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National rego gets closer

QUEENSLAND is the first state to introduce the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill (2009) to its parliament, with all state and territory health ministers agreeing that this legislation should form the basis for the new National Scheme to replace the current state accreditation systems.

Health Minister Nicola Roxon said the enabling legislation must be passed in all jurisdictions to enable the replacement of state boards with the new national body.

Once the Qld parliament passes the bill, similar draft legislation will be progressively introduced in all parliaments to adopt and apply the new national law, which has been written in accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement

Last date to lodge

THE PBS has advised that the new cost recovery fees for the evaluation and listing of medicines, vaccines and other products or services on the PBS or NIP, will apply for all submissions lodged after 3pm on 24 Dec.

Although the fees don't come into effect until 01 Jan, the dept will close on Christmas Eve, returning on 4 Jan when the forms will be processed and fees applicable.

settled in Mar 2008.

"I look forward to Australia soon having a workable national registration system that will deliver for patients and health professionals alike," Roxon said.

White teeth warning

THE Victorian Pharmacy Board has clarified its position regarding in-pharmacy teeth whitening procedures, stipulating that "a person who is not registered as a dental care provider must not knowingly perform any invasive or irreversible procedure on natural teeth".

The move follows the prosecution of a beauty therapist by the Dental Practice Board of Victoria, which resulted in a conviction and a \$2000 fine for contravention of the Victorian *Health Professions Registration Act* - the first case of its kind in Australia.

The Board said that it may approve a teeth whitening business or activity within a pharmacy "if, and only if, the person carrying out the procedure is registered as a dental care provider."

If a pharmacist personally carries out the procedure they are liable to prosecution, the board warned.

New Chemmart bdm

MONIQUE Mackrill has been announced as the new National Business Development Manager for Chemmart Pharmacy.

Mackrill has more than 10 years of pharmacy experience, incl a number of previous roles with Terry White Chemists.

Chemmart Executive Director, Jonathan Layton, said Monique's experience was "well suited to current business challenges as the brand continues its aggressive growth plans.

"Our innovative direct dispense format, combined with our professional health programs, has certainly resulted in strong growth for Chemmart and we're thrilled to have Monique on board to help continue to drive that growth."

Women in pharmacy

PRU Goward, women's rights activist and NSW shadow Minister for Community Services and shadow Minister for Women, has been confirmed to address the annual PAC Women in Pharmacy breakfast held in Sydney on 17 Oct.

The breakfast, part of the four day PAC line up, has been designed as an opportunity for women's mentorship and networking.

It costs \$45 (non-delegates) or \$30 (delegates), call 08 9389 1488.

MIMS October prescribing update

NEW INDICATIONS

- THE indication for Apidra (**insulin glulisine**) has been extended to include children four years or older.
- Combivir (**lamivudine; zidovudine**) is now also indicated in children heavier than 14 kg and older than three months of age.
- Cymbalta (**duloxetine hydrochloride**) is now also indicated for the treatment of diabetic peripheral neuropathic pain and generalised anxiety disorder. The starting and maintenance dose in diabetic peripheral neuropathic pain is 60 mg once daily. The recommended starting dose in patients with generalised anxiety disorder is 30 mg once daily.
- Prezista (**darunavir**) is now also indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 in protease inhibitor-naïve patients.

SAFETY-RELATED CHANGES

Atomoxetine hydrochloride (Strattera) in usual doses may

cause treatment-emergent psychotic or manic symptoms, e.g. hallucinations, delusional thinking or mania in children and adolescents without a prior history of psychotic illness or mania.

Particular care should be taken in treating ADHD in patients with comorbid bipolar disorder because of concern for possible induction of a mixed/manic episode. Prior to initiating treatment, patients with comorbid depressive symptoms should be adequately screened to determine if they are at risk for bipolar disorder; such screening should include a detailed psychiatric history, including a family history of suicide, bipolar disorder and depression.

Sudden death has been reported in association with atomoxetine treatment at usual doses in children and adolescents with structural cardiac abnormalities or other serious heart problems. Although some serious heart problems alone carry an

increased risk of sudden death, Strattera generally should not be used in patients with known serious structural cardiac abnormalities, cardiomyopathy, serious heart rhythm abnormalities or other serious structural cardiac problems that may place them at increased vulnerability to the noradrenergic effects of atomoxetine.

Sudden death, stroke and myocardial infarction have been reported in adults. Although the role of atomoxetine in these adult cases is also unknown, adults have a greater likelihood than children of having serious structural cardiac abnormalities or other cardiac problems, and consideration should be given to not treating such patients.

- Before initiating long-term cabergoline (Dostinex) treatment, all patients should undergo a cardiovascular evaluation, including an echocardiogram, to assess potential presence of an occult valvular disease. It is also

appropriate to perform baseline investigations of erythrocyte sedimentation rate or other inflammatory markers, lung function/chest x-ray and renal function.

During long-term treatment, clinical diagnostic monitoring for development of fibrotic disorders is essential. Following treatment initiation, the first echocardiogram must occur within 3-6 months; thereafter the frequency of echocardiographic monitoring should be determined by appropriate individual clinical assessment with particular emphasis on signs and symptoms of pleuropulmonary disease, renal insufficiency, ureteral/abdominal vascular obstruction, retroperitoneal fibrosis or cardiac failure, but must occur at least every 6-12 months.

