



Etopophos shortage

THE TGA has provided an update on shortages of Etopophos powder for injection vials and Vepesid etoposide capsules from Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia, used for the treatment of conditions such as lung cancer and Hodgkin's disease.

Etopophos etoposide phosphate powder for injection vials are unavailable until 01 Apr 2017, while 50mg capsule blister packs of Vepesid etoposide are out of stock from 28 Feb until 01 Apr.

However the previous shortage of 100mg Vepesid etoposide capsule blister pack has been resolved.

Telstra Health chief

FORMER NSW Health director-general Mary Foley has been named as the new managing director of Telstra Health.

She replaces founding MD Shane Solomon who retires this month after conducting a spending spree on health technology acquisitions including a 50% stake in pharmacy software provider Fred IT.

TGA plots new CM regime

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is seeking feedback on key reforms to the regulation of complementary medicines, with the aim of increasing transparency for consumers, providing additional flexibility for industry and supporting innovation - while maintaining the safety and quality of therapeutic goods in Australia.

The proposals are a response to the government's Review of Medicines and Medical Devices Regulation, and involve the development of a new three-tiered risk-based framework.

In particular, the plan would introduce a new assessment pathway for CMs, sitting between the existing "listed medicine" (low risk) and "registered medicine" (high risk) pathways.

The consultation also suggest the development of a list of permitted indications which must be used by the lowest risk complementary medicines, while sponsors will be able to claim their medicine

has been assessed by the TGA for efficacy, where their product has undergone pre-market assessment by the government agency.

The paper focuses on the implementation of four of the nineteen recommendations from the Review, with these chosen because they would have the most significant impact on reshaping the CM regulatory framework.

The reforms also aim to encourage innovation in the sector, including a two year exclusivity period for newly approved ingredients in listed medicines.

The new assessment pathway for CMs also aims to encourage further research and development.

"If sponsors have supporting data, implementation of a new approval pathway may allow sponsors to have exclusive use of intermediate level indications that fall outside the permissible indications list," the consultation paper suggests.

Feedback is sought by COB on 28 Mar 2017 - see tga.gov.au.

Digital pharmacies

PHARMACIES have an "excellent opportunity to take part in the connected health trend" as digital health improves health monitoring, lowers costs to organisations and provides consumers new ways of monitoring chronic disease, according to Propell Health, the Australasian distributor of the iHealth range of personal health apps and devices.

Propell Health's Craig Simmonds recently attended the massive Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, where he said the focus was clearly on "patient-oriented care".

"It is clear digital or connected health has become mainstream.

"Wearables are nowhere as prevalent as they once were.

"Chronic disease monitoring devices linked to apps is what the global market is backing."

Blood pressure, blood glucose, pulse oximetry and ECG monitoring are now all connected to apps, he added, identifying the big global brands leading the charge as iHealth, Withings and Philips.



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Oral contraceptive OTC in NZ

NEW Zealand's Medsafe regulatory agency has accepted a recommendation to change the classification of certain oral contraceptives from 'prescription' to 'restricted' medicines.

The move means the pill can be sold over the counter after a consultation with a pharmacist.

Pharmacists will be able to sell up to six months' supply to patients who meet certain conditions.

"To be eligible, a woman must have been prescribed a similar formulation within the last three years and not have developed risk factors which would preclude continued use without adequate medical supervision," Medsafe group manager Chris James said.

Women under 16 are not eligible, and nor are first time users of oral contraceptives.

The NZ Pharmacy Council and Pharmaceutical Society will be responsible for ensuring pharmacists are appropriately trained to provide oral contraceptives without a prescription to eligible women.

A submission to reclassify selected oral contraceptives was first made to NZ's Medicines Classifications Committee in 2014, with the proposal having since been extensively reviewed in consultation with medical professionals and consumer groups.

"The committee was satisfied that pharmacists could supply oral contraceptives to women who meet the specified criteria with the same levels of safety as other healthcare professionals," Medsafe said in a statement yesterday.

The reclassification will come into effect by the end of Feb, while availability of oral contraceptives from a pharmacy will only start once pharmacists have been deemed appropriately trained.

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.

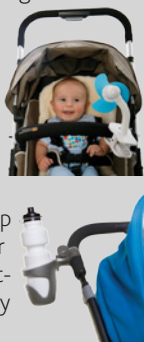
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To win, be the first person from WA to send the correct answer to the question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What is the only temperature drinks should be when being held in the Dreambaby® Strollerbuddy® drink holder?

