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Brush, floss, rinse

AN article published in *Biological Therapies in Dentistry* has recommended mouth rinse as part of a three step routine (brush, floss, rinse) for optimal oral health.

"Antiseptic mouth rinses, as an adjunct to brushing and flossing provide significant efficacy in helping to reduce bacteria in the dental biofilm," said Griffith University's Professor Saso Ivanovski.

WIN A BLUE STRATOS PACK



This week **PD** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a fantastic

male toiletries pack valued at \$30, courtesy of **Blue Stratos**.

The pack includes Blue Stratos body spray, an Anti-Perspirant Deodorant and deodorising Talc Powder.

Blue Stratos is one of the most famous masculine fragrances, developed in 1976.

For your chance to win this great male toiletries pack simply be the first person to send in an answer to the daily question below to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

The Fougere fragrance concept is based on what two scents?

Hint! Visit www.keysun.com.au
Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Andrew Thompson** from **High Tech Health**.

Complementary warning

THE Complementary Healthcare Council says there is no need for a review of Australian regulations for complementary medicines, after a spate of media reports about the risks associated with purchases from overseas websites.

CHC executive director Wendy Morrow said the organisation "continues to remind customers that they need to be aware that products purchased overseas are not subject to the same regulations as those enforced in Australia.

"It is therefore important to ensure online or telephone purchases of complementary medicines are made only on the recommendation of a qualified

healthcare professional or from a reputable retailer," she added.

She also urged consumers to beware of interactions with complementary medicines, saying: "It is of the utmost importance when buying complementary medicines that you consult a healthcare professional regarding any medicines you are considering taking, as well as those you may already be taking".

She said that locally sourced complementary medicines were subject to high levels of regulation, with the TGA working with the CHC to ensure CMs are "of high quality and safety".

"Isolated instances like those recently reported in the media do not mean regulations need to be reviewed, but clearly demonstrate the need for greater education and understanding of consumers with regard to purchases being made online, particularly from overseas websites," she concluded.

Pay in full - TGA

THE TGA will no longer offer the option of paying its annual registration or listing charges by instalments from 2011/12.

Charges for existing ARTG entries must be paid in full by 01 Oct 2011, while for new entries annual charges must be paid in full no later than the last day of the month following the addition of the item to the register.

105 review submissions

THE TGA Transparency Review Panel has received 105 written submissions during the consultation period, and has now begun the consideration of issues raised by stakeholders.

The fourth meeting of the Panel will be held on 13 Apr.

Struggling pharmacies

MORE than 43% of pharmacies have unacceptable gross margins of less than 26%, according to the figures gathered by Zenbuu, which is the company behind the Good Pharma website funded under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement Practice Change Program.

The website provides a financial diagnostic to check the health of businesses, and identify areas for improvement.

See www.goodpharma.com.au.

No smoke in pharmacy

OFFICIALS in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan have banned the sale of tobacco and tobacco products from all pharmacies in the region.

According to the health officials the ban has not been met with any opposition from local pharmacies, who on the whole have supplied their full support for the action.



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Guild Update

This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild

ScriptMAP-2015, using best available information and based on your own unique dispensing data, provides a comprehensive analysis of the impact of changes to PBS pricing and remuneration over the Agreement period (1 July 2010 to 30 June 2015).

It also provides an action list and guides you through specific changes that may assist your pharmacy, with a focus on generic substitution and dispensing volume growth.

The 2011-12 version of ScriptMAP-2015 has now been released with the following new features:

1. Now analyses 2011-12 against 2010-11 (previous version was 2010-11 against 2009-10)
2. On both the 2011-12 and 2014-15 impact pages, figures have been added to show estimated impact on top line revenue and estimated impact on percentage gross margin
3. A page has been added providing estimates based on higher and lower levels of volume growth
4. The analysis of generic substitution by drug now also shows what % of generics dispensed are the pharmacy's preferred generic brand
5. A page has been added to show drugs with substitution rates below the national average

The ScriptMAP-2015 2011-2012 version is available now at a cost of just \$90 plus GST, exclusively to Guild members.