- **Cortisone acetate** (Cortate) should be used with caution in patients with thromboembolic disorders, emotional instability or psychotic tendencies.

- Hypotension, bradyarrhythmia and lactic acidosis have been observed in patients taking clarithromycin (Klacid) and verapamil concomitantly.

NEW FORMULATIONS

Zoton (**lansoprazole**) is now available as gastroresistant microgranules (Zoton FasTabs). The tablets are strawberry flavoured and should be placed on the tongue and gently sucked. The tablet rapidly disperses in the mouth, releasing the enteric-coated microgranules, which should be swallowed with the patient's saliva. Alternatively, the tablet can be swallowed whole with a drink of water. The tablets must not be chewed.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing always refer to the full product information.

Pharmacy DAILY

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Men's health focus

THE government has pledged to deliver Australia's first National Men's Health Policy by the end of the year, addressing the continuing health issues faced across the board by Australian men.

The move is part of the govt's preventive health focus, with federal Minister for Indigenous, Rural and Regional Health, Warren Snowdon, calling on delegates at the National Men's Health Gathering held yesterday in Newcastle NSW, to put men's health issues at the 'front and centre' of current health debates in order to effect a real change in male health.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* 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.

CLASSIC INTERNATIONAL CRUISES has extended its traditional 35 night Australia to France journey aboard *Athena* by five nights taking in Lisbon, Portugal and concluding at the UK port of Portsmouth.

Ports visited on the 40-night voyage will include Singapore, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Oman, Jordan, Egypt, Cyprus, Malta, Italy, France and Portugal, with prices starting from \$6292 per person, twin share.

For details or to book see your local travel agent, or visit www.classicintcruises.com.

TOURISM WHISTLER is offering some 'book early and save' Christmas packages with savings of up to 39% off accommodation and lift passes.

Seven night accommodation packages including six-day lift passes start from \$1347.45 per person for bookings between 22 Dec and 04 Jan.

For details www.whistler.com.

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Guild supports NDI scheme

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has come out in support of a proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme, designed to create a nation-wide safety net by providing funding for essential care, support, therapy, aids and equipment, home modifications and access to training.

Addressing the National Press Club in Canberra yesterday, Dr Rhonda Galbally, Chair of the National People with Disabilities

New CM guidance

THE TGA today published a new document giving draft guidance on the use of the term 'Quantified by Input' for listed complementary medicines.

The report describes the criteria under which manufacturers would not be required to assay an active ingredient in a finished product.

The original guidance document was published in Jan 2007, but "it has become evident that a number of issues...require further qualification," the TGA said.

and Careers Council, called on the government to put the NDI scheme into action, citing future population growth projections which foreshadow a hike in the number of severely and profoundly disabled persons of somewhere between two to three times the national population growth as a whole, whilst the number of unpaid carers is also projected to decline.

The Guild said the proposed scheme "has significant merit," adding that there is a "growing chorus of organisations calling for reform of this important area."

7000 in iTherapeutics

ONLINE pharmacy training platform iTherapeutics today confirmed that more than 7200 pharmacy staff across 2760 stores had completed 42,000 training courses since the portal launched just over a year ago.

Membership is free for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants, with registration online at www.itherapeutics.com.au.

WIN NAILENE TOTAL CARE

CONGRATULATIONS to Catherina Bremner from **Australian Pharmaceutical Industries**, who was the first reader to tell us one of the treatments Nailene Total Care 5 in 1 offers..



THIS week Nailene has teamed up with *Pharmacy Daily*, giving readers the chance to win a bottle of Nailene Total Care.

Valued at \$14.99, Nailene delivers the revolutionary technology of five nail treatments in one with the Nailene Total Care 5 in 1 treatment.

This treatment can be used as a smoothing base coat, bio-strengthener, growth treatment, mega gloss top coat and break resistant hardener.

Simply apply two coats to nails and a thin protective coat over the top of nail polish for stronger, longer, hydrated,

shiny nails!

For your chance to win your own bottle of Nailene Total Care today, simply send through the correct answer to the following question:

How many coats should you apply before nail polish?

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

The first correct entry received each day will win!



DISPENSARY CORNER

TWO officers, two tickets and a baby!

A NZ man, Brad Hurdell, was rushing his wife-who was in labour, to hospital, when he was pulled over not once - but twice for speeding.

The first officer issued a warning, deeming Brad's speed to be 'unacceptable'; however soon after being released, Brad's wife's labour became more intense, and Brad applied the accelerator, only to be pulled over a second time by another officer.

Upon assessing the situation the officer himself drove the pair to the local maternity centre.

There's no word yet as to whether the pair will cop a fine, however Brad is hoping a nice letter and photo of his gorgeous baby girl Tessa will soften the deciding committee up!

WELL it was an anniversary.

A long-widowed Auckland woman celebrating her 100th birthday was surprised to receive a letter from NZ prime minister John Key congratulating her on her 100th wedding anniversary.

WHAT supplements has this guy been taking?

Polish strong-man Zydrunas Savickas was one of ten men who each towed an Air Malta 180 seater plane along a 25 metre runway stretch whilst being timed, as part a bid to win the coveted 'World's Strongest Man' title.

Zydrunas eventually took out the crown after a series of strength tests, which also included a car deadlift and a boat pull.



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