

CPD Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* Continuing Professional Development Calendar, featuring upcoming events and opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

14 Oct: PSA Vic, 'Complementary Medicines and Mental Health', Community Room, Wangaratta Library, 03 9389 4700

18 Oct: Pharmacy Guild of Victoria, 'Probation, Performance, Discipline or Discrimination- Best Practice', 2-4.30pm - 03 9810 9988

21-22 Oct: IIR's Primary Health Care Reform Summit, Hilton on the Park Melbourne - details www.iir.com.au/primary.

26 Oct: PSA NSW, 'Endocrinology Update', Mosman RSL Club, 7.30-9pm - (02) 9431 1120

28-31 Oct: PSA's Pharmacy Australia Congress in Melbourne - details www.pac10.com.au.

Medical travel appt

THE Travel Medical Alliance (TMA) has welcomed Dr Nicholas Kokotis of the Bluff Road Medical Centre, Sandringham, Vic, to its network of Travel Medicine specialist providers.

"This adds to our extensive coverage across Australia," said TMA spokesperson, Dr Deb Mills, author of the Travelling Well series.

"Our mission is to assist the travel industry by providing pre and post travel health services to both the industry staff, and their customers," she added.

See www.travelmedicine.com.au.

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Consumers question GMiA

THE Consumers Health Forum (CHF) has joined the chorus of voices currently questioning the Generic Medicines Industry Association's (GMiA) stance against the ACCC's proposed condition C2 on its draft Code of Conduct, which would require its member companies to report every six months on the value of all benefits, such as hospitality, entertainment and gifts provided to pharmacists.

In backing up its stance against the condition GMiA told the ACCC that it did not believe that the "trivial and non-existent" public benefit would outweigh the "significant compliance costs" that generating the six-monthly reportage would entail.

In response to this submission the CHF said that it did not consider GMiA had provided compelling enough arguments against the imposition of condition C2.

The CHF then used the wording by GMiA in its ACCC rebuttal to support its own pro-C2 argument, saying that the statement: "GMiA

believes that pharmacists do not recommend a particular generic medicine to a patient solely because of the provision of an educational event or other non-price benefits...", is not sufficient to warrant scrapping the condition because it is an argument based on a "belief" not hard evidence.

Moreover GMiA's assertion that the public will not get an accurate picture of all the reasons why a certain generic is recommended by a pharmacist if companies have to detail their pharmacist gifting practices, was also brought in to question, with the CHF saying that "pharmacists should be willing to discuss with consumers why they chose generic substitution is appropriate, and to explain the factors that led to that decision".

In addition, the CHF also said that "an unwillingness on behalf of the industry to report non-price benefits may create a perception of a lack of transparency, between pharmacists and the generic medicines industry, potentially causing a loss of confidence and trust".

In its submission to the ACCC the CHF also said that GMiA's assertion that reportage would be of limited value to consumers was sketchy as it knowledge GMiA has not consulted with consumers to ascertain their views on the value of this information.

"CHF's position is that consumers will benefit from increased transparency in the relationship between the generic medicines industry and pharmacists," it said in its statement.

In closing the CHF questioned GMiA's argument that "the current level of non-price benefits as a proportion of total benefits provided to pharmacy by each member of GMiA is less than 1%".

The CHF said that as no information was provided as to how the figure was reached, it would be "interested" to know the basis for the calculation "particularly given the difficulties outlined in GMiA's 8 September 2010 submission in relation to collecting information about non-price benefits and placing a financial value on these benefits".

The CHF also questioned whether the administrative and compliance costs would be as "significant" as argued by GMiA.

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Stability testing

THE TGA has released a new guide titled 'Technical Guidance on the Interpretation of Manufacturing Standards'.

Although not legally enforceable the new document provides guidance for the interpretation of the TGAs 'PIC/S Guide to Good Manufacturing Practice for Medicinal Products 2009' in relation to on-going stability testing for Listed Complementary Medicines.

The document states that one batch of a complementary (listed) product of each group should be placed on the on-going stability program each year, and ongoing stability testing should be conducted in line with the regulatory guidelines for the countries of destination.

The guide also states that stability testing should be conducted in real time at the storage conditions specified on the product label.

For details see www.tga.gov.au.

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FDA approval

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Tris Pharmaceuticals generic of Tussionex (extended-release suspension containing hydrocodone polistirex and chlorpheniramine polistirex).

Alzheimer's and tobacco

RESEARCHERS involved in a laboratory trial of RCP-006, a compound found in tobacco, to treat Alzheimer's disease, have reported positive results in cells, including the cessation of inflammation and the production of amyloid (both contributing factors in the development of the disease).

