

Pill failures high

A SURVEY of more than 2000 women has revealed that about half had had an unplanned pregnancy at some stage of their lives, and the majority were using contraception at the time.

"Of the 2,041 women who commenced the study, 1,033 confirmed having experienced an unplanned pregnancy, and 60% of those were using at least one form of contraception at the time," said Jill Michelson, acting Australian CEO of Marie Stopes Int'l, which conducted the *Real Choices: Women, Contraception & Unplanned Pregnancy* study.

The largest group of women using contraception were on the pill (43%), while 22% said their partner used a condom.

Interestingly, 21% of the women using contraception at the time of their unplanned pregnancy were using more than one method.

The report also found that 80% of women didn't seek emergency contraception and of those, 44% did not because they thought they would not become pregnant.



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1. A brief review of the use of honey as a clinical dressing. *Molten, R.C., Primary Infection (The Australian Journal of Wound Management)*, 6 (4): 148-158 (1998).
2. White, R., Cooper, R. and Molten, R. (2000). Honey: A modern wound management product. *Wounds UK Limited*, Abingdon, United Kingdom.



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GSK offers free Tykerb

GLAXOSMITHKLINE has guaranteed to provide Tykerb free of charge for new patients for the next four months.

The manufacturer said yesterday that it would cover the costs of the breast cancer drug to women who signed up to its drug access program by the end of May.

On 11 Jan PBAC recommended Tykerb be PBS-listed but the decision is yet to be approved by the Government.

The drug, which costs about \$4000 a month, is the only

Vaccination update

THE PSA will run an immunisation update CPD session in Brisbane next week.

Speaker Brad McCall will cover changes to the new Immunisation Handbook 2008, routine vaccination and cold chain issues next Tue 05 Feb; more info 07 3844 4900.

DNA prostate test

MEN with risk genes for prostate cancer may soon be identifiable through a DNA test.

Scientists at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden have shown for the first time that men with a combination of known risk genes run a four to five times higher risk of developing prostate cancer.

They said it may be possible to combine genetic testing with a PSA level to get a more accurate indication of prostate cancer.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

CHOLESTEROL levels are expected to rise in the African country of Ghana, which has announced plans to raise its profile as an int'l destination for Chocolate Tourism.

Officials are working with cocoa processing companies following the institution last year of the first National Chocolate Day in Ghana - which coincided with Valentines Day.

This year the theme will continue, aiming to "highlight the globally acclaimed quality of Ghana's cocoa."

Officials are understood to be frustrated that Belgium, which has "no cocoa trees to boast of," has positioned its tourism around chocolate, while Ghana as one of the top cocoa producing nations "is yet to make an emphatic statement to the outside world about her own made chocolates."

A NURSING home with a difference has opened in Berlin.

The purpose-built facility caters exclusively for homosexual residents, with 28 beds already full just a month after opening.

The home for elderly gay men was first planned in 1995 but only became a reality with the public backing of Berlin's gay mayor, Klaus Wowereit.

A member of the facility's board said "When you're old the last thing that you want to do is have to hide."

"And you certainly don't want to give up your identity and live in some hostile environment, possibly sharing a room with someone who despises you."

HOT Travel Deals

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* new travel feature.

Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

Great deals are available on cruises in February:

Star Cruises is offering an earlybird discount of up to 40% off the price of selected 5 night cruises from Singapore, sailing on the **SuperStar Virgo** between October 2008 and March 2009. Prices start at \$876pp, book by 29 February to save, for more info contact Cruise Abroad on 1300 669 369.

Creative Holidays is offering exclusive packages on **Disney Magic 7 night Mexican Riviera Cruise**, priced from \$2137 per adult and from \$1723 for children.

The ship boasts nine themed restaurants, original Disney stage shows and lots more. Perfect for the whole family.

For more information www.creativeholidays.com

For train enthusiasts, **Traveltrain Holidays** is offering a '2 for 1' deal on all Queensland services including the high-speed **Tilt Train**. A great way to experience Queensland's coast or remote outback destinations, ranging from day trips to lengthy rail escapes. Offer valid for travel between Feb 1 and Mar 18 2008. For bookings call 1300 654 841.

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