

## Inter professional Communication

Overcoming Psychological Barriers

### Event details:

Liverpool ..... 1 May  
Illawarra ..... 5 June  
Coffs Harbour ..... 17 July  
Penrith ..... 24 July  
Newcastle ..... 18 Sept  
Albury ..... 23 Oct  
Tweed Heads ..... 13 Nov

10 Group 2 CPD credits

Register at:

[www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

## Chemmart wellbeing

**CHEMMART** Pharmacy has launched a new wellbeing service and communication strategy to be rolled out to its 220 pharmacies, which will see “trained practitioners” provide 20 Minute Health Checks.

Under the scheme, clients will fill out a health questionnaire, and will be able to have practitioners test their blood pressure, blood glucose, cholesterol, body mass index and waist measurement.

The service launch follows research conducted by Chemmart which found that 90% of customers want to do “whatever it takes to have good health”, but only 20% feel they do enough to achieve it.

“The service will be an integral part of our overall wellbeing strategy and will enable us to bring health services to the core of the business, making it an even greater competency and a unique part of our offering,” said Chemmart Pharmacy Executive Director Jonathan Layton.

“We are already delivering a number of health services so we will focus on building this range from specialist areas, such as diabetes support and sleep apnoea, to services which are relevant to a much broader section of the community,” he added.

The Checks are priced at \$20 and are being supported by a national ‘Take 20 Australia’ campaign.

## PSA: drugs and the kidney

A **NEW** online training module which examines drugs and the kidney has been released this month by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

Developed in conjunction with experts including renal pharmacist Matthew Cervelli from the Royal Adelaide Hospital in SA, the module has been designed to allow flexibility for busy pharmacists in what information they access and when they assess it.

The module is presented by Cervelli, and aims to provide clarity for pharmacists over renal patient dosing, alterations and data.

“Renal patients are quite complex and finding some of the answers to the questions posed on renal dosing and drug interactions can be quite difficult to manage, and most have additional co-morbidities to consider,” said the PSA in a statement.

The module will help pharmacists with tools and questions to ask renal patients to help ensure dosing recommendations and decisions optimise patient care and medicine safety.

Also included in the podcast/online lecture is an overview of renal function, chronic kidney disease, and alterations in drug dosing required in renal impairment.

The PSA expects that upon completion of the module pharmacists will be able to

discuss basic renal physiology and functions; describe the cause of end stage renal disease and treatment options; discuss drug treatments used to prevent and treat renal disease and associated complications; describe the process of renal transplantation and associated complications, treatments and drug interactions; and apply drug dosing alterations to renal impairment and dialysis patients.

Pharmacists who view and successfully complete the module have the potential to earn themselves 4 Group 2 continuing professional development credits.

The modules are available free to PSA members at the PSA website [www.psa.org.au/onlinecpd](http://www.psa.org.au/onlinecpd).

## Diabetes care closer

**RENAL** failure patients living in Western Australia are being offered a helping hand, with the announcement of \$57m for five new projects across the state, including 22 new renal dialysis chairs statewide.

## Stent expansion

**THE** US FDA has expanded the indication of the RX Acculink carotid stent to allow its use in patients at risk of stroke due to clogged neck arteries.

## New NSW hospital

**RESIDENTS** living on the NSW South Coast can now look forward to a new hospital based in Bega.

Announced this week, the new \$160.1m Bega hospital will replace the existing Southern Eastern NSW regional hospital, with the aim of improving the care of residents, and boosting job options for healthcare staff, including pharmacists.

Primarily the facility will increase the number of beds from 95 to 136 - 122 overnight beds and 14 day only - and will also feature an expanded emergency department, develop a regional inpatient mental health service, and offer a range of clinical support services on a single site including medical imaging, pharmacy and pathology.

As yet the DoH has not said when work on the hospital will commence, and when it expects the new facility to be completed.

## WIN TASTY TREATS FROM SLIM SECRETS



This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win great packs of tasty treats from award winning, globally exported **Slim Secrets**.

Slim Secrets are the convenient and tasty treats to compliment your health, fitness and weight

loss goals. Each pack is valued at \$50 and contains one carton of 10 Protein Shots and one carton of 12 Designer Cookies.

Slim Secrets Protein Shots are packed with 14.5g whey protein, lower than a bench press in fat, naturally sweetened with stevia and less than 65 calories. Just add water or milk, shake to your favourite tune on your ipod and voila... your protein is served!

Designer Cookies are a great snack for between meals when you are craving something sweet but want a healthier alternative.