On the back of the results the Roskamp Institute has announced it will shortly commence clinical trials of RCP-006 which is also found in tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.

Light drinking won't harm

A UK study published in the Journal of epidemiology and Community Health has called into question the hard line stance against light drinking when pregnant.

The study conducted over five years, examines the relationship between light drinking during pregnancy and the risk of socioemotional problems and cognitive deficits when the children hit five years of age.

18,500 mothers and children were involved in the study, with participants grouped according to the mothers' reported alcohol consumption during pregnancy including: those who never drank; those who did not drink when pregnant; light drinkers; moderate drinkers and heavy/binge drinkers.

At three and five years of age boys and girls in the study were tested, with results showing kids born to light drinkers had no behavioural or mental impairments



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DISPENSARY CORNER

DUCKS have great memories.

A duck that has been visiting an inner city bakery at the same time every year for the past three years has been given the name Bruffin after the establishments most beloved product.

According to the owners Bruffin arrives every morning with her beak for two months, waddles in and samples the freebies in the taster box.

She then quacks until she is given a pat, before leaving, beak in tow, at around 11am.

Shocked that Bruffin manages to find her way through the city to the small bakery without injury, the bakery owner sought the advice of game and fishing expert who told staffers that "ducks are pretty good at finding out where a free feed is, they have a good memory".

ALWAYS check the label!

A US woman has super-glued her eyes shut after mistaking glue for eye drops.

"The bottles are identical and I am not young anymore, but I am not senile," the woman told reporters.

Luckily for her, doctors at the local hospital were able to cut away the glue, leaving her eye undamaged.

PIG-dog learns to fetch.

A four month old piglet, Coco, who was adopted from a pet shelter in the UK is going through some identity issues, after having become best buddies with her families pet German Shepard.

According to reports, so enamored is Coco with the pooch named Jay, that she insists on accompanying him on walks by the lead.

She has also learned how to play fetch, and takes her turn playing with and guarding the families younger pups.



WIN THE NEW FRAGRANCE BY ENGLISH BLAZER



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with **English Blazer** this week and is giving 8 lucky readers a chance to win **BLACK** - the new fragrance for men.

English Blazer, the timeless classic fragrance, introduces Blazer **BLACK**. More revolution, than evolution, Blazer **BLACK** delivers style with edge for today's urban sophisticate. Self assured and masculine, Blazer **BLACK** sets a new benchmark for fine fragrance. Edgy, with fresh top notes of Bergamot and Mandarin display spunk and character

whilst the Clove and Lavender middle notes reflect a warm and compassionate heart. Cedarwood, Amber, Musk and Vanilla provide base notes indicative of depth, strength and worldliness.

Each prize is valued at \$32.90 and contains **BLACK** by English Blazer EDT 50ml & 24hr: Anti-Perspirant Deo 150g.

For your chance to win this great prize, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

Who distributes English Blazer BLACK fragrance?

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

First 2 correct entries received each day will win!

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Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners: **John Oakley** from **Norgine** and **Christina Melville** from **Australian Pharmaceutical Industries**.

and generally had higher test scores that children born to mothers who did not drink during pregnancy.

"At age 5 years cohort members born to mothers who drank up to 1-2 drinks per week or per occasion during pregnancy were not at increased risk of clinically relevant behavioural difficulties or cognitive deficits compared with children of mothers in the not-in-pregnancy group," said the study authors.

Conversely however children of heavy and binge drinkers who continued to drink through pregnancy, scored the lowest in the testing process.

The findings have been welcomed by individual members of the The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, who have for a long time been concerned over the perception brought about by agencies which tote zero-tolerance which have promoted the perception within the community that light drinking will irrevocably damage a babies mental and physical health.

"[The study] it is important because there is abundant anecdotal evidence that, quite tragically, women are inappropriately "advised" by family members and sometimes doctors and other health professionals, to opt for a termination when they have had occasional or light episodic exposure to alcohol either before they knew they were pregnant, or if they have had the odd social drink during early pregnancy," said Ron Batagol, Pharmacy and Obstetric Drug Information Consultant.

"Since the prevailing studies relating to low level alcohol exposure in pregnancy, which Advisory Bodies like the NHMRC rely upon, are based on quite shonky and unreliable data from poorly-designed studies, one can but fervently hope, (probably in vain), that this latest Study may finally give impetus to the NHMRC to stop being so stubborn and to take the step of modifying its recommendations, to reassure pregnant women that inadvertent or low-level occasional social drinking by a pregnant woman does not pose a teratogenic risk to her fetus," he added.