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## Syringe withdrawal

**QUALITEST** Pharmaceuticals in the USA has issued a voluntary nationwide recall of its Accusure Insulin Syringes, which were distributed to wholesale and retail pharmacies across the USA between Jan 2002 and Oct 2009.

All Accusure Insulin Syringes regardless of lot number are being recalled by the company because they "may have needles which detach from the syringe."

## Chew that weight off

**RESEARCH** presented yesterday at the Obesity Society Annual Meeting in Washington DC has shown that chewing sugar-free gum between meals may help reduce kilojoule intake at meal times.

Subjects in the study who chewed gum for a total of one hour in the morning (in three 20 minute sessions) consumed 286 fewer kilojoules at lunch and did not compensate by eating more later in the day.

They also reported feeling less hungry compared to when they did not chew gum.

## Mirixa clinical trial program

**THE** Pharmacy Guild's Mirixa Australia offshoot has announced a new partnership with GlaxoSmithKline which will see a new Clinical Trial Patient Referral Program run through Mirixa Australia network pharmacies.

Participating pharmacists will utilise the MirixaFind software utility to refer patients who may be candidates for a clinical trial, and will be paid a professional service fee for successful referral.

Mirixa ceo Ross Gallagher said the new program was "another opportunity for pharmacists to strengthen relationships with

## Orphan drug move

**THE** TGA has designated the solution version of Ferring Pharmaceuticals' Glypressin (terlipressin) as an orphan drug.

The freeze dried powder variant was previously designated in 2004.

Glypressin is indicated for the treatment of bleeding oesophageal varices and the treatment of hepatorenal syndrome.

patients and manufacturers through providing a valuable service."

The program notifies of a possible patient qualification at the point of dispense, with a short series of set questions from the pharmacist to the patient.

The Guild said the program helps patients gain access to and benefit from research into new medicines.

## Vic trial initiative

**THE** Victorian government yesterday announced new procedures for clinical trials which will significantly simplify the ethical review process for multi-site trials.

The change, effective 16 Nov, was announced at the AusBiotech 2009 Conference in Melbourne by Innovation Minister Gavin Jennings, who said the change would mean researchers need only apply for one approval, rather than individually for each site, meaning research can begin more quickly.

"Simplifying and shortening the approval process for research will also generate economic benefits for Victoria and provide a strong incentive for international industry and researchers to continue high quality research all over Victoria," Jennings said.

## Pfizer generic deal with Genepharm

**THE** parent company of generics firm Genepharm, Ascent Pharmahealth Limited, has announced a new distribution and services agreement with Pfizer Australia, which will see it "promote and sell the full range of Pfizer's established off-patent medicines to Australian pharmacies."

The agreement, effective 01 Nov, will see Genepharm promote and distribute Pfizer off-patent branded medicines via its direct distribution network, as well as promote and sell several branded generics of Pfizer medicines including Xydep.

"Genepharm's unique position as a leading independent generics supplier to Australian pharmacies lends itself to working with companies such as Pfizer," said Ascent ceo Dennis Bastas.

He said Genepharm would now "look at new and innovative ways of engaging with pharmacy customers in the highly competitive market for off-patent drugs."

Pfizer Established Products gm Mark Crotty said it was "important for us to work with an independent partner that has an established presence and existing relationships in the retail pharmacy market."

## Win a HemAway Seat



**DID** you know that nearly 50% of the world's population will suffer from some degree of haemorrhoidal pain by age 50?

The new HemAway seat (pictured) is the answer, providing urgent immediate, pain-free relief!

Each day this week, HemAway is giving **Pharmacy Daily** readers the chance to win a HemAway Seat, valued at \$185.

The HemAway Seat is a heavy plastic seat that sits over your own toilet in the comfort and privacy of your home.

It's a haemorrhoid management system, providing pain relief and control over the haemorrhoids aggravation for hours after use.

**For your chance to win a HemAway seat, simply be the first reader to email the correct answer to the daily question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).**

**What is the unique design feature of the Hemaway seat?**

Hint! Take a look at the HemAway website at: [www.hemaway.com.au](http://www.hemaway.com.au).



**CONGRATULATIONS to Fiona Evans of Merewether Pharmacy, who was the first reader yesterday to tell us that 70% of pregnant women get haemorrhoids during pregnancy.**

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## Full-Time Pharmacists Required

Are you looking for a complete change in scenery and the experience of a life-time all rolled into one?

We have an exciting opportunity available for 2 Full-Time Pharmacists to join the Health Focus Pharmacy team on Christmas Island.

Christmas Island is a dot in the Indian Ocean, located 2600km north-west of Perth, Western Australia. Even though it is an Australian Territory, its closest neighbour is Java, 360km away.

We are looking for Pharmacists with a sense of adventure and a willingness to participate in and enjoy becoming a part of the local community.

Pharmacists looking for professionally rewarding work, where they can use their knowledge to benefit the multi-cultural community of Christmas and Cocos Islands.

