

Chinese Sports Injuries Pill recalled

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has announced the recall of one batch of Chinese Sports Injuries Pill (Zhong Guo Die Da Wan) which is being undertaken by Beijing Tong Ren Tang Australia.

TGA testing of products from batch number 12010460 of the item has detected very low levels of aristolochic acid - a substance which has no established safe exposure level.

Consumers are advised to return affected items to the place of purchase for a refund.

Still waiting for CGM

DIABETES Australia has confirmed ongoing consultations with the Federal Government over the subsidisation of continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) technology to help children and young adults under 21 years of age manage their type 1 diabetes.

During the 2016 Federal Election the government committed to subsidise CGM systems, with Diabetes Australia saying work is well advanced in addressing the promise although at this stage a commencement date has not been determined.

"The Department of Health is consulting with Diabetes Australia, expert endocrinologists and clinicians and other key stakeholders to assist with the implementation of this commitment as part of the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) and to ensure that eligible children and young adults receive the support they need," according to a Diabetes Australia update issued just before Christmas.

Issues being ironed out include clinical eligibility criteria, authorisation processes, supply arrangements, information, education and support programs, as well as the administrative and IT systems changes required to implement the commitment.

Key organisations pushing for the CGM technology include the Danii Foundation, which currently funds trials of systems for a number of patients - see danii.org.au.

CHF safety net changes

THE Consumers Health Forum has urged the government to reform the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme safety net, so

consumers with high usage of PBS medicines can smooth out their annual co-payments.

The initiative is contained in the Forum's submission for the 2017-18 Federal Budget, along with a call to withdraw a proposed one-off increase in PBS co-payments and increases in the safety net thresholds.

"Pharmacy is a key element in the strong and sustainable primary healthcare system that Australian needs," the CHF submission states.

"CHF supports the strengthening of this crucial sector through the removal of the PBS co-payment increase, the development of a new health payment system and through the reform of the PBS safety net," it adds.

The organisation also said it formally supports "the integration of primary care services delivered by pharmacists and in the

Team pharmacist key

INCLUSION of a pharmacist in the multidisciplinary health care team could detect more cases of potentially inappropriate prescribing (PIP), according to a study published in the *European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy*.

Researchers in Spain compared the total number of PIP incidents as determined by STOPP-START criteria with PIP incidents detected by a pharmacist's clinical opinion, in 338 hospitalised or institutionalised patients aged over 65 years.

The pharmacist's judgement, based on a comprehensive review of the complete chronic treatment of patients, detected 35% more PIP incidents than the STOPP-START criteria, which mainly detected incidents related to drug duplication and insufficiently treated diagnosis or symptoms.

More details at ejhp.bmj.com.



community pharmacy setting, being integrated with other reforms such as local services commissioned by Primary Health

Networks and Health Care Homes".

If co-payments are able to be smoothed, this will help high PBS medicine users to reduce their uncertainty and ill-health by ensuring continued medication.

"This issue is raised consistently by consumers, particularly those on low and fixed incomes who sometimes struggle to afford even the concessional co-payment," the Forum said.

The CHF also welcomed the ongoing modernisation of IT systems supporting the health, aged care and related veterans' payments services, which is expected to address existing long waiting times and complex processes.

"We suggest that this payment system includes the capacity to administer the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule safety net electronically," the CHF said.

"The current system of paper records being held by one pharmacy places an unnecessary level of stress and burden on consumers," the Forum added.

NZ antibiotic surge

ANTIBIOTIC use by New Zealanders over the winter season is soaring, with the figures indicating "widespread inappropriate use for viral coughs and colds" according to a new report produced by the NZ Institute of Environmental Science and Research.

The study indicated that across NZ in 2006 there were 17.8 doses of antibiotics per day for every 1000 people - a figure which jumped to 25.8 doses per 1000 in 2014, reports the *NZ Herald*.

"New Zealand's antimicrobial dispensing has increased dramatically," said Dr Stewart Jessamine, director of protection and regulation at the NZ Ministry of Health.

The median increase in winter use of antibiotics was a whopping 41%, which authorities said indicated use of antibiotics to treat common winter viruses that are not susceptible to the medications.

Merck acquisition

MERCK has overnight announced the acquisition of BioControl Systems Inc, a company described as a "global leader in food safety testing".

The deal is said to open up growth opportunities for Merck in the food and beverage space, particularly in the USA, complementing its existing food pathogen testing portfolio.

Win with Aveeno

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Aveeno are giving away each day Daily Moisturising Lotion and Dermexa Moisturising Cream.

