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Aussie blood pressure

A NEW study has found that despite current treatment targets, many Australians with cardiovascular disease still have persistently high blood pressure.

The findings were part of Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute's *Pressure Points in Primary Care* study, Australia's largest study of blood pressure levels in general practice.

The study looked at more than 116,000 patients whose blood pressure readings were recorded in 2009-10 (after the introduction [in 2008] of individualised treatment targets based on risk categories), and found that 48% of patients without CVD or related conditions and 59% of patients with CVD or a related condition recorded a blood pressure level above their target (130/80mmHg and 140/90 mmHg respectively) despite treatment.

Interestingly, researchers noted that 19% of patients who recorded high blood pressure levels (>140/90mmHg) were not prescribed blood pressure lowering drugs.

Looking at the blood pressure records of 532,050 adults who visited their GP between 2005 and 2010, researchers also found that of the 25% of patients who took antihypertensive drugs, 41% had blood pressure levels above the traditional treatment targets.

"It is clear that we need to apply more intensive and systematic approaches (including treatment and follow-up programs) to blood pressure management in primary care to assist healthcare professionals and their patients to reach ideal blood pressure levels," said Baker IDI's Professor Simon Stewart.

Govt pain killer crack down

PHARMACISTS will be able to better monitor and stop prescription drug abuse, with a new five million dollar electronic records system that has been announced by the Federal Government.

Wholistic health

THE Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia's 2012-13 Pre-Budget Submission calls on the Government to prepare an industry plan for the complementary medicines sector.

"The Plan would act as a 'roadmap' showing where the industry is currently positioned and best directions for optimal development," the CHC said.

The plan, according to the CHC's submission should include: mechanisms to facilitate market exclusivity for a period of time to encourage innovation and support ongoing clinical trials; as well as strategic policy directions to invest an approximately relevant proportion of NHMRC funding towards complementary medicines.

The CHC has also requested that the plan should consider access to appropriate industry support schemes including export development and import replacement; a package of measures to support development and retention of skilled manufacturing positions; options for supporting further research and development; and measures to streamline current regulatory arrangements.

The Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs program is designed to help combat abuse of controlled drugs including prescription painkillers and will monitor the prescribing and dispensing of addictive drugs in real time.

Access to the system's centralised database will be provided to doctors, pharmacists and health authorities across a secure network which will contain prescription history records.

"While controlled drugs such as oxycodone, morphine and codeine play an important clinical role in managing pain, abuse of these drugs can cause enormous harm and is a growing problem in the community," said the Minister for Health, Tanya Plibersek.

"The new records system will be able to flag patients in real time who have repeatedly sought controlled drugs, helping to prevent people from inappropriately using the drugs or selling them to others.

"If a pharmacist determines it is not clinically appropriate to dispense a medicine to a patient, it is their duty of care to restrict access to that patient," she added.

The system was first developed in Tasmania and has been operational there for more than twelve months.

The new agreement will see the program implemented across all states and territories from July this year.

APP2012 registrations

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is reminding pharmacists that online registration for APP2012 closes on 01 March 2012.

See p3 of today's *Pharmacy Daily* for details.

Aussie ageing 2012

THE Australasian Academy of Anti-Ageing Medicine's 6th annual conference will take place in August, and will focus on compounding pharmacy and its growing role in Anti-Ageing Medicine.

Earlybird specials are available for pharmacists now, see www.a5m.net.

Better respite care

THE Government is extending the funding for 650 community-based respite services around Australia for another two years with \$293m.

"Today's announcement will mean that carers can plan their needs for respite in advance and with certainty for an extra two years," said the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler.

"Carers will be able to access respite in a variety of settings including in day centres, host families, overnight community cottages and in their own homes," he added.

The extra funds will be provided to respite services under the National Respite for Carers Program including Demonstration Day Respite Services, and will guarantee their future until 30 June 2014.



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Weekly Comment

Welcome to *Pharmacy Daily's* weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Joanne Lyons** from **Bookmarx Bookkeeping**.



Health Checks

Sometimes bookkeepers and accountants can get so busy they don't take the time to review or deal with errors in bookkeeping data files.

There are a few things that can be done to give your books a basic "health check".

For example, when reconciling bank statements, are there any unreconciled items?

If so and they go back many months, then entries are not correct.

These amounts need to be cleared out but you need to be careful how you do it as it will affect previously lodged BASs.

