

Pharmacy DAILY

Wednesday 22nd July 2009

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Glucosamine bulletin

THIS week's edition of the RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin provides an update of evidence related to the use of glucosamine for arthritis.

The bulletin says there's an absence of strong evidence in support of the treatment, and urges a "judicious approach" - more info chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au.

DIA India conference

THE Drug Information Association will host the *Quality of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients Conference* in Hyderabad, India from 5-7 September 23009.

The conference will be held in collaboration with the WHO and the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare - more info www.diahome.org.

New PBS listing for bipolar

ASTRAZENECA has confirmed that Seroquel (quetiapine fumarate) will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from 01 Aug for the maintenance treatment of bipolar 1 disorder in combination with lithium or sodium valproate.

The listing was described as a "significant development" for people with the disorder, providing a new ongoing option to gain and maintain symptom stability and prevent the recurrence of manic or depressive episodes.

Seroquel is also PBS listed for the treatment of schizophrenia, as well as for monotherapy for up to six months of an episode of acute mania associated with bipolar 1.

It was also approved in Feb for

the treatment of bipolar depression meaning it's the first atypical antipsychotic approved for treating all phases of bipolar: depression, maintenance and mania.

MEANWHILE, also from 01 Aug Pfizer's VFend Suspension will be PBS listed for immuno-suppressed adolescents and children.

VFend is a broad spectrum antifungal agent for the treatment and maintenance therapy of definite or probable invasive aspergillosis.

It was previously only available through hospitals, with the new listing allowing access to an oral form more suitable for children.

Oral health crisis

THE oral health status of Australian adults ranks second worst in the OECD, according to the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council.

The council has released its 2009 Environmental Scan which provides a snapshot of key issues facing the health sector in terms of skill shortages and development issues.

The most urgent areas of concern were oral health, disability careers and quality Family Day Care.

Council ceo Di Lawson urged an "urgent rethink" to allow other health professionals to contribute to the oral health of Australians.

UK charter change

MEMBERS of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain have voted in favour of changes to the society's Royal Charter in a Special Resolution Ballot, which paves the way for major changes in UK pharmacy.

Ongoing reform in Britain will see National Pharmacy Boards given greater autonomy, while the RPSGB's current regulatory functions will transfer to the new General Pharmaceutical Council.

"We now have the strong mandate from members for the changes we need to bring about," said president Steve Churton.

US pharmacy reform

THE National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) in the USA has written to legislators expressing concerns about proposed pharmacy reimbursement provisions as part of ongoing healthcare system reform in the US.

A bill currently under consideration revises generic reimbursement to be based on a formula which defines the Average Manufacturer Price of drugs - using a weighted average price, similar to that implemented in the Australian PBS..

But the NACDS is still concerned that the price calculation includes non-retail sales of medications to hospitals, clinics and doctors, which are likely to "skew the AMP benchmark downward."

The legislation also includes a 130% 'multiplier factor' for dispensing of drugs, which NACDS says will result in insufficient reimbursement to pharmacies.

NACDS has 160 member companies, which operate 39,000 pharmacies in supermarkets and other outlets across the USA, employing about 120,000 pharmacists.

FIP theme wanted

THE Committee for the 2011 FIP Congress, to be held in Hyderabad, India, is seeking suggestions for the congress theme and overall topics.

Submit your ideas to Paula Cohen on paula@fip.org by 8th August.

Queensland break-in

POLICE on Queensland's Sunshine Coast are investigating an attempted burglary at a pharmacy in Landsborough on Mon night.

It's understood that two men broke into the Mill Street chemist through the front door in the early hours of the morning.

A police spokeswoman said the offenders were unable to break into a safe containing drugs, and it's believed they fled empty handed, according to a report in the *Sunshine Coast Daily*.

WIN A PRIZE FOR YOUR PET



CONGRATULATIONS to Julie Mullan of Merck Sharp & Dohme who was the winner of yesterday's competition.

Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with Rufus & Coco this week, giving readers the chance to win a jar of "Joint Aid" for their pet.

Australian pet care range,

Rufus & Coco provides well-bred pet care to all furry, feathered and feline friends.

Rufus & Coco's "Joint Aid" helps to alleviate the symptoms of arthritis.

The odourless, tasteless powder is mixed in with the dog's wet food. Joint Aid contains all ingredients which have been proven to promote joint mobility, cartilage regeneration and reduce inflammation.

