

Guild Update

This week's update from the Guild

The Home Medicines Review (HMR) Program is continuing under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, with the aim to enhance the quality use of medicines through a pharmacist conducting a medication review in the patient's home.

The Guild has a range of consumer resources available to pharmacists to help promote the HMR service, including **HMR Consumer Brochures** and **HMR Consumer Case Studies** (individual topics include: diabetes, heart failure, kidney problems, youth depression, palliative care and falls prevention).

Other resources include a 'Would you like help with your medicines' booklet, which explains some of the pharmacy services offered that may assist your patients to better manage and understand their medicines, such as Dose Administration Aids, Patient Medication Profiles, Consumer Medicines Information Sheets and Home Medicines Reviews.

These resources are available in hard copy.

If you or HMR stakeholders in your local community would like to obtain multiple copies of these resources, please contact Natalie Nikro at the Guild's National Secretariat by email mmr.program@guild.org.au or phone 02 6270 1888.

The **HMR Consumer Brochures** and **HMR Consumer Case Studies** are also available electronically on the Guild website at www.guild.org.au/mmr/content.asp?id=1831.

While there may be some changes to the current HMR model during the Fifth Agreement, pharmacists are advised to continue providing the HMR service to their patients in the usual way.

For more information, please see the Guild's HMR Media Release from 13 July 2010, located at www.guild.org.au/content.asp?ID=2830.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

NPS blasts opiod expose

NPS says it's "disappointed" in the ABC's Four Corners program last night which highlighted issues around addiction to oxycodone medications.

NPS ceo Dr Lynn Weekes said that while the program focused on doctor shopping and prescription fraud in several individuals addicted to prescription opioids, "it did not cover the positive work being done to address this issue."

The organisation issued a statement reminding health professionals of the NPS resources available to support the prescription of opioids and options to help patients manage chronic pain.

The timing of the Four Corners program is ironic given that NPS launched a new education program in June on *Opioid use in chronic pain: use a planned approach*.

This module explores ways of optimising the benefits of opioids while minimising the harms associated with inappropriate use.

Options suggested include careful patient selection, clear communication about the goals of opioid therapy, careful advice about proper use and close monitoring.

"Opioids are an option for some patients with chronic pain, with their goals being to reduce pain and to improve function and quality of life," said the NPS statement.

"However they should only be prescribed as part of a comprehensive pain management plan developed in consultation with the patient.

"Documenting the plan and outlining the terms for opioid use can prevent unsanctioned use and provide pre-agreed approaches if the patient experiences repeated episodes of breakthrough pain," Dr Weekes concluded.

She also said that in the case of non-specific low back pain, a thorough patient history and physical examination are critical to check for potentially serious underlying conditions.

"Imaging tests are not routinely recommended and are unlikely to improve patient outcomes or alter clinical decision-making".

MEANWHILE the PSA has also issued a statement regarding the Four Corners program, saying the report turned the spotlight on the role pharmacists can play in helping patients responsibly

Australia's highest wholesaler PBS discount

**7.5% PBS
DISCOUNT!
COST -0.5%**

- ✓ Deals with 80+ suppliers on 5000+ OTC products with 3000+ via PDE!
- ✓ Optional low-cost planograms, merchandising, promotions and refits!
- ✓ Excellent prescription generic deals with the major players!
- ✓ Representatives in NSW, ACT, VIC & QLD!
- ✓ Choice & flexibility from just \$295 a month!

Chemsave

**CELEBRATING
100 MEMBERS!**

Click here for more information
DAVID PATTON: 0432 515 717

Octagam recall

THE TGA has advised that Octapharma Australia Pty Ltd has agreed to a "precautionary voluntary recall" of all batches of Octagam intravenous immunoglobulin solutions from the Australian market.

The move is due to safety concerns regarding an increased incidence of thromboembolic complications associated with the use of the product in Europe and the USA, the TGA said.

Octagam is used in the management of primary and secondary immunodeficiency, as well as a number of other haematological, immunological and neurological disorders.

At this stage there is no evidence of an increase in the number of serious adverse events associated with the product in Australia.

The TGA said there are adequate supplies of alternative products, and it's not anticipated that the recall will lead to any shortage of supply.

Hearing John Paul

AUSTRALIAN Hearing has partnered with Aussie pop-musician John Paul Young to launch a new campaign to encourage Australians experiencing some loss of hearing, to go and have their hearing checked.

The campaign features an online video which features misinterpretations of lyrics during John Paul Young's chart topping song "I Hate the Music" song.

"If you are worried about your hearing or suspect that you have a level of hearing loss, don't waste time and get it checked out," said John Paul Young, himself a tinnitus sufferer.

To view the video see www.youtube.com/watch?v=8u661thLR00.

Pharmacy Daily Pharmacy Job of the Day!

Jobs4Careers is Australia's leading source for pharmacy jobs ... click here to find out more and see the Pharmacy Daily Job of the Day ...

jobs4careers.com.au



More AusPARs

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has published new Australian Public Assessment Reports (AusPARs) detailing the application and approval process for Amlodipine (as besylate) and Valsartan and Hydrochlorothiazide, Celecoxib and Leuporelin acetate. For info see www.tga.gov.au.

