

Pharmacy DAILY

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Pharmacy E-Bulletin

THIS week's edition of the Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy E-Bulletin is now available for viewing and download from the new **PD** website.

It deals with skin reactions associated with the use of anti-epileptic and mood stabilising medication lamotrigine.

See the bulletin online at pharmacydaily.com.au/ebulletin.

Get behind the ride

PHARMACIST Lewis Pounentis is calling for the industry to support his team's efforts in the upcoming Adelaide Bike Race (16-22 Oct).

The race aims to raise \$100,000 for the Flinders Uni Autism Early Intervention Research Program, and will see riders stop at Ballarat, Hamilton, Penola, Kingston SE, Meningie and Murray Bridge.

To donate, visit www.GoTo.org.au.

Manufacturing support

AUSTRALIA'S manufacturing sector is increasingly under threat at a time when export demand is still growing, according to the Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia.

The comments come as the CHC joins with the Australian Manufacturing Sector in calling for more governmental support for the industry "as it faces its worst crisis in 100 years".

"CHC does not suggest tariffs or other trade barriers as a way forward, rather focusing on industry support programs around this major structural adjustment for the industry," a CHC statement said.

Restore PBS confidence -MA

MEDICINES Australia is calling on the government to address its recent "missteps" with the PBS, and in doing so build consumer and industry confidence in its healthcare reform management.

Speaking yesterday at the annual eye for pharma Sales and Marketing Excellence Conference, Medicines Australia Chief Executive Dr Brendan Shaw told attendees that the government has no need to delay or block listing new medicines on the PBS.

"The PBS is sustainable once the Government takes into account its own forecasts of modest PBS growth and the headroom being created for new medicines through price disclosure savings and patent expiries," he said.

Illustrating his point, Shaw said

Doryx approval

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved a dual scored 150 mg Doryx (doxycycline hyclate) delayed-release tablet.

The oral tetracycline-class antibiotic features a special coating which stops the release of doxycycline hyclate until the tablets reach the intestine, meaning fewer gastro side effects.

Albumen AusPAR

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has published a new Australian Public Assessment Report for prescription medicines on CSL's Albumen (human).

See www.tga.gov.au for details.

that patents for 11 of the top 20 medicines worldwide are set to expire shortly, whilst the introduction of price disclosure means that the market is already enjoying "significant price reductions".

The government is already reaping the rewards of greater competition in the medicines marketplace, he added.

"[The] Government should be talking up its capacity to deliver the latest innovative medicines for Australians, not holding them back," Shaw said.

"Spending on new medicines generates savings in the health system and they are an important investment in Australians' quality of life," he added.

Shaw claimed the govt had "heard the message" that uncertainty in medicines listing is universally opposed by health professionals, the community and industry.

"It's time the Government restored the usual practice for PBS listings," he added.

Mineral Workshop

BLACKMORES is inviting healthcare professionals to a new mineral therapy workshop, titled 'What's With The Attitude? Psychoneuroemotional Factors in Clinical Treatment'.

The interactive workshop will cover the latest insights and prescribing techniques.

Attendees will receive a free showbag, workbook and meal, register by calling 1800 151 493.

Chemotherapy changes

THE latest issue of Medicare Australia's 'Bulletin Board' newsletter for pharmacists, issued today, includes a further reminder about the changes to prescribing and dispensing of Chemotherapy Drugs which come into effect from 01 Dec this year.

Announced in the 2010-11 Budget, the changes will require prescribers to write dose specific prescriptions using milligrams without specific references to forms and strengths.

Other changes will see payment approved for suppliers/pharmacists for the combination of vials that most cost effectively makes up the required patient dose.

In addition a patient co-payment will be applied to an original prescription and not to repeats.

A program has been created to help pharmacists work out the most cost effective combination of vials to make up the patient's dose, which will be integrated into upgraded dispensing software programs and available for usage by pharmacists from 01 December.

According to Medicare, any combination of vials may be dispensed but the algorithm determines the remuneration pharmacists will receive.

New fees (effective 01 Dec) will also be introduced to compensate pharmacists (in addition to the Ready Prepared Dispensing Fee of \$6.42) and will include: Preparation Fee (\$40), Distribution Fee (\$24) (which replaces the wholesale mark-up), and Diluent Fee (\$4.75).

For more info call 132 290.

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Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry.

EMIRATES is inviting Australians to enjoy Europe in the Autumn, with a range of discounted fares valid from now until 30 November 2011.