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Teen vaccination fail

AROUND 20% of teenage Australians are missing out on vaccinations, putting them at risk as experts push for technology to be used to boost coverage rates, according to a report by the Immunisation Coalition.

The group says the issue is fuelled by lax parents underestimating the risks and children failing to pass on consent forms issued at school.

The four vaccines required in teen years are a booster shot for diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus as well as three rounds of the HPV vaccine, which protects against some cancers.

This year NSW, WA and Vic teenagers will also be offered meningococcal vaccine (**PD 07 Feb**).

The Coalition has called for the use of text message alerts from schools to parents, as well as moving consent forms online.

The University of Sydney's Professor Robert Booy says vaccination coverage at just 80% among teenagers is "dangerously low".

CLICK HERE for the report.

INR home monitor

AUSTRALIAN listed Lifespot Health has announced that its BodyTel subsidiary has signed an agreement with Roche Diagnostics to integrate Roche's bluetooth-enabled blood coagulation measurement device CoaguChek INRange into BodyTel's telemedical platform.

BodyTel is working to incorporate sensors from third party suppliers into its system, which allows readings to be sent to mobile apps and the firm's "medical cloud".

HEX status swells

SWEDISH condom manufacturer LELO has won the iF Design Award in the healthcare category for its new HEX condom, which combines "thinness and strength through a network of interconnected cells".

The iF Design Award has a heritage dating back over 60 years, the company said.

HEX beat out more than 5,500 candidates across 59 countries, with the new design also having won awards in Italy and France.

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Dispensary Corner

UNILEVER USA is capitalising on the controversy around the Trump Administration's "alternative facts" interpretations of reality, with a number of tongue-in-cheek #alternativefacts postings to promote Dove antiperspirant.

Some of the examples include:

- "New Dove antiperspirant increases your IQ by 40 points."
- New Dove antiperspirant was first used by Cleopatra.
- New Dove antiperspirant boosts your WiFi signal.
- New Dove antiperspirant is a really good listener.
- New Dove antiperspirant makes the lift arrive when you feverishly press the button"

... and many more.
The punchline comes with the hashtag #RealFacts: "New Dove antiperspirant cares for your skin like never before".

OFFICIALS in Denmark have issued a public appeal to residents of popular foreign holiday destinations to help pasty-faced Danes avoid sunburn.

The Danish Cancer Society has launched a series of multilingual "Help a Dane" videos, addressing the people of France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Thailand.

"We Danes love your country, but there is a problem," says a popular TV presenter.

"The strong sun is harmful to our delicate skin and every day a Dane dies from skin cancer...we respectfully ask for your support. Help a Dane in the sun."

So far over 9,000 people from the 5 destinations have signed up as "ambassadors" for the scheme.

Health, Beauty and New Products

A Nail Enamel for Sensitive Skins

Clinique **A Different Nail Enamel for Sensitive Skins** is a nail polish formulated to minimise skin sensitivity reactions. The nail polish has been dermatologically tested, ophthalmologically tested and found to be appropriate for sensitive skin and sensitive eyes, the company states. It has also been formulated to maintain high-shine and streak-free application, featuring a high-gloss finish that is chip resistant. A Different Nail Enamel for Sensitive Skins is now available in 12 vibrant shades.



Stockist: 1800 556 948

RRP: \$21.00

Website: www.clinique.com.au

Lancôme Baume Eclat



Lancôme **Baume Eclat** is a make-up remover with a unique texture that melts from balm to oil to milk. The formula gently removes impurities and toxins from deep inside the skin. Ingredients include white lotus for its antioxidant properties, the dermo-soothing *rose de France*, Japanese cedar bud to energise and hydrate the skin, and an anise derivative for its purifying properties. This unique product is suitable for all skin types including sensitive skin and can consequently be used on the face, eyes and lips.

Stockist: 1300 651 991

RRP: \$69.00

Website: www.lancome.com.au

New Active Pink Sunscreen

Made in Australia, Cancer Council's new **Active Pink Sunscreen** is a line extension of the Council's best formulation. With a very high level of protection at Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 50+, Active Pink Sunscreen provides broad spectrum UVA and UVB protection. The mineral silica base imparts a non-greasy and quick drying finish and four hours' water resistance. The Cancer Council's recommendation is to apply the equivalent of one teaspoon of sunscreen to each arm, leg, front of body, back of body and face (including neck and ears).



Stockist: 1300 354 144

RRP: \$14.95

Website: www.cancer.org.au

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Part of the Business Publishing Group.

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