisory statement for NSAIDs for oral use including diclofenac, flurbiprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, mefenamic acid and ibuprofen, as the result of a safety review last year which reported a known association between use of non-aspirin NSAIDs and increased risk of miscarriage.

Accordingly a proposed extended advisory statement will include *Do not use if likely to become pregnant, or during the first six months of pregnancy except on doctor's advice. Do not use at all in the last three months of pregnancy.*

The TGA is proposing the statement be required for the labels of all non-aspirin NSAIDs including those indicated exclusively for period pain which are not currently required to display any pregnancy warning.

## New eye care course

**THE** Guild Pharmacy Academy has collaborated with Novartis Alcon Pharmaceuticals and Optometry Australia to develop a new online eye care course for pharmacy assistants - for more information see [guild.org.au/academy](http://guild.org.au/academy).

## ABC 'undermines' CM choice

**THE** pharmacy and complementary medicines sectors have responded strongly to last night's ABC *Four Corners* report on the sale of CMs in Australia, with Complementary Medicines Australia (CMA) branding the broadcast as "misinformation" and the Guild saying the program highlights the important role of community pharmacy in advising patients on all aspects of medicines.

CMA ceo Carl Gibson said the show was "insulting to the majority of Australians" when it suggested they are wasting their money on products that don't work for them.

He said the program was "difficult to swallow" because CMs are "extensively researched, highly regulated and play a vital role in the overall management of Australians' health," while 90% of GPs have recommended at least one CM in the last 12 months.

"Thousands of health practitioners & millions of consumers understand the benefits of complementary medicine; to undermine their choice with misinformation does them a huge disservice," he said.

The Australian Self-Medication Industry highlighted a range of studies on CMs, and a CHOICE report last year which listed ten

'useful' supplements for use with targeted conditions including St John's Wort, cranberry and lactase.

The Pharmacy Guild noted that it was essential that consumers had access to "objective, informed advice about complementary medicines, and by far the best place to obtain that advice is at a community pharmacy".

**MEANWHILE** the ABC program interestingly also featured Professor Stephen King, who is chair of the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation.

King noted that he had been "alarmed" by some of the things he had heard from pharmacists at the national series of forums conducted as part of the review, with some participants recommending homeopathic options while others decried their pharmacist colleagues for "stocking products which have little or no medical credence."

"There are passionate arguments on both sides of this case," he said.

Chemist Warehouse co-founder Damien Gance was also interviewed by *Four Corners*, noting that, "within some limits," as a retailer the pharmacy group is "happy to provide what the consumer is after".

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## Dispensary Corner

**SOME** strong analgesia was probably needed by US professional wrestler John "Hammer Head" Ferraro after he set a new Guinness World Record on Italian TV last week.

Ferraro used his head to hammer 38 nails in two minutes on the Lo Show Dei Record television program.

It's not the only spectacular feat he has achieved using his head, with Ferraro also holding the record for "most concrete blocks broken on the head with a bowling ball in three minutes".

Speaking about the new record, Ferraro cited key attributes including preparation, training and dedication to the goal.

"When it's time to perform a stunt, it's balls to wall...it's time to get in the rage zone," he said.

**YOU'VE** heard of lines in the sand, but probably not this sort.

Investigators in the UK have appealed to the public to be on the lookout for plastic containers washing up on the country's beaches, after finding more than US\$60 million worth of cocaine on the seaside near Great Yarmouth, northeast of London.

Almost 360kg of the illicit drug has so far been found in a series of bags, with officers unsure as to why or how the drugs ended up on the beach.

## Rostering at APP

**THE** upcoming Australian Pharmacy Professional conference on the Gold Coast will include a "Rostering 101" session presented by Qld Guild Industrial Relations manager Tina Scrine and Qld Branch Committee member Amanda Seeto.

The talk will include a practical checklist for implementing efficient staff rostering - [appconference.com](http://appconference.com).

## RB's new formula

**RECKITT** Benckiser has agreed to purchase US-based infant formula manufacturer Mead Johnson, with the US\$17.9 billion deal said to further RB's efforts to become "a leader in consumer health".

RB also said the deal would help it expand in the rapidly growing Chinese formula market.

## JPPR online out now

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has released the first wholly online version of its revamped *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*.

Moving to a digital platform will see *JPPR* ramp up to six publications a year, in response to "booming submissions and evolving reader habits," according to SHPA ceo Kristin Michaels.

"Coming out bi-monthly, the new-look *JPPR* will be more accessible and more responsive to changes in the pharmacy world, and will facilitate a renewed push to achieve MEDLINE/Web of Science indexation," she said.

The Feb issue looks at the recent development of pharmacy services across the Asia-Pacific region, and is available for free download by members at [shpa.org.au](http://shpa.org.au).

## New IBS option

**IBEROGAST** has released a new 100mL option for pharmacy customers, providing an opportunity for pharmacists to capitalise on the success of the 50mL pack which is now Australia's top IBS support segment product.

## Guild Update

### Best advice on complementary meds

**LAST** night's Four Corners program on complementary medicines, and the CHOICE pharmacy 'shadow shop' highlight the important role of community pharmacy in advising patients on all aspects of medicines, including complementary medicines.

The Pharmacy Guild believes it is essential that consumers have access to objective, informed advice about complementary medicines, and by far the best place to obtain that advice is at a community pharmacy.

A range of complementary medicines are available through most community pharmacies in Australia, where pharmacists and pharmacy staff play an important role in providing advice to consumers about these products, and about any interactions that may occur with other medicines they may be taking.

## Win with dreambaby

This week Pharmacy Daily and Dreambaby® are giving readers the chance to win each day a Stroller Fan and Strollerbuddy® drink holder.

The Dreambaby® Stroller Fan, with its soft foam fins, is ideal to safely keep your baby or toddler cool and is the must-have travel accessory this summer. The Dreambaby® Strollerbuddy® drink holder is perfect to carry water bottles, sports drinks, sippy cups or other cool beverages within reach while you push your bub in the stroller this season. Available in both grey with white trim and black with white trim. For more visit [www.dreambaby.com.au](http://www.dreambaby.com.au)

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



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Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Monica Saba from Pfizer Australia.

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