

Guild Update

This week's update from the Guild

Phase out of BPA baby bottles

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia is advising community pharmacies to consider reviewing which baby bottles they stock and sell.

Major retailers, including Woolworths, Coles and Aldi, have voluntarily withdrawn from sale baby bottles containing Bisphenol A (BPA).

BPA is a chemical used in the manufacture of clear, plastic polycarbonate products.

The phase out resulted from discussions between the Australian Government and retailers following widespread consumer concern arising from media reports of alleged health risks posed by BPA.

Precautionary, voluntary withdrawals have also taken place in other countries, although food safety regulators currently state there is no risk to health at the extremely low levels of BPA likely to be ingested when using a baby bottle.

Considering the retailers voluntary phase-out, however, the Guild has advised its members to review baby bottles in stock with a view to sourcing BPA-free alternatives in the future, and believes all pharmacies should consider undertaking the same action.

For more Guild information visit www.guild.org.au.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

\$277m for mental health

HEALTH minister Nicola Roxon says that mental health in Australia will be enhanced by the govt's plans for primary health reform.

Along with PM Julia Gillard, Roxon today announced \$276.9m in funding for mental health services, with the money including \$114m to provide more frontline counselling and psychiatry services in the community for people with severe mental illness, as well as

SHPA for CPD

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia says there are a number of Group 2 CPD opportunities for all pharmacists in the latest version of its Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research.

Topics covered in the June 2010 issue of JPPR include asthma plans for children, medication management for older people, evaluation of antifungal treatment and guidelines for immunosuppressed patients.

There's also an editorial titled "Bioavailability, Bioequivalence, Generics and Switching or Substitution: Science, Emotion and Vested Interests" and an article on how an Adapted Competency-Based General Level Framework can improve pharmacists' performances.

SHPA says that reading articles in the journal and recording this is a Group 1 CPD activity, while Group 2 CPD activities with multiple-choice questions are available for four issues in the article for SHPA members.

SHPA membership includes a subscription to the quarterly hard copy JPPR as well as exclusive access to the entire content of online JPPR at jppr.shpa.org.au.

Vic Board closure

THE Pharmacy Board of Victoria will cease operations next Monday, with its remaining functions taken over by the Victorian Pharmacy Authority which will formally open on Tuesday 03 August.

The Victorian Pharmacy Authority will only be responsible for the licensing of pharmacy owners, as well as registration and complaints about pharmacy premises, pharmacy departments and pharmacy depots.

The new office will be open for business 10am-3pm Mon-Fri.

\$74.3m in direct suicide prevention and crisis intervention services - including \$18m for Lifeline Australia's support hotlines.

There will also be \$23m for more services and programs targeted at men, who are far more likely than women to commit suicide, plus \$66m to provide more services for kids with mental health problems and to promote "resilience and good mental health in young people".

Roxon said the reformed primary health system would provide better coordination meaning that the mentally ill are "less likely to fall through the gaps in the system".

The announcement has been welcomed by some parts of the mental health community, but met with skepticism by others who have questioned how much is actually new funding.

A key mental health adviser to the govt, John Mendoza, quit earlier this year claiming the ALP had "no vision or commitment".

Registration online

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has confirmed that it's now possible to check the registration status of pharmacists across the country using the online Register of Practitioners which has been developed by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

The new National Registers are based on data drawn from state and territory registers which were in place until 30 June, with the AHPRA also saying it's continuing to undertake additional work to validate the data to ensure the National Registers are accurate and complete.

The registers still don't include pharmacists from Western Australia because WA hasn't yet joined the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Pharmacists are reminded that under the new national scheme all health practitioners will have a new registration number, and old rego numbers will not work when searching the national register.

The registers allow searching by name and principal place of practice, and give details of qualifications held and registration type as well as any endorsements, conditions, undertakings or reprimands.

See www.ahpra.gov.au.

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HIGH TECH HEALTH

Daniel Gollmann heading down under

THE Germany-based director of the failed Gollmann-Bouw Australian pharmacy automation operation, Daniel Gollmann, has confirmed that he is currently in en route to Melbourne.

The first creditors meeting for the collapsed company will be held at 10.30am today at L29, 600 Bourke Street Melbourne, providing creditors the opportunity to appoint a committee.

The investigation into the company's failure is continuing, with payment of unsecured creditors' accounts as at 15 July postponed pending the outcome of a second creditors meeting which will be held on or before 19 August.

At that meeting the administrators will formally present the initial findings of their investigation into the company.

Gollmann told *PD* overnight that at this stage he's unable to provide any further information due to the ongoing administration process.



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 Guild

Generic Lovenox

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved the first generic version of Lovenox (enoxaparin sodium injection) for deep vein thrombosis.

The FDA says that before the approval it received a citizen petition questioning the approval process for the medication, but after careful review the agency determined that "current scientific evidence, precedent, and FDA's legal authority" established a sound basis for the approval.