There is also a subscription option, available for \$270 plus GST, which includes four updated ScriptMAP-2015 reports for a pharmacy over a 12 month period and exclusive access to a monthly ScriptMAP New Brands Report.

For information on how to order a ScriptMAP-2015 report, visit www.guild.au/scriptmap.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

US compounding battle

KV Pharmaceuticals, manufacturers of Makena (hydroxyprogesterone caproate) is set to face some stiff competition after the US Food and Drug Authority opened the flood gates to compounding pharmacists to make up the drug for patients with a prescription, cutting the manufacturer out of the picture.

Makena, whose active ingredient

is a synthetic progestin, is designed to be given as a weekly injectable dose to reduce the risk of certain preterm births in women who have had at least one prior preterm birth.

Last month the FDA approved Makena and granted KV Pharmaceuticals' seven years of exclusivity for the drug under the Orphan Drug Act.

For many years prior to Makena being available, compounding pharmacists in the US had been making up hydroxyprogesterone caproate for patients at a cost of around US\$10 to US\$20 per dose.

KV Pharmaceuticals launched Makena to the market this month at a cost of US\$1,500 per dose.

The manufacturer then followed-up Makena's launch by sending out a letter to all compounding chemists telling them that the FDA would take action if they continued to make their cheaper versions.

The FDA has however fired back this week, saying that under certain conditions a licensed pharmacist may compound medications that are components of FDA approved drugs if the compounding is for "an identified individual patient based on a valid prescription for a compounded product that is necessary for that patient."

"In order to support access to this important drug, at this time and under this unique situation, FDA does not intend to take enforcement action against pharmacies that compound hydroxyprogesterone caproate," the agency said.

Bisolvon campaign

THE importance of treating and managing coughs is set to be pushed to the forefront of consumers' minds this winter, with the launch of Bisolvon's \$2 million advertising campaign.

Featuring across TV, social networking sites, print and online media, the advertising blitz from June to September follows on from the brand's 2010 cough-etiquette campaign which resulted in a 25% growth in sales for Bisolvon's chesty cough remedies.

The advertising will be supported in-pharmacy with point of sale materials as well as consumer promos and pharmacy staff education.

"As a pharmacy-only brand, Bisolvon and Boehringer Ingelheim has a strong commitment to pharmacy," said Bisolvon's Sally Binfield.

"Our aim this year is to ensure that consumers are identifying and treating their coughs correctly – pharmacists and pharmacy assistants will play an important role in this message," she added.

In addition, Bisolvon said it will roll out new child resistant closures for all Bisolvon liquid products.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

IT'S raining worms!

Shocked students at a Scottish school were forced to run for cover recently when the sky opened up to rain down a shower of earthworms.

The students were in the midst of a sport lesson when warm worms began to bucket down.

"We started hearing this weird thudding noise on the ground," said teacher David Chrichton.

"Then they just kept coming down."

"Everyone was having a laugh at me about it until they went out and saw for themselves," he added.

So far no one has been able to explain the bizarre incident, however in a blinding insight members of the school's science department said that it may be a "freak weather thing".

TECHNOLOGY in the afterlife.

It seems people love Apple's products so much that they want their deceased relatives to enjoy them in the afterlife, with thousands of Chinese in Malaysia snapping up paper replicas of Apple's funky iPad 2.

The replicas are being sold as part of the Qingming (tomb sweeping) festival where ancestors are honoured by burning of paper items for them to enjoy in the afterlife.

The iPad 2 has been so popular that it has completely sold out, with mourners having to make do with paper replicas of older iPads.

STICK them on a diet, that'll fix it!

Britain's Reading University, in conjunction with the UK Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, has released research which found that putting sheep and cows on a new diet may reduce greenhouse emissions considerably.

At present agriculture in the UK accounts for around 9% of its greenhouse gas emissions.

The study found that a diet of maize silage, naked oats and higher sugar grasses could reduce cow and sheep farting levels by between 20%-33%.