Pharmacy DAILY -

Thursday 12 July 2012

PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

Today in Pharmacy

PHARMACY Daily is sporting two pages jam packed with the latest pharmacy news, plus a full page from Instigo promoting its Pharmacy Catalyst as a complete pharmacy solution, comprising a retail & buying group, LifeClub loyalty solution, retail consulting, staff training, marketing and professional services, see p3.

Labelling consultation

THE Therapeutic Goods
Administration is reminding
interested parties that the
consultation period for its medicine
labelling and packaging review is
closing on 24 August.

The consultation covers recommendations to change the presentation of information on the labels and packages of medicines.

The recommendations cover products purchased from a supermarket or a pharmacy without a prescription, or products purchased following a consultation with a health professional, usually with a prescription.

See www.tga.gov.au.

DMAA on Schedule 9

THE delegate of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing has made an interim decision on the scheduling of 1,3dimethylamylamine (DMAA).

The delegate has proposed that from 01 August 2012 DMAA be listed in Schedule 9 of the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (SUSMP).

For details see www.tga.gov.au.

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Unapproved Board rules

UNAPPROVED pharmacies may dispense medicines listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and RPBS, but only as non-PBS (private) supplies, according to the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

The ruling is outlined in a new Fact Sheet produced by the Pharmacy Board which outlines to all pharmacists the consequences for consumers in relation to pharmaceutical benefits entitlements when obtaining supply from an unapproved pharmacy and when switching between PBS and non-PBS (private) supply.

An unapproved pharmacy is defined as a pharmacy which is licensed to operate as a pharmacy business, but is not authorised to supply pharmaceutical benefits and does not have a PBS Pharmacy Approval Number.

The Fact Sheet stipulates that if a patient chooses to have a prescription that is eligible to be supplied on the PBS/RPBS, filled at an unapproved pharmacy the payment made for that medicine will not count towards the patient's PBS Safety Net Threshold.

In addition the patient cannot elect to "switch" any subsequent repeats on that prescription to be supplied under the PBS/RPBS.

As such, once an unapproved pharmacy is used to dispense a valid PBS/RPBS prescription, that supply, and all subsequent repeats, must be supplied as non-PBS (private) supplies.

Conversely if an approved

pharmacy is always used to dispense an original PBS/RPBS prescription, and any subsequent repeats, patients may choose to "switch" between PBS/RPBS and private dispensing at any time.

Other restrictions for patients using unapproved pharmacies to dispense PBS/RPBS approved medications, mean that they will not be able to obtain a refund from DHS-Medicare for any amount paid over and above the PBS copayment for a medicine.

"If your customer wants the remaining repeats on the prescription that was previously dispensed by an unapproved pharmacy to be dispensed under the PBS/RPBS, your customer will need to go back to their prescriber and ask for a new prescription," the Board said.

"The new prescription will then need to be taken to an approved pharmacy for dispensing under the PBS/RPBS," the Board added.

Surgery in Australia

OVER a quarter of all hospitalisations in Australia between 2010-11 resulted in an operation, according to the latest data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

The report found that during 2010-11 around 1 million surgery hospitalisations occurred in public hospitals and 1.4 million in private hospitals.

In addition, the AIHW said that in the five years to 2011 admissions involving surgery rose 2.4% per annum in public hospitals and 4.1% per annum in private hospitals.

This trend however altered slightly in 2010-11 with the annual growth in surgery admissions in public hospitals outstripping the annual growth in private hospitals 2.7% to 2.1%.

"This probably reflects a renewed emphasis by all levels of government to reduce elective surgery backlogs in public hospitals," said AIHW spokesperson Alison Verhoeven.

WIN A NUTRI-SYNERGY PACK



This week **Pharmacy Daily** has teamed up with **Plunkett Pharmaceuticals** and is giving 5 lucky readers the chance to win a Nutri-Synergy prize pack.

Each prize pack includes NS-7 Dry Skin Moisturiser, NS-8 Rough Skin Treatment, NS-5 Protective Hand Cream and NS-3 Lip Balm.

The Nutri-Synergy pack contains NS moisturisers to keep your skin smooth and soft in winter, as well as NS Hand Cream and Lip Balm.

Nutri-Synergy effectively moisturises and treats dry, sensitive and problem skin while minimising irritation. Nutri-Synergy works with your skin by using lipids similar to those in your skin, increasing moisture levels and reducing moisture loss.

Proudly Australian made and owned. Available from Priceline and pharmacies or visit www.nutrisynergy.com.au.

For your chance to win this great pack, simply be the first person to correctly answer the question below.

True or False?
NS-5 Protective Hand Cream works by locking in moisturiser and locking out irritants

Send your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Monika Smith from Priceline Pharmacy.