**For more information, please contact Tamsin on [tamsin.healthfocuspharm@bigpond.com](mailto:tamsin.healthfocuspharm@bigpond.com) or [leanne.healthfocuspharm@bigpond.com](mailto:leanne.healthfocuspharm@bigpond.com)**

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## Diabetes fellowship

**ASSOCIATE** Professor Katherine Samaras is the newest recipient of the GlaxoSmithKline Don Chisholm Diabetes Research Fellowship.

The fellowship will now fund Samaras' research into the link between obesity and diabetes, with a particular focus on weight loss and its effect on type 2 diabetes.

"Type 2 diabetes is considered a lifestyle disease, however this is not the case; Type 2 diabetes is in fact a genetic disease" said Samaras.

"Susceptible individuals will develop type 2 diabetes more rapidly if they carry excess weight."

The research aims to find out what early markers in blood will predict which patients are the best candidates for gastric banding.

## 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.

There's no excuse not to enjoy a night in the great outdoors, with this offer from **BIG4 HOLIDAY PARKS** which are offering campers to spend a night on their properties around Australia for free on Friday 20 Nov.

Just bring your tent and camping gear and they'll provide a powered or unpowered site at no charge.

More info [www.big4.com.au](http://www.big4.com.au).

Or if you prefer a roof over your head, **ACCOR** in conjunction with Qantas is today offering a flat rate of just \$99 per room per night at a huge selection of leading hotels in Australia and New Zealand.

It's valid at selected Novotel, Mercure, All Seasons, Pullman and Ibis properties for stays 01 Dec 09 to 30 Apr 2010.

You must book this offer today at [www.qantas.com](http://www.qantas.com).

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## PBS is sustainable - Delaat

**PRICES** paid by the Australian government to pharmaceutical manufacturers for new medicines are lower than any government in the OECD, according to the chairman of Medicines Australia, Will Delaat.

Speaking at the National Press Club in Canberra yesterday, Delaat reiterated the findings of the MA-commissioned report (**PD Mon**) which found that PBS growth is much lower than expected.

The report also confirmed that savings to the govt from last year's PBS reforms will be much higher than expected "and that there is

definite evidence that the PBS is sustainable.

"Effectively, industry has delivered Government an unexpected \$3 billion windfall," Delaat said.

"For all the dysfunction and cost-shifting across the broader health system that has prompted the Rudd Government's health reforms, the PBS remains a model of effectiveness, efficiency, stability and sound management."

The report found that annual PBS growth would be 3.7% to 2013-14 which Delaat said was "sustainable by any measure, particularly given the ageing population."

## 20 years of community service



**ABOVE:** The staff at National Pharmacies in Port Lincoln, South Australia, are getting ready to celebrate a major milestone.

Next month the pharmacy turns 20, having first opening its doors on 06 Nov 1989.

Since then the pharmacy has built strong community relationships, providing residents with a vast range of services including Home Medicines Review and Dose Administration Aids.

Although much has changed in pharmacy since then, one thing at the Port Lincoln store has stayed the same - Nina Mavromatis has worked at the store since day one, initially as a sales assistant and now, almost twenty years later is the store's service manager.

"I greet most of our customers with a hug - we've all come to know each other so well," said Nita.

But Nita isn't the only long-term staffer, Chrissy Cornish has been with the team for 16 years as a

pharmacy assistant, whilst pharmacists Toni, Karine and Jess have also worked at the store on and off for many years.

To commemorate its special day, the pharmacy has arranged for community health nurses to perform Health Checks on 04 and 05 Nov and to also be on hand throughout the day on 06 Nov to offer general healthcare advice.

Additional celebratory events will include information and sampling sessions for customers and members in conjunction with several suppliers including Ethical Nutrients, Weight loss, Avent and Karicare, whilst owners of Accu-Chek blood glucose monitors can get their machines tested for free on 06 Nov (by appointment only).

Pictured above from left ready to party are Nita Mavromatis, Clare Allen, Danielle Robst, Trish Prais, Sarah Guidera, Jacqui Chappell and Leonie Breuker, with Vicki Bindi and Karine Williams behind.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**THIS** Queensland dog was certainly his master's best friend.

Teka, an Aussie cattle dog will this week receive the RSPCA's Animal Achievement award for her actions two years ago, which saved her owner, Jim Touzeau's life after he collapsed from a heart attack.

Teka jumped up and down on Jim's chest with her front paws and barked loudly in his face, which caused Jim to wake up.

She then ran out onto the kerb and jumped up and down to attract attention from passers by.

The RSPCA's Michael Beatty said it wasn't certain whether the dog's actions had actually kicked-started Jim's heart.

"But if he had not woken up, he would have been dead," Beatty added.

He said that as part of her Award, Teka will receive a "very large, very impressive bone."

**BEER** is the latest medicine!

A health spa in Austria has filled seven of its health pools with the amber fluid, claiming that it has the ability to treat skin conditions, blood circulation and can even help cure wounds.

The spa is part of a local brewery in Starkenberg, and each 4m-long pool contains approximately 20,000 litres of beer - chilled or heated according to individual preference.

Head barman Markus Amann told a local newspaper that bathers can even drink the spa beer, but that there was enough beer on tap in the bar next to the pools to not have to resort to that!

It seems that the craze is catching, with monks at the nearby Klosterbrauerei brewery producing a spa supplement for folks to put in their baths at home.



Cheers!