Rufus & Coco "Joint Aid" is available for \$39.95 in selected pharmacies and is distributed by McPherson's Consumer Products.

For your chance to win a jar of "Joint Aid" for your pet, simply be the first reader today to send through the correct answer to the following question:

How many vitamins & supplements are in the Rufus & Coco range?

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Hint: Visit www.rufusandcoco.com.au.

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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

U Little Beauty!

Look after your skin the Australian way with new ULittleBeauty, the latest range in natural Aussie skincare products. The selection features a foaming cleanser, facial exfoliant, replenishing moisturiser, enriching night cream, hydrating gel mask, clay-based cleansing mask, eye balm and nourishing lip balm, each uniquely formulated using totally organic ingredients to ensure quality, nutrient-rich skin treatment free from artificial preservatives, colours and fragrances.

RRP: \$14.95-\$29.95

Stockist: Key-Sun Laboratories

Tel: 1800 791 381



Max Factor knows what's truly Essential...

Max Factor has boosted its popular Lipfinity collection with the new Max Factor Lipfinity Essential Catwalk Colours range. The new palette features six original and vibrant shades, including pink, natural, violet, brown, burgundy and red coral, while still boasting the same long-lasting formula that has enabled Lipfinity to remain the top-selling lip colour worldwide since its release in 2001.

RRP: \$29.95

Stockist: The Heat Group

Tel: 1800 181 040

Wedge you like a good night's sleep?

If your baby or toddler suffers symptoms of reflux or colic it can seem impossible to get them off to sleep. However, now you can escape the nightmare with Babywedge: the elevation and stabilisation cushion for parent and child. As well as helping to relieve symptoms of reflux and colic naturally, it provides the perfect rest station and travel pillow for baby. Plus, the fully adjustable wedge system also offers great support for mum, ensuring a comfortable night's sleep during pregnancy, as well as relaxation assistance in labour and proper lumbar support when breast-feeding.

RRP: \$99.99

Stockist: BabyWedge Pty Ltd

Tel: 07 3378 2997



Go green when you clean

EcoStore has released two new products to add to its range of environmentally-friendly cleaners. The Citrus Spray Cleaner uses coconut and natural plant essences to create an active, anti-bacterial spray for effective household cleaning, and is approved as an antibacterial by the NZ Food Safety Authority. The Ultra Concentrate Laundry Liquid is specially formulated using organic plant and mineral-based materials, producing a detergent that is gentle on both your skin and the environment, while still boasting the same performance as the top chemical-based concentrates.

RRP: \$6.99

Stockist: Ecostore - www.ecostore.net.au

Let your lashes do the talking...

To celebrate Spring/Summer 2009 Red Earth has launched a limited edition 2V mascara as part of its new Cocktail Culture collection. Available in black, brown, blue, purple and green, the enhanced almond-protein formula plumps, lengthens and nourishes your lashes without clumping.

RRP: \$24.00

Stockist: The Heat Group

Tel: 1800 181 040



DISPENSARY CORNER

HERE'S a tip for weight loss - don't travel long distances by air.

A nutritionist from Sydney University has warned that airline passengers can gain up to 1kg during long-haul flights.

Flavia Fayet said airline meals usually contain lots of salt as well as about 4000kJ of energy.

"That is around half the recommended daily energy intake for the average female - and that's in just one meal," she said.

The salt also makes the body retain water, and frequent meals as well as lack of in-flight exercise also contribute to the weight gain, she added.

VETERINARY pharmacists being asked to help diagnose doggy diseases may find this new Japanese gadget comes in handy.

Scientists in Tokyo have developed a device which they claim can analyse a dog's bark and translate it into human words.

The 'Bowlingal Voice,' created by toymaker Takara Tomy, is able to detect a range of emotions, according to the makers, with pet-lovers able to confirm if their dog is sad, joyful, frustrated or playful.

It's also claimed to be able to translate several puppy phrases such as 'play with me'.

HOW do you sneeze in a spacesuit? Aim very low.

That's the advice given by US astronaut David Wolf, who's currently one of the 13 people in residence at the International Space Station (**PD** yesterday).

Wolf took a spacewalk on Monday as part of a project which is seeing a new experimental platform set up outside the station in orbit high above the earth.

But halfway through the 'extra vehicular activity' he felt a tingling in his nose, according to an online Twitter blog being operated on his behalf by NASA.

"Aim low, off the windscreen, because it's going to mess up your view and there's no way to clear it," was his recommendation of how to deal with a sniffly nose while in space.