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Optium test problems

ABBOTT Diabetes Care has informed the TGA of a problem associated with its Optium blood glucose test strips: Optium Point of Care Glucose Test Strips 100s (G3cH); Optium Glucose Test Strips 100s (G3c); and Optium Glucose Test Strips 10s (G3c).

The affected test strips may give falsely low blood glucose readings if exposed to high temperatures for extended periods of time.

Inaccurately low readings may occur if the strip takes longer than five seconds to 'fill', and if this occurs the strip should be discarded and the test repeated.

See www.tga.gov.au for details.

New PBS medicines

AS of 01 Jan, Soliris (for the treatment of paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria) is now available to patients on the PBS.

Other 2011 PBS additions include bipolar I treatment Quetiapine modified release tablets (Seroquel XR); and Mesalazine suppositories (Salofalk) for treatment of acute episodes of ulcerative proctitis.

National prevention focus

THE start of 2011 has heralded a new milestone in Australia's preventative health strategy with the formal establishment of the Australian National Preventive Health Agency.

Designed to initiate and support preventative health programs, the Agency will be the Government's leading advisor on preventative health issues.

"The Australian National Preventive Health Agency will bring together some of the best expertise in Australia to gather, analyse and disseminate the latest evidence on ways to prevent chronic disease," a statement from the Department of Health and Ageing said.

Key areas of preventative health focus will include obesity and substance abuse (including alcohol and tobacco).

"Potentially avoidable diseases account for around 20 per cent of Australia's total health care expenditure," said the Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon.

"Supporting Australians to avoid chronic diseases by leading

healthier lifestyles and reducing the burden on our health system is common sense," she added.

Launched on 01 Jan 2011, the Agency is currently developing a five-year strategic and annual operation plan for consideration by Australian health ministers.

Heading up the operation is transitional chief executive officer, Dr Rhonda Galbally.

Galbally comes to the position having spent ten years as the ceo of VicHealth, and also serving as ceo of 'Our Community', as well as conducting the Galbally Review of Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Legislation (published in 2001).

The appointment has been welcomed by The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, with National President Kos Sclavos saying Galbally is "ideally qualified to steer this important new body as it develops its role in delivering the Federal Government's aim of keeping people healthy and out of hospital".

"The Guild is confident Dr Galbally's significant knowledge of the schedules, and their role in facilitating primary and preventive health care, will contribute to her ability to guide the new agency.

"Community pharmacists stand ready to add further value to our health system through an enhanced role in preventive health care," Sclavos added.

Abstral approval

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved a new medication, Abstral (fentanyl) to aid cancer patients manage pain.

Approved for use in patients aged over 18, who already use opioid pain medication and able to tolerate high doses of opioid medications, Abstral is designed to manage breakthrough pain which is not alleviated by a patient's normal pain management plan.

APP registration open

REGISTRATION is now open for the APP2011 trade exhibition open 19 - 20 March on the Gold Coast. Click below to register for free.

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SERIOUS consequences for skipping exercise.

Brazilian soccer midfielder, Somalia, is facing up to six months in prison, after it was discovered he faked his own kidnapping to get out of a rigorous training session at his home club of Botafogo.

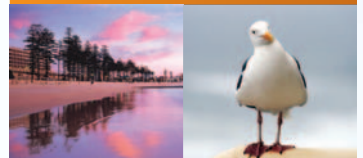
The elaborate ruse was reported by Somalia shortly after the alleged event took place last Wednesday.

Somalia told authorities that during the two hours his team was training he was carjacked and forced to drive aimlessly through Rio's streets, before being robbed of jewellery and cash.

The 'kidnapping' ruse was discovered after authorities found inconsistencies in his story, as well as contradictory security video.

It is thought Somalia concocted his story to avoid having his pay docked for missing training.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia



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IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO THINK ZINKE

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Each pack is valued at \$26.93 and contains 3 products for babies and toddlers: Clear Zinke Roll on, Stick & Lotion.



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