



UK pharmacies sell no-script antimalarials

BRITAIN'S Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved an antimalarial tablet which will be available through UK pharmacies without prescription.

Sold under the brand name Maloff Protect, the tablets contain two antimalarial agents, atovaquone and proguanil.

"Pharmacists will be able to advise if Maloff Protect is suitable to protect from malaria depending on which countries are being visited, pre-existing medical conditions, and any other medicines being taken," an MHRA spokesperson said.

"Pharmacists will also be best placed to advise how to avoid mosquito bites, such as the use of bed nets, repellent sprays and appropriate clothing when outside.

"They will also be able to reinforce the importance of seeking a full travel consultation, including the need for travel vaccinations."

The MHRA has said it is considering a number of items for reclassification as OTC medicine, to help widen access to products for the benefit of public health when considered safe.

Guild concern over Review

THE Pharmacy Guild says it remains "very concerned" about the true intentions of the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation for the future of community pharmacy, warning that if options for dispensing fee changes are adopted "a large number of community pharmacies would be unable to continue

operating as viable businesses".

After being briefed by the Review Panel, executive director David Quilty said, "there is no doubt this Review is causing uncertainty in the sector, and nowhere is this more evident than in relation to dispensing, the core clinical function of any community pharmacy".

Writing in *Forefront* yesterday, Quilty said the report acknowledged advice from Treasury that the most profitable pharmacies were "only earning normal rates of return on their investments" - but then proceeds to suggest a total dispensing remuneration benchmark of \$9 to \$11.50, along with modelling a flat \$10 dispensing fee that would replace all current dispensing related payments.

"Such an approach would constitute a serious reduction in core pharmacy revenues," he said.

Cutting the dispensing fee to this level would save the government almost \$1.5 billion over the life of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement, "considerably more than the entire 6CPA budget for patient services," Quilty said.

Vaccine outages

GLAXOSMITHKLINE (GSK) has announced it anticipates an intermittent stock outs for Twinrix Adult (combined hepatitis A and B vaccine) this month.

Twinrix Junior (combined hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine) continues to be available, the company said, while hepatitis B supplies for Government programs is not impacted.

In addition, GSK said there was an on-going supply constraint of Engerix-B Adult dose (hepatitis B surface antigen recombinant vaccine) in Australia.

Production is now back to normal but it will take time to re-build capacity to backfill supply.

Engerix-B Paediatric is still available, GSK confirmed.

Antibiotics use drops

NEW data released by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has revealed that the use of antibiotics has dropped markedly in Australian hospitals, down by 7.6% between 2011 and 2015.

The report says this indicates that efforts to encourage more appropriate use of antibiotics and other antimicrobial drugs is having a positive effect.

The latest report, *Antimicrobial Use in Australian Hospitals*, is the 2015 annual report of the National Antimicrobial Utilisation Surveillance Program (NAUSP).

Twenty antibacterials accounted for 93% of those dispensed in Australian hospitals in 2015.

These were amoxicillin-clavulanate, cefazolin, amoxicillin, flucloxacillin, doxycycline, cefalexin, piperacillin-tazobactam, ceftriaxone, metronidazole, azithromycin, benzylpenicillin, gentamicin, ciprofloxacin, vancomycin, sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim, meropenem, trimethoprim, roxithromycin, clindamycin, and clarithromycin.

Visit www.safetyandquality.gov.au for the report release and accompanying infographic.

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Dispensary Corner

NEW Zealand's Maori language has just been expanded by 200 additional words and phrases, and most of the additions are related to health issues.

The new vocabulary was devised by a public servant called Keri Opal, with key terms to describe mental health, addiction and disability issues now part of the official Maori language.

Opal told *Maori Television* the added words not only filled gaps in the Maori lexicon, but also were expressly non-judgemental.

For example "in my experience people with autism tend to have their own timing, spacing, pacing and life-rhythm, so I interpreted autism as 'takiwatanga' meaning 'his or her own time and space,'" Opal said.

The new phraseology has been published in a glossary called *Te Reo Hapai - The Language of Enrichment* which is aimed at New Zealand healthcare professionals and families.

COMPETITIVE eating champion Joey "Jaws" Chestnut potentially put a nail in his coffin this week after winning his tenth national hotdog eating tournament.

Chestnut continued to dominate the annual Nathan's Famous July Fourth contest, managing to stuff down a whopping 72 hotdogs in just ten minutes.

He beat his own record of 70, set last year, and was thus able to "hoist the Mustard Belt for the tenth time".

"There's no secret, I love to eat, and I love doing it, I love to win, so I had to figure out my body and push it to the limit," Chestnut said after his victory.

WA pharmacy \$42k refund

THE landlord of a pharmacy in Mandurah, Western Australia, has been ordered to repay more than \$42,000 in "management fees" which the State Administrative Tribunal had found it was unlawfully charging the pharmacy.

The pharmacy now trades under the Priceline brand but was previously part of the Friendlies Group, with the trustees claiming the incorrect fees were charged between Apr 2011 and Apr 2015.

The landlord also failed to review the rent on a two yearly basis as required by the lease agreement.

Walter Phillippe and Alan Hipper took the case to the tribunal, with the *Mandurah Mail* reporting the judge Tim Sharp ruled in their

favour late last week.

The landlord had conceded that under the Commercial Tenancy Agreements Act it was required to repay the tenant \$42,248.74 for management fees it had received.

The judge agreed that the rent should have been reviewed but said the tribunal did not have jurisdiction to enforce any such orders.

Small business owners were urged to seek professional advice when signing contracts with a landlord.

Indication extensions

THE Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) has listed new or extended uses for four products effective from Jun: Opdivo (nivolumab) sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb for Hodgkin lymphoma; Ozurdex (dexamethasone) by Allergan for macular oedema; Pfizer's RA treatment Xeljanz (tofacitinib); and Sanofi-Aventis' Cerezyme (miglustat) for enzyme replacement therapy.

Each reference is accompanied with specific conditions and details are at tga.gov.au.

No more 'wet ink'

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised that all licenses and certificates of Good Manufacturing Practice Compliance it issues will henceforth be signed "electronically" rather than requiring a wet ink signature, after a review of the relevant legislation identified that this was possible.

WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Designer Brands are giving away each day three of their DB Cosmetics Longwear Lipsticks.

These smooth, creamy lipsticks deliver all-day wear and opaque colour. Easy to apply, the DB Cosmetics Longwear Lipstick glides onto the lips without dragging or pulling. With super-strong pigments for a rich, intense colour that lasts. **CLICK HERE** to see more.



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

Does the DB Cosmetics Longwear Lipstick contain any animal or animal derived products?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, KP Lau from Pialba Wizard Pharmacy.

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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