The generic enoxaparin sodium injection which has gained approval is manufactured by Sandoz, and is available in a range of strengths.

MEANWHILE the FDA has also approved Daiichi Sankyo's Tribenzor, which is a new three-in-one combination taken once daily for the treatment of hypertension.

Tribenzor includes olmesartan medoximil, amlodipine and hydrochlorothiazide and is indicated for patients who are not adequately controlled on any two of calcium channel blockers, angiotensin receptor blockers and diuretics.

Sanofi-aventis promotion

JEZ Moulding, currently general manager of Sanofi-aventis in Australia and New Zealand, has been promoted to a new role as Vice President, Pacific for the company.

Moulding will take up his new role on 01 October 2010, and will shift to Tokyo where Sanofi-aventis' operations in Japan, Australia and New Zealand will all report directly to him.

He's headed up the local business since September 2007, having previously run Sanofi-aventis in Korea following other senior management positions within the group in South Africa and Europe.

US pharmacy app

US pharmacy giant CVS Caremark has released a new free iPhone application giving access to its drug information database.

The app allows consumers to research prescription medications and generic alternatives, with registered users also able to securely manage their prescriptions online.

"This is a significant opportunity for Jez to increase his responsibilities within the region, and the appointment recognises his achievements in leading the Australian and New Zealand operations over the last three years," said Sanofi-aventis senior vice president for Asia Pacific and Japan, Olivier Charmeil.

Under Moulding's leadership the company purchased the Symbion Consumer business in 2008, which now operates as sanofi-aventis consumer healthcare.

Sanofi-aventis said an announcement on a replacement general manager for the Australian operation would be made in the near future, with the appointee reporting directly to Moulding.

Rosiglitazone alert

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has advised health professionals to closely observe the current contraindications and monitoring requirements for rosiglitazone (Avandia).

The MHRA says there's currently an ongoing Europe-wide review of the risks and benefits of the diabetes medication due to new data which raises concern about an increased risk of cardiovascular adverse effects.

Patients are also being reminded of the importance of attending routine appointments to monitor their diabetic care.

GSK sales switch

GLAXOSMITHKLINE has announced that its US sales staff will no longer be evaluated or paid bonuses related to their achievement of sales targets.

Beginning next year, GSK will instead base bonuses primarily on the service delivered to customers as determined by client feedback, as well as to a sales professional's "adherence to the company values of transparency, integrity, respect and patient-focus".

"Physicians have been telling us they want to see fewer sales professionals, and those they do see need to provide greater value in helping improve patient health," said GSK President, North America Pharmaceuticals, Deirdre Connelly.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A US woman has been charged with harassment, after she allegedly cleaned a bathroom in her home with her son's toothbrush and then returned it to its holder.

26-year-old Justin Novack said he called the police after his mother decided that the bathroom needed a good scrub because he hadn't cleaned it for two months.

He told officers in Lower Saucon, Pennsylvania, that he was very upset, claiming she had applied faeces to the toothbrush.

TOXIC pigeons cause Kings havoc.

US soft-rock band, Kings of Leon called a halt to their concert in St Louis, after pigeon poo rained down on band members within the first three songs.

According to the band's publicist, the boys decided to call it a night after a large splat landed very close to bass player, Jared Followill's mouth.

"It was too unsanitary to continue," the band said in a statement.

"It's not only disgusting - it's a toxic hazard," the band's publicist added.

SHE'S no spring chicken!

A 22-year old hen hailing from the Chinese province of Yunnan has made the Guinness Book of Records for the world's oldest chicken.

Roughly equating to 400 years old in human terms, the old dame is in remarkably good health only suffering from a slight deterioration in her eyesight, and a reduced appetite.

According to a local vet, chickens usually live between seven to eight years, with the previous Guinness record holder living to a ripe old 12 years of age.

ARTISTIC license?

An 80-year old US man has gotten the shock of his life after he discovered four pounds of marijuana stashed in the back of a painting he bought at a post office auction in 2005.

The man was in the process of putting the painting up for re-auction for \$25 when the discovery was made.

WIN A MINERAL STARTER KIT



Every day this week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers the chance to win Mineral Starter Kit courtesy of **Total Beauty Network**.

Exclusive to Designer Brands is a Mineral Starter Kit including the staple products need to help you get into the mineral faze.

Infused with minerals and vitamins which care for your skin, Designer Brands Mineral Starter Kit makes skin look healthy, natural and radiant all day long. Our talc & bismuth-free products mean NO IRRITATION or CLOGGING, just beautiful, flawless skin.

For your chance to win your very own Mineral Starter Kit this week, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

What 3 ingredients are NOT included in the Mineral Foundation?

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

The first correct entry received will win!

Hint: Visit: www.tbn.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: **Sarah Ottery** from **Sigma Pharmaceuticals**.