Discounted airfares include a return flights to Prague from \$1,802, return flights to Athens from \$1,836 and return flights to Rome from 1,802.

See www.emirates.com/au

MSC Cruises is offering a 20-night cruise from Abu Dhabi, across the Mediterranean and into the Atlantic to Southampton, aboard *MSC Lirica* from \$91 per night.

The voyage departs on 11 March 2012, and will call into Muscat and Salalah, Oman; Aqaba, Jordan; (pass through the Suez Canal); Barcelona, Spain; and Lisbon, Portugal before berthing in the UK.

The voyage is priced from \$1,829pp twin share including meals and entertainment as well as invitations to a captain's cocktail party and gala dinner.

See www.msccruises.com.au

APT is celebrating this month's launch of *ms AmaLotus*, by offering a two-for-the-price-of-one deal on seven of its 8, 12 and 13-day Mekong River cruise packages, departing in Dec.

13-day December Angkor, Mekong and Ho Chi Minh packages are now priced from \$5,545 per couple, for bookings made before 15 Oct.

For details call 1300 229 804, or visit www.aptouring.com.au

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Australia getting bigger

AUSTRALIANS are unaware that they are overweight and also do not understand the health implications of their lifestyle, according to a new Bupa Health Pulse Survey.

According to the research around one in six Australians have a body mass index which falls into either the overweight or obese categories, despite the fact that only one third of Aussies consider themselves to be over their healthy weight range.

Despite these figures, 51% of Australians told researchers that they would like to lose weight, whilst 62% said they wanted to exercise more.

This positive note was however somewhat muted by the finding that 44% of Aussies did little or no regular exercise, despite the fact that 76% said they believed it was the individual's responsibility to adopt healthy lifestyle habits.

Aussies also admitted to low intake of fruit and veggies, with only 28% eating five or more servings on

most days.

In terms of alcohol consumption however, Aussies are great guzzlers, being the second largest consumers of grog behind the British.

In fact, the international survey ranked Australia as the third most obese country out of the 12 reviewed, behind America and Saudi Arabia.

"The results highlight a serious disparity between our perception of ourselves, and the reality of our behaviour, which is leading many Australians firmly down the path of chronic disease," said Dr Bert Boffa, Head of Medical Services for Bupa.

"The research found the biggest barrier to Australians making healthier lifestyle choices was personal motivation.

"Time and expense were also cited as other important factors.

"We need to arm Australians with better tools and information to help them make better informed health choices," he added.

WIN AN AROMABABY PACK



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with **Aromababy** again and is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a baby pack (pictured left), valued at \$26.95.

Aromababy is an Australian-made skin care rich in

certified organic, natural oils and gmo free pure vitamin e.

As used in select hospitals for fifteen years, this professional, world-leading brand is not sold to supermarkets assuring you of a pharmacy-focused approach to expanding your baby care category. Totally safe for mother to be/new mother and sensitive skin, Aromababy is a long time supporter of the Eczema Association.

To win this great baby pack, simply send in your answer to the question below:

Do Aromababy® use mineral oil or other petro chemicals?

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

The first correct entry received will win!

Hint: Visit: www.aromababy.com

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: **Michael Venn** from **Murray T Martin Pharmacy**.

DISPENSARY CORNER

THERE'S nothing like deep love.

Scientists at the University of Aberdeen have reportedly unlocked the secret to Barry White's womanising success, his deep voice.

According to the researchers, women are more likely to remember things said to them by a deep male voice, and also use vocal pitch as an assessor of male genetic quality and behaviour.

THE price of looking good.

A 56-year old Chinese man, Zhang Nan, has ended up in hospital after a home beauty treatment went awfully wrong.

The procedure involved swimming with live eels, which Nan was told would help to shave ten years off his looks as they would eat off his dead skin.

To save money, Nan went to the markets, bought ten live six inch eels, got them home, popped them in a bathtub filled with water then hopped in.

At first Nan enjoyed the wriggly eels eating off his skin, but after a short while he experienced a sharp stab of pain in his groin, and watched in horror as an eel began to worm up his urethra.

"I tried to grab the eel to pull it out again but it was too slippery and disappeared," he said.

Nan overcame his embarrassment a few hours later when the worm didn't reappear, and took himself to Wuhan People's Hospital where doctors used an ultrasound to locate the wayward eel in his bladder.

It took a three hour operation to remove the eel, which was deceased.

Nan has now sworn off eel baths, and will instead pursue other means to retain his youth.