Aveeno Dermexa Moisturising Cream is specifically formulated to soothe and hydrate even the most sensitive skin, and is clinically proven suitable for eczema prone skin. Aveeno Daily Moisturising Lotion contains Active Naturals Colloidal Oatmeal, which is a specially milled, finely ground oat formula that allows the lotion to lock in moisture while replenishing the skin's own moisture levels.

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

How long does it take to improve the conditions of dry skin with Daily Moisturising Lotion?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Fiona Munro from LiveLife Pharmacy.



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Dispensary Corner

ITALY'S famous statue of Neptune (pictured below) has been deemed "too explicitly sexual" for Facebook. Apparently the 3.2 metre high bronze sculpture that stands in the Piazza del Nettuno, in Bologna needs to pop on some underpants if he wants his picture to appear on the social networking site. It comes after an historian had her picture of Neptune forcibly removed from Facebook for violating community standards. "The use of images or video of nude bodies or plunging necklines is not allowed, even if the use is for artistic or educational reasons," the site went on to advise her. Apparently drunk selfies & skimpy bikini shots are more appropriate.



A VIETNAMESE man who unknowingly spent 18 years of his life with surgical forceps lodged in his stomach has finally had them removed. The forceps were believed to have been left in the 54-year-old when he had emergency surgery after a traffic accident. When he suffered the occasional stomach ache he was diagnosed with a suspected stomach ulcer but an x-ray revealed something far more unusual.

WA non-compliance alert

THE Pharmacy Registration Board of Western Australia has issued a formal statement noting that proprietors of registered pharmacy premises are signing declarations of compliance with the Pharmacy Act, Pharmacy Regulations and the Board's Guidelines "without satisfying themselves as to the compliance of all items".

The Board's Dec communiqué reminds all applicants that in addition to cancelling the registration of premises where an application includes information that is false or misleading, the Act "also provides for substantial penalties for providing false or misleading information".

The update details two recent attendances before the Board in respect of applications for renewal.

In the first case, the pharmacist with a proprietary interest in the premises, was found to have failed to comply with the Minimum Standards and despite repeated assurances that he had

implemented systems to ensure ongoing compliance at all times, "the Board's inspection and desk top audit did not support this".

The pharmacist was reprimanded and ordered to include monthly checklists for compliance as part of induction processes, with the premises subject to inspection and/or desk top audit activities on an impromptu basis.

In the second instance the pharmacist was reprimanded for making significant alterations at the premises without making an application to the Board.

The Board also warned that if further non-compliance is detected it would consider making a notification to the Pharmacy Board of Australia alleging unprofessional conduct by the pharmacist proprietor.

US compounder trial

A PHARMACIST whose compounding operation was linked to a major meningitis outbreak is facing a trial this week on 25 charges of second-degree murder.

50-year-old Barry Cadden, who was the owner and head pharmacist of the New England Compounding Center, allegedly presided over the compounding of vials of methylprednisolone acetate which were alleged to be the subject of fungal contamination.

More than 700 people in 20 states were diagnosed with fungal meningitis in 2012 after using the steroid medication.

The owners of the pharmacy have already faced a range of legal action and have created a US\$100m fund for victims of the outbreak.

Prosecutors allege Cadden was directly responsible for 25 of the deaths, with the pharmacist facing a maximum of life in prison if convicted on all counts.

Metformin 1st line

THE *Annals of Internal Medicine* has reaffirmed its commitment to the use of the "safe and inexpensive oral agent" metformin as first line therapy for adults with diabetes type 2 in its updated therapeutic guidelines.

American College of Physicians president Nitin Damle said "metformin, unless contraindicated, is an effective treatment strategy because it has better effectiveness, is associated with fewer adverse effects, and is cheaper than most other oral medications."

The guidelines recommend adding a sulphonylurea, thiazolidinedione, SGLT-2 inhibitor or DPP-4 inhibitor to metformin if a second oral therapy is required - **CLICK HERE**.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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APT celebration sale

APT will celebrate its 90th birthday this year, kicking off 2017 with a range of special offers including free flights, cabin upgrades, air credits and complimentary stopovers on its most popular cruises and tours.

The sale runs until 15 Mar, with 2017 seeing APT continue to operate on every continent including European river cruises, voyages on the Irrawaddy and Mekong, small ship expedition cruises in the Baltic Sea and a range of Africa, South America and Antarctica itineraries.

For more details visit aptouring.com.au/celebrate.

Beyond Iceland cruise

BEYOND Travel has added a new 8-day Iceland coastal voyage to its 2017 Russia and beyond brochure.

"The Land of Ice and Fire" cruise sees passengers travel aboard the recently renovated boutique vessel *MY Callisto*, sailing from Reykjavik to Akureyri or vice versa with 2017 pricing starting at \$3,469 per person twin share.

More details: 1300 363 554.

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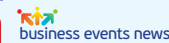
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