

Vic guidelines

NEW Guidelines for Good Pharmaceutical Practice have been released by the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, with effect from 01 Jan.

All pharmacists registered in Victoria during 2010 will receive a printed copy of the guidelines this month, with the document replacing the previous 2004 guidelines.

It aims to guide pharmacists to help them assist in complying with the *Pharmacy Practice Act 2004*, advising of how the Pharmacy Board of Victoria interprets certain aspects of the Act, minimum standards of good practice, and how the Board expects the duties and responsibilities of pharmacists may be best observed.

Medicare changes

A **DETAILED** information dossier regarding changes to the Extended Medicare Safety Net which became effective from 1 January 2010, is now available on the Medicare Benefits Schedule website.

Click here to download.

Pharmaxis Canadian offer

LISTED Australian pharmaceutical developer Pharmaxis Limited has announced plans to acquire Canadian private clinical-stage biopharmaceutical firm Topigen Pharmaceuticals.

Both companies specialise in respiratory disease drug development and manufacturing, and the deal aims to enhance Pharmaxis' range of products.

As part of the deal Pharmaxis has agreed to pay 3.2 million shares up front with an additional issuance of 5 million shares at a later stage-providing Topigen meets prescribed milestones for anti-asthma treatments currently under development.

Topigen is working on several new products for respiratory disorders, including TPI ASM8 - designed to treat moderate to severe asthma utilising oligonucleotide technology, and TPI 1100 for the treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

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"These potential new medicines are an ideal fit for Pharmaxis," said Pharmaxis ceo, Alan Robertson.

"There remains a strong medical need for new products in the severe and specialist-treated asthma market," Robertson added.

Pharmaxis recently completed Phase III trials for its Bronchitol, which has been designated as an orphan drug by the European Medicines Agency, and given fast track status from the US FDA.

Antiseptic vs iodine

A **RECENT** study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* has found that giving a patient an antiseptic bath prior to surgery is more effective in cutting down post operative infections than the current local iodine swabbing procedure performed on the operation site before cutting in.

Researchers involved in the study compared a newer antiseptic preparation against iodine swabbing and found that it cut post-op infections by around 40%.

Currently the new antiseptic prep is only in use in hospitals in the Netherlands.

FDA transparency

THE US Food and Drug administration has launched a new transparency initiative to educate the public as to how it operates and the process through which drugs are evaluated and approved.

The new transparency and educational tools include a web-based curriculum 'FDA Basics' which includes answers to frequently asked questions, short explanatory videos, online sessions where senior officials will answer questions from the public and interviews with staffers.

See www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/Basics.

Bulletin Board online

MEDICARE Australia has announced that it's phasing out the hard copy version of its quarterly *Bulletin Board* publication for pharmacists.

Rather than Bulletin Board being posted out, the online version will now be emailed to subscribers.

Medicare said that all of the regular features and updates will continue to be included.



DISPENSARY CORNER

NEANDERTHAL women may not have had the luxury of hair straighteners, or for that matter toothpaste, but let's not jump to conclusions...the ladies liked to look good.

Recent analysis of artifacts including dyed shells and remnants of mixed pigments found in Neanderthal dwellings in the south-east of Spain has tweaked previous conceptions of Neanderthal behaviour.

According to the scientists and historians who conducted the study of the 50,000 year old objects, the shells appear to have been used as pretty necklaces, whilst the 'shimmery' pigments-made up mostly of lepidocrocite, haematite, pyrite and charcoal are considered to have only one real purpose - cosmetic enhancement.

Having similar properties to today's skin powders, Joao Zilhao, leader of the research team and professor of Paleolithic Archaeology at the University of Bristol, told reporters that "It was some kind of glitter or make-up like the shimmery stuff that people were wearing a few years ago."

"Its preparation makes no sense unless it was used as a body cosmetic...we can't prove it, but it makes sense."

"It shows a symbolic dimension in behaviour and thinking that cannot be denied," he added.

MADE a rather large bungle?...no problems - blame it on the ciggies!

Federal assistant treasurer Nick Sherry has attributed an unemployment figure gaffe in a recent ABC TV interview to the forgetfulness brought about by quitting smoking.

Throughout the interview Sherry insisted that the unemployment rate would rise to 8 percent this year and that the figure had not been revised, when in actuality the Government shifted this figure down to 6.75% in November 09.

A spokesperson later told media that Sherry had only quit smoking 16 days prior to the interview and his mistake was simply one of the side effects - along with coughing and a chest infection.

WIN A COPY OF FOUR HOLIDAYS ON DVD



Pharmacy Daily kick starts the New Year with another fabulous competition!

This week EseaCruising.com and Roadshow Entertainment are giving readers the chance to win a copy of the comedy, *Four Holidays*, on DVD. Starring Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn, the movie is about a happily unmarried couple who avoid spending Christmas with their families at all costs, and instead travel to exotic locales.

Due to unfortunate circumstances, their upcoming trip to Fiji gets cancelled and the

couple have no choice but to spend the festive season with their divorced parents and the rest of their dysfunctional family.

To enter, simply tell us who you would have liked to avoid over the festive season and why?

The best entry sent in each day will win a copy of the DVD and have their story published in *Pharmacy Daily*.

Send your entries to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Four Holidays is now available to rent or buy on Blu-Ray and DVD.

CONGRATULATIONS to Amy Ratcliffe of Devantiers Pharmacy QLD who was yesterday's winner, sending in the following entry -

Over the Christmas period I would have loved to escape to Fiji to avoid our crazy Christmas customers!!

I would also have liked to avoid our customers post Christmas who were intent on stocking up on scripts before the safety net ran out!!

And to think its only 11 months until it all happens again.. ha!

