

Thursday 23 Mar 2017

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from **Ego**.

Pregnancy test review

THE TGA has completed a review of all human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) pregnancy tests on the market, with some devices found not to work reliably and accurately, and consequently either corrected or removed from the market.

The review followed three false negative results of the One Step HCG urine pregnancy test from a family planning clinic, with the model shown to be insensitive, and cancelled from the ARTG.

All sponsors of hCG tests were contacted by the TGA and asked to supply information - at which point nine suppliers cancelled their ARTG entries, while the TGA also cancelled two devices for improper inclusion on the register.

Samples of the 27 remaining devices were tested, with 22 passing and a range of regulatory actions applied to the other five.

"All devices remaining on the market in Australia have been shown to work reliably and accurately," the TGA said.

Pharmacy key for flu vax

ALMOST all Australians (93%) have identified pharmacy as the place to receive their influenza vaccine this season, citing access, cost and convenience as the biggest motivators, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia reports.

The data was based on the Guild's new '2017 Flu Vaccination Study' released today.

Guild national president George Tambassis said 2017 represented the first flu season that trained community pharmacists Australia-wide would be able to administer flu shots in pharmacy, highlighting awareness and accessibility as key drivers for boosting vaccination rates.

"Our survey shows more than seven million Australians aged 18 to 64 years are planning to have a flu shot this year," Tambassis said.

"It indicated more than six million Australians said they would be more likely to have a flu shot if it could be administered at a local pharmacy, including two million who previously had no intention to vaccinate against flu."

"For community pharmacy to tempt an extra two million Australians into having a flu shot this year, is testimony to

pharmacy's recognition as a trusted health centre."

Tambassis noted that the majority of Australians lived within 1.5 km of a pharmacy.

Guild NSW branch president, Rick Samimi emphasised the flu cost effects on workers, employers, families and national health system.

The 2017 quadrivalent vaccine is now available in pharmacies nationally, while the free National Immunisation Program for people at high risk will commence mid-Apr.

Monash PPH medicine

MONASH University Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS) has announced positive results from a first-in-human study of a new, inhaled form of a medicine that could significantly reduce postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) maternal deaths around the world.

Researchers at MIPS, in collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline in London, who sponsored the study, have been developing an inhalable, dry-powder form of oxytocin to replace the currently used temperature-sensitive injectable form.

[CLICK HERE](#) for a summary.

Salmonella pork pies

SOUTH Australians are being advised not to consume selected pork pies and Ascot pies following an outbreak of Salmonella linked with the products.

"Five cases of Salmonella have been linked to pork pies and Ascot pies made by The Pork Pie Shop, located at Victor Harbor," SA Health authority Dr Fay Jenkins said.

For more, call 08 8226 6488.

Fish not the good oil

UNFORTUNATELY for mothers seeking to up their unborn child's intelligence quotient (IQ), one option has just been eliminated by researchers at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, Adelaide.

In spite of some of the marketing hype increasing sales of prenatal supplements with docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), as found in fish oil, there is a clear lack of evidence, scientists say.

Intelligence quotient (IQ) at seven years, the earliest age at which adult performance can be indicated, was measured against control groups to reveal zero measurable benefit from the supplementation.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the JAMA study.

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Dispensary Corner

PHARMACY Daily, proud to keep you up to date with all the latest health and beauty trends, is pleased today to detail the coolest thing in personal styling - hair freezing.

It's apparently an annual event at Takhini Hot Pools in Canada's far northern Yukon territory.

Contestants simply dive into the pools - in the depths of winter, of course - then when they emerge create a style and wait until it freezes in place.

Pictured below is this year's second place-getter Manuel Sidler who won US\$750 and an annual pass to the baths.



AT THE other end of the hair styling spectrum is a major trend in Puerto Rico, where hundreds of men have decided to go blond in support of the country's national baseball team.

Puerto Rico will face the United States in the final of the World Baseball Classic in Los Angeles today, having taken out the Netherlands earlier in the week.

According to an Associated Press report beauty stores in the capital, San Juan, have been swamped with demand after some of the team dyed their dos.

Some fans are using wigs, and others have dyed their beards too.

"We have been able to unite our country with our blond hair," said team member Carlos Correa.

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PSNZ awards new Fellowships

THE Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand (PSNZ) has awarded three new Fellowships to "outstanding candidates who have made and continue to make an exceptional contribution to the profession".

Trish Farrelly is best known for the contribution she has made to the development of the internationally recognised EVOLVE Intern Training Programme.



Jacqui Lawson has been involved in the shaping of pharmacy services in the new post-crossroads environment for many years and her valuable insights have guided pharmacists and other health leaders in making Canterbury an exciting place to practice pharmacy, today and in the future.



Kathy Maxwell has been a vociferous

proponent of good pharmacy practice and of pharmacists working closely with their communities.

MEANWHILE also in New Zealand, an evaluation of the Health Care Homes model, also being trialled in Australia, has found the program resulted in "very positive changes" since its first pilot in 2011.

"Within practices, new workforce roles were created including medical centre assistants, clinical pharmacists, and social & community workers, which increased team-based care and reduced reliance on GPs," the report concluded.

See healthcarehome.co.nz.

FDA Xadago PD tick

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Xadago (safinamide) tablets as an add-on treatment for patients with Parkinson's disease (PD) who are currently taking levodopa/carbidopa and experiencing "off" episodes - visit fda.gov for more.



WIN WITH INNOXA

This week Pharmacy Daily and INNOXA are giving away each day the new INNOVA ANTI-AGEING Anti-Wrinkle + Firm Sleep Mask.

INNOXA is proud to introduce their latest product in the skin care range... and one that works while you are asleep. As part of the Anti-Ageing Collection, the new INNOXA Anti-Wrinkle + Firm Sleep Mask is an intense anti-ageing night treatment formulated with active ingredient Reforcy™ to deliver 7-in-1 anti-ageing benefits while you sleep. The sleep mask also contains natural skin loving ingredients including Jojoba Oil, Evening Primrose Oil, Grapeseed Oil, Olive Oil and Vitamin E. Leave on overnight and cleanse in the morning to remove any excess cream. **CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE** for more info.

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

Name one of the natural ingredients.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Mirjana Brooks from Wanneroo Discount Drug Store.



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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References: 1. Numit Product Information, June 2016. 2. Shah V, Taddio A, McMurtry CM, Halperin SA, Noel M, Riddell RP et al. Clin J Pain. 2015; 31(10S):S38–S63. 3. Kleiber C, Sorenson M, Whiteside K, Gronstal BA, Tannous R. Pediatrics. 2002; 110(4):758–61. 4. Based on the average retail price of Emla 30g. Data held on file, January 18, 2017.