



Obesity questions

CALLS for a change in US federal guidelines on obesity, to bring it in line with the World Health Organisation guidelines, could see more women fall into obese categories.

The movement follows revelations that the current US guidelines, which determine obesity on BMI (whether weight and height are proportional), are overlooking a large chunk of US women who are actually obese based on WHO's guides which calculate obesity based on body fat analysis.

According to researchers, around half of all US women (of reproductive age) who are currently not considered overweight, are in fact, based on body fat analysis, obese.

"BMI is not one size fits all," said lead researcher from the University of Texas, Dr Nahbur Rahman.

"Inaccurate classification can decrease the impact of obesity prevention programs that will result in many women not receiving the help they need," he added.

Cold reschedule on the table

THE National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee will at its next meeting consider the rescheduling of 22 over the counter cough and cold medicines, with proposals that they be Schedule 4 when used in children aged under six.

The plan would also see the remedies as S3 for kids aged 6-11 and S2 for 11-12 year olds, with affected medications including antihistamines, antitussives, mucolytics/expectorants and decongestants.

The June meeting agenda, which is now online at www.tga.gov.au, also reveals that the committee will consider the appropriateness of the current Schedule 2 rating for ibuprofen-paracetamol combination products.

The committee will also look at the possibility of rescheduling alprazolam (Xanax) from its current S4 rating to Schedule 8, as well as the consideration of scheduling for mucolytic agent ambroxol,

including a proposed new S2 entry.

The agenda also includes consideration of the rescheduling of low dose aspirin preparations from unscheduled to Schedule 3 when indicated for the inhibition of blood clotting and to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease - which would see these products move off supermarket shelves.

Other issues up for consideration at the June meeting include the consideration of scheduling for new prescription medications including C1 esterase inhibitor, clofarabine, saxagliptin and vorinostat.

The committee will also consider the scheduling of triclosan, including a proposal that it be scheduled with a concentration cut-off when used as a preservative in cosmetic preparations.

Also on the agenda is lignocaine, following a policy direction that Schedules 2 and 3 are not to be used to control access to veterinary medicines - with the only known products captured by the S2 lignocaine listing indicated exclusively for veterinary use.

The NDPS meeting will be held 22-23 Jun and related submissions must be received no later than 26 May to ndpsc@health.gov.au.

Standards FAQ

THE TGA has published a reference document relating to the adoption of the European Pharmacopoeia (Ph Eur) and the US Pharmacopoeia National Formulary (USP) as new default standards in Australia in addition to the British Pharmacopoeia, after recent legislation changes.

The document includes a list of frequently asked questions including dates of publication of new editions - www.tga.gov.au.

New MS injector

REBISMAR, the first electronic injection device for the treatment of multiple sclerosis, has been approved for use in Australia and will be available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from 01 May.

The device includes an interactive screen on the electronic injector which guides patients through a three step process with text and pictures, to deliver a new multi-dose presentation of Rebif (interferon beta-1a).

Mirixa training update

MIRIXA Australia has released four short video modules which show how to use the software and deliver the clinical service to pharmacy patients.

Mirixa manager of pharmacy services, Aaron D'Souza said the update is the result of consultation and testing with pharmacists.

"We hope pharmacies will re-engage now that training time, content and format barriers have been addressed," he said, adding that this was "a chance for pharmacies to kick-start their professional services offering".

Two CPD credits are on offer for pharmacists who complete the training and assessment and there are also live online refresher tutorials - call 1300 647 492.

New asthma approval

A WORLD first radiofrequency device has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of severe and persistent asthma in patients aged upwards of 18 years.

The Alair Bronchial Thermoplasty System works by delivering electromagnetic energy directly to the airways, via a catheter with an electrode tip.

The radiofrequency energy heats the lung tissue in a controlled manner, which in turn reduces the thickening and swelling of airway muscles, allowing the patient to breathe more easily.

Trials of the technology on 297 patients found that with multiple sessions targeting different areas in the lungs, the device reduced the number of asthma attacks suffered by patients.

Side effects of the Alair system included asthma attacks, wheezing, coughing up blood, chest tightness and partially collapsed lungs.

The FDA has stipulated that Alair's manufacturers Asthmatx must follow many of the patients in the first trial, and enrol 300 new patients for a follow-up post approval study of long term safety and effectiveness, for a period of no less than five years.

RPSGB enjoys surplus

THE Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has recorded an operating surplus of £1.9 million in its latest 2009 financial results.

WANT YOUR SKIN FEELING SILKY SOFT?

Total Beauty Network has teamed up with *Pharmacy Daily* this week, giving readers the chance to win a Designer Brands Body Butter product.