They may need to be reversed or your previous BASs may need to be adjusted.

BASs are easily adjusted if lodged online.

A purchases reconciliation report should be done regularly to keep an eye on any out of balance amounts, if you have these then something has been entered that is incorrect.

When you look at your payables report, are there really old amounts on the list that you don't really owe?

If so these amounts should be checked with a supplier statement, or by phoning your supplier, to see if the amount is really owed.

If not then the purchases should be reversed to the current BAS period so your GST is correct.

Incorrect entries need to be fixed so your financial reports such as profit and loss will be correct.

EMA clamps down on drugs

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) has released its final recommendations for 12 medicines manufactured by Ben Venue Laboratories- which at present has suspended manufacturing at its Bedford Ohio facility (*PD* 12 Jan).

Ben Venue (a wing of Boehringer Ingelheim), suspended operations at its Ohio facility in November last year after a joint inspection by the US Food and Drug Administration and the EMA which found contamination and quality management issues, and that the facility's equipment was overdue for maintenance and requalification.

This month, the EMA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) has given final recommendations for 12 out of 14 centrally authorised medicines manufactured at the Bedford Ohio site: Angiox, Busilvex, Vidaza, Vistide, Velcade, Ecalta diluent, Soliris, Cayston, Luminity, Mepact, Torisel and Vibativ.

Last month the European regulatory network issued a restricted Good Manufacturing Practice Certificate to Ben Venue in order to stop the EU supply of its non-essential medicines, while allowing the continued supply of essential drugs.

In addition, Ben Venue has been removed as the manufacturing site from the marketing authorisation of Vistide and Cayston, whilst the CHMP has now asked marketing authorisation holders to remove Ben Venue's manufacturing site for all other medicines.

The CHMP also recommended the suspension of marketing authorisations for two drugs, Vibativ and Luminity (which are not marketed in the EU), as the pair have no alternative manufacturer or formula available, whilst for the remaining 10 medicines, it recommended maintaining the marketing authorisations as alternative suppliers/formulations are available.

DISPENSARY CORNER



KEEPING GP's in business.

Robert Thornton has been named Britain's most accident prone jockey, after clocking up his 42nd career injury.

During his career the 33-year old jockey has broken 24 ribs, broken his arm, shattered his collarbone, lost a few teeth, and torn a bunch of ligaments and tendons.

"All jockeys expect to take a fall and be sat out once in a while," said Thornton.

"But I think - well, hope - I have probably had my fair share for now," he added.

So why does he continue? Well in addition to be gifted at accidents, Thornton is extremely good at getting horses to jump well and is known as one of Britain's most successful jump jockeys.

In addition to high numbers of breaks and tears, throughout his career has scored wins in more than 20 top jump races.

"I haven't thought about giving up and the day I do will be the day I retire," he said.

"You can't ride with thoughts like that in your head," he added.

SURE way to catch a cold.

It was a cold few hours for one Romanian man who had to dig his way into his house after it was buried by a three-metre deep snow drift which buried his house.

The snow was caused by the country's coldest winter for more than 50 years, which over the course of the season has also buried hundreds of other houses.

STRONG hair not a problem.

A 51kg woman has managed to pull two-cars weighing a combined 4.5-tons with just her hair.

An acrobatic performer in China, the woman said she started building strength by pulling a single car.

"I'm worried that I might lose some hair," she said.

"But it's a great feeling to move something so big when I am so small," she added.

WIN AN INNOXA PRIZE PACK



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with **Innoxia** this week and is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a prize pack, which includes an Innoxia Nail Polish Plush Velvet and an Innoxia Classic Colour Lipstick in Dewberry (pictured to the left).

The essentials on everyone's lips and nails are the NEW Innoxia Classic Colour Lipsticks and Nail Polishes.



Innoxia's NEW Classic Colour Lipstick range is inspired by beautiful, wearable, everyday shades for a smooth natural looking pout. A rich, creamy formulation enriched with Vitamin E leaves lips feeling soft and smooth. The natural ingredients allow full coverage and a sheer finish to create the most natural looking lips.

The NEW Innoxia Nail Polishes boast a quick to dry and long lasting formula that is formaldehyde free.

To win, simply be the first person to send through the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

How many nail polishes are in the Innoxia range?

Hint: Visit www.innoxia.com.au