Burn calories sleeping

RESEARCHERS at the University of Sydney have published a new study showing that exercise can help the body burn calories whilst resting.

Published in the Public Library of Science ONE (PLoS ONE), the study proved that performing even low levels of daily activity (such as a daily 30 minute brisk walk) can increase cellular metabolism and thus its ability to burn calories whilst at rest.

"Our research using a mammal model shows a sedentary lifestyle is doubly bad and may lead to weight gain because energy is not used up by muscular activity and metabolic signalling is disrupted, which reduces the body's ability to burn energy," said study author Associate Professor Frank Seebacher.

The current established theory that the metabolism of both humans and animals increases with drops in temperature (below 30-35°C) was also challenged by the research, which found that whilst native Australian bush rats metabolism did speed up in colder conditions, it stayed at the same level in the absence of exercise.

"Rats that had exercised for half an hour a day did show a metabolic response to cold, and burnt more energy as expected," Seebacher said.

"But in rats that did not exercise, lowering the air temperature even down to a chilly 12°C did not stimulate their metabolism and energy consumption at all," he added.

In summation of the study the researchers said that physical activity opened up a number of cryptic genes that control the rate of cellular metabolism.

"In other words, you don't need to take exercise too seriously, just take it regularly," said Seebacher.

Wyeth Nutrition speaks out

WYETH Nutrition has moved to quell concerns over its S-26 Soy product, saying it takes the quality and safety of its products "very seriously".

The statement comes after a recent TV story aired on Channel 7's *Sunday Program* which looked at independent tests carried out on S-26 by Greenpeace and Channel 7, which found traces of genetically modified organisms (GMO).

According to Wyeth, so far it has only laid eyes on one of the tests which reported traces of GMO under 0.1% (the Australian Food Standards Code allowance for GMO is 1%).

"Ensuring the safety and nutritional value of our infant formulas is our fundamental operating priority," a statement from the company said.

"For formula-fed babies who need to avoid dairy products, such as those with cow's milk allergy, soy based products, including S-26 Soy,

are an important alternative," the statement added.

Wyeth stressed that it has had a strict policy of using only non-genetically modified ingredients in all of its infant formulas since 2001.

As such, Wyeth claims that all of its soy and maize ingredient suppliers provide it with either identity-preserved certification or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing which must be conducted independently and renewed on a biennial basis, to ensure that its formulas remain GMO free.

"We are concerned by the allegations made by Greenpeace regarding S-26 Soy and have contacted the organisation to request a copy of the test results in question," the statement said.

Wyeth Nutrition said that it would also welcome the opportunity to work with Greenpeace and relevant authorities to address the matter in detail.



DISPENSARY CORNER

COULD compounding by the light of the moon produce better drugs?

Well that's certainly the theory of a Belgian brewery which has begun selling special batches of beer brewed beneath a full moon.

"We made several tests and noticed that the fermentation was more vigorous, more active," said the owner of Brewery Caulier in Peruwelz, southern Belgium.

"The end product was completely different, stronger, with a taste lasting longer in the mouth," he said.

It's claimed that the full moon speeds up the fermentation process, with the powerful boutique brew containing a hefty 10% alcohol by volume.

THE latest must-have safety article is a zucchini.

One of the tasty green vegetables has reportedly saved the life of a woman in Montana, USA after she was threatened in her back yard by a rampaging black bear.

The *Associated Press* reports that she was in her garden when the 90kg beast attacked one of her dogs.

"She kicked the bear with her left leg as hard as she could," said a police spokesman.

"But the animal would not retreat until struck by a 14-inch courgette (zucchini) from the home owner's garden," he added.

ANIMAL welfare authorities in the UK have solved the mystery of who dyed a cat bright pink.

RSPCA officers were called by a man who found the colourful kitty in his garden, with suspicions that the animal had been dyed by a group of young troublemakers.

However a short time later the cat was claimed by its owner, who admitted that she had turned the normally white cat pink using food colouring - to match her own pink hair.

22-year-old Natasha Gregory said "Pink is my favourite colour. I love it. I've dyed my hair pink and I adore pink clothes. I always wanted a pink animal".

WIN AN ORGANIC HAND WASH



Certified Organics at a low price for FAST sell through!

This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers the chance to win an Aloe Leaf Hand Wash from **Designer Brands NEW Organic Collection**.

Designer Brands Organics provides intense

moisturising protection for hair and skin, leaving it soft and supple for complete head to toe hydration. With the launch of Designer Brands Organics, certified organic skin care no longer means having to pay the price for purity. This paraben-free, urea-free, SLS-free, artificial colour-free range is certified organic, dermatologist tested and is biodegradable. Good for you and the planet!

Based on the healing and nurturing power of organic Aloe Leaf Juice, this is beauty without boundaries when it comes to skin and hair loving benefits and affordability.

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

What is the entire range priced at?

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

The first correct entry received will win!

Hint: Visit www.dbcosmetics.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: **Anna Michael** from **APHS Pharmacy**.