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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, brought to you by Dettol.

Musson for Health

Musson for Health

When you travel it's important to take enough of your regular medications with you. Also pack Dettol Healthy Touch Hand Sanitiser for convenience to help stop the spread of germs.

www.germhub.com.au

ADVENTURE World has released early bird specials for Australian love birds planning their Cook Islands wedding, including a five night escape including return flights from only \$999 per person.

The deal includes five nights accommodation for the price of three in a luscious garden room at the Edgewater Resort & Spa, return economy flights with Air New Zealand, airport taxes, return airport transfers and a tropical breakfast daily.

In addition, couples can add a Tipani Wedding Package for bookings of a minimum of five nights at the Edgewater Resort, and will receive a 50% discount.

The Tipani Wedding Package includes a beachside wedding ceremony overlooking the resort lagoon, a personal wedding planner, marriage license and certificate, transfers to and from the registry office and services of a celebrant or minister. Call 1300 320 795.

BENTOURS is offering a 20% discount on a 13-day voyage through Antarctica in November.

Priced from \$6,335pp for Nov departures, the voyage includes one night accom in Ushuaia with brekkie, 11 nights and all meals onboard, lectures and an education program, landings and cruises in Antarctica.

Call 1800 221 712.

Dementia needs funding

OVER half of all Australians mistake the symptoms of dementia for being a normal part of ageing, according to a new Newspoll survey.

According to the survey, nearly one in five Australians said that if a family member had memory loss or confusion they would think it was a natural part of ageing, whilst 10% of people aged 19-34 told researchers that they never heard of Alzheimer's disease.

Discussing the survey, Ita Buttrose, President of Alzheimer's Australia, said that worrying results reflected a lack of awareness and stigma surrounding dementia, which can lead to social exclusion not only for people with dementia, but also their carers and families, along with delays in seeking medical help.

"Dementia research is grossly

underfunded in relation to health and care costs, disability burden and prevalence compared to other chronic diseases," Buttrose said.

"We want to get the message across that as a society we can beat dementia in the same way we have tackled HIV/Aids, cancer and heart disease," she said.

As such, Alzheimer's Australia is advocating for an increase of \$200m in government investment for research, which it says would be equivalent of 1% of the total cost of care.

"And what could be more positive than the next stage of our campaign to invest in research and start working now towards a world without dementia," Buttrose said.

"It is an ambitious goal, but one which I know is worth fighting for," she added.

DISPENSARY CORNER

LUCKY escape.

A British man has walked away from a car crash that could have very easily ended his life, with only a few scrapes and bruises.

The man's girlfriend was driving the car when it crashed through a fence surrounding the home of pensioner Howard Hamilton.

The event was captured by Hamilton's security camera and shows the car slam through the fence almost tipping sideways in the process and throwing the man six feet out of the car via the vehicle's sunroof.

Despite the violence of the accident, the man simply rolled over, dusted himself off and stood up.

"It was like something out of a police action film," said Hamilton.

"Somebody could have easily been killed if they had walking by," he added.

To view the clip **CLICK HERE**.

LOOKING to retire? Got a spare \$4.5 million?

If you are interested in leaving the pharmacy behind for lazy days of relaxation on your own private island, then \$4.5 million could make your dream a reality.

The island, for sale in Scotland, measures 260 acres, and is aptly named 'King's Island' or 'Eilaen Righ'.

Located a mere 320 metres from the Scottish mainland, the island can only be accessed by boat, plane or helicopter and comes replete with a four bedroom house, a boat house an observatory, and its very own helipad.

For nature lovers, the island has its own troupe of deer which swim across from the mainland to enjoy its delights, and is also frequented by dolphins, otters, sea eagles and ospreys.

The current owner is former Goldman Sachs partner Christian Siva-Jothy.

Pharmacy leader sleeps on the streets



CATHIE Reid, CEO of APHS Packaging spent a night sleeping rough on the streets in a bid to help raise funds for the homeless.

Joined by 150 other beanie clad business leaders at the annual Vinnies CEO Sleepout, Reid said that as mental illness is often a contributing factor to homelessness, it was important to her, as a representative of the pharmacy and health sectors, to help raise awareness of the issue in Australia.

"The Vinnies CEO Sleepout has really opened my eyes to the growing number of homeless people in Brisbane – in particular the growing number of women and

children who find themselves in circumstances where they have no roof over their head," she said.

"I hope my brief encounter sleeping in the open helps make me a better ambassador for those who sleep rough every night and who lack, not only a place to call home, but a voice," she added.

For her efforts, APHS staff, suppliers, customers and stakeholders helped Reid raise more than \$10,000 for St Vincent de Paul homeless services, double her target.

Reid is pictured above rugged up and ready for a cold evening on the

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