For your chance to win this exciting prize pack, simply be the first person to send through the correct answer to the question below:

**Name two benefits of Slim Secrets Protein Shots**

Email your answer to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

Hint: Visit [www.slimsecrets.com.au](http://www.slimsecrets.com.au)

**Congratulations** to yesterday's lucky winner: **Katherine Henderson** from **Chemmart Pharmacy**.

5<sup>th</sup> Community Pharmacy Agreement

Register NOW

Pharmacy Practice Incentives

[www.5cpa.com.au](http://www.5cpa.com.au)

p: 1300 555 262 e: [support@5cpa.com.au](mailto:support@5cpa.com.au)



The Pharmacy Practice Incentives are funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

## Guild Update

This week's update from  
the Pharmacy Guild

### Budget

Tonight Treasurer Wayne Swan will deliver the first Budget of the Gillard Government.

Pharmacy Guild members who have registered their email addresses with the organisation will receive a special Budget newsletter telling them about any aspects of the Budget which affect community pharmacy.

The mainstream media will provide almost instant saturation coverage of the headline items in the Budget, but some measures that affect Guild members won't necessarily make the coverage.

That's why the Guild will be sending out a tailored report on the fine print of the Budget from a community pharmacy perspective.

There has been much speculation about a "tough" Budget, with suggestions there will be cuts to medical research funding, and even suggestions that there could be a one-off increase in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme patient co-payments.

A recent report in *The Australian* newspaper said the Government had looked at the idea of PBS co-payment increases and decided they would be too politically painful.

One thing the Guild is hoping for is that the Government has heeded the message released this week by the Medicines Partnership of Australia (*Pharmacy Daily* yesterday), which demonstrates that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is working well and spending is well under control.



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

## UK early drug scheme axed

**DESPITE** wide media coverage throughout the British Isles, the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has taken the unusual step of dumping its proposed Earlier Access to Medicines Scheme.

The scheme, announced in late 2009, was designed to make a selection of new and promising drugs available to the public before they were formally licensed.

As such, it was proposed that the earlier access program would operate within the existing regulatory framework to make drugs available to patients suffering from life threatening or

seriously debilitating conditions who did not have adequate treatment options to aid them or to prolong their life.

The much-hyped proposal stipulated that the drugs selected would be made available to patients after Phase III trials had proven a positive benefit/risk profile, meaning patients would receive them at least a year ahead of market authorisation.

"Such a scheme would offer significant benefit to patients suffering from life threatening or seriously debilitating conditions for which medicines are being developed but cannot yet be made available as licensed treatments," a statement from the agency said last year.

"Whilst access to such medicines will – at least in most cases – be at the end of the formal development stage, the scheme could still provide potentially life-saving treatments for around one year earlier than at present," the MHRA added.

Following a 12 week public consultation in early 2010, it was expected that the scheme would come into effect later that year or early in 2011.

The hopes of patients however were dashed this week, after the MHRA announced it would not be progressing the progress Earlier Access to Medicines Scheme, due to "the many other ongoing initiatives in the NHS".

"Other existing mechanisms for earlier access to unlicensed medicines such as via clinical trials and named patient use, are unaffected by this," the MHRA said.

### Overweight babies

**A UK** National Health Service trial is aiming to discover whether dosing obese pregnant mothers with metformin will reduce the risk of childhood obesity.

According to reports, the trial hopes to reduce the amount of sugar being passed from the mother to her unborn child, so that the baby is born at a normal size.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**CLEARLY** they haven't heard of Listerine in Korea.

Researchers are excited about the development of a so-called "Kiss Apple" - a specially created fruit small enough to fit into a purse or pocket for rapid deployment in romantic situations.

Koreans are very fond of garlic in their food, meaning that kissing can sometimes bring up the problem of bad breath.

"We want young people to eat many apples and came up with the idea of portable apples for your bags," said a researcher at South Korea's Rural Development Administration.

"We can mass produce the species with stronger functions that control food odours in as few as two years," he added.

The innovation has been met with some skepticism from consumers, who suggested that whipping out and crunching on an apple might kill the mood.

**A BABY** girl has been born in China with two heads and one body, following an emergency C-section earlier in the month.

According to reports, the child was shown to be developing normal in the first two scans undertaken by her mother, and it was not until the third scan did doctors notice that the baby had two heads.

Soon after the mother went into labour and doctors delivered the little girl who was also found to have two spines, one and a half hearts and other shared organs.

"We couldn't do a separation surgery on the baby," said the surgeon who delivered the child "They must live together," the surgeon added.