Congratulations to Hania Wroblecka from Showcase Pharmacy, who was the first reader yesterday to tell us that there is four flavours in the Body Butter range.

Designer Brands Body Butters are made with Natural Oils to assist you in creating long lasting softness whilst nourishing and hydrating your skin. Suitable for all skin types and Dermatologist tested. Leaves a breathable barrier that leaves skin feeling silky soft and protected from the elements. DB Body Butters are made to penetrate skin and provide all day lasting moisture.

For your chance to win a Body Butter product this week, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

Name two of the flavours in the Body Butter range

Send entry to: comp@pharmacydaily.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.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A FUN family day out in Dr. Death's van?

Online auction site, Ebay has banned the sale of a VW Van used by the infamous UK assisted suicide campaigner, Dr Jack Kevorkian (aka Dr. Death).

The site claims the van falls under the category of murderabilia, which is specifically banned under an Ebay policy.

The van was used in the assisted suicides of several of Dr Kevorkian's patients, and before being taken offline had a highest bid of about A\$4000.

THEY may be out there...just don't say hi!

Renowned astrophysicist Prof. Stephen Hawking has told media that aliens in all probability do exist, but contact with them could be disastrous for humankind.

"We only have to look at ourselves to see how intelligent life might develop into something we wouldn't want to meet," he told reporters.

"If aliens ever visit us, I think the outcome would be much as when Christopher Columbus first landed in America, which didn't turn out very well for the American Indians," he added.

CUTEST pony ever!

A tiny horse, weighing in at just three kilograms and standing a mere 35.5cm tall at birth last week, is set to take out the crown of smallest ever foal.

The animal's owner, Dr Rachel Wagner, has affectionately named her tiny bundle of joy Einstein, and has boasted that the Guinness Book of Records lists the smallest newborn horse weighing in at nine pounds, three pounds over what her little genius weighs.



Are you feeling a little horse?

Tissues in a tube

Just in time for winter, Kleenex has released a new Tubes range, which takes tissues out of the box and into a series of stylish and compact non-crushable tubes. Designed for convenience, the tubes are made to fit into most car cup holders, and are also great in areas where space is at a premium. The Tubes are available in four different designs and are available for sale from this week.

RRP: \$1.99

Stockist: 1800 028 334



Unbreakable antiseptic spray

Made from natural essential oils including Eucalyptus (136mg/ml), Tea Tree (18mg/ml) and Lavender (9mg/ml), Bosisto's latest 'Antiseptic Spray' kills 99.99% of germs and bacteria without being as drying as alcohol based skin antiseptics. The 55ml unbreakable PET bottle with finger pump spray makes for convenient carriage, and the formula can also be used to treat minor skin conditions such as eczema, dermatitis and pimples. In addition the spray can be used to relieve minor insect bites and stings.

RRP: \$4.95

Stockist: 1800 003 431

Get Milky Feet in just a few weeks

Milky Foot removes dead skin and softens cracks and calluses through its ExMilac (milk ferment filtrate) base, which breaks down the hardened proteins in dry, scaly skin. The formula also contains AHAs and BHAs to break down built-up skin cells, as well as additional amino acids, aloe vera, calendula and chamomile to moisturise and soothe new skin. The product does not work instantly, rather the foot pads are applied for 60-90 minutes and then removed after which the peeling effect isn't noticeable until 5 - 10 days later and by around 2 - 3 weeks from application feet should be soft, smooth and hard-skin free.

RRP: \$29.95 (regular), \$34.95 (large)

Stockist: All wholesalers



Protect and brighten winter complexions

Packed with Vitamin C rich ingredients, the new serum from Coast to Coast is a potent anti-oxidant potion. Based on the Kakadu Plum (highest known concentrations of Vitamin C in plant kingdom) to protect the skin from environmental damage, and Desert Lime which lightens skin complexion to even out colouring, the serum can be used under moisturiser day or night. The Outback Cellular Recovery Radiance Serum also contains plant peptides which inhibit muscle contraction and thus have a mild anti wrinkle effect, as well as hyaluronic acid which adds a moisture boost to the mix.

RRP: \$59.95 (30ml)

Stockist: 03 9427 9222



Say goodbye to summer shine, and hello winter matte

Latching on to the latest style trends for winter 2010, BYS has broughtt out its own range of Matte Nail Enamel polishes, in 14 colours: Black, Deep Berry, Fuchsia, Grey, Charcoal, Blue, Deep Purple, Deep Plum, Pink, Red, Deep Blue, Royal Blue, White and Black Cherry. The matte formula is designed to glide on easily, dry flat and provide long lasting colour.

RRP: \$3.95

Stockist: 03 9551 4666

