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TGA cetirizine consultation

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has today invited comments from interested parties on advisory statements for cetirizine when included in non-prescription medicines for oral use.

The move follows last Oct's TGA decision which downscheduled packs containing five 10mg tablets of cetirizine for the treatment of seasonal allergic rhinitis to be S2 (available without prescription).

The move came with a recommendation that the labelling for the product be updated, and the OTC Medicines Evaluation

Section of the TGA has proposed that a warning be added that the medication may cause drowsiness and increase the effects of alcohol.

The proposal also includes a warning to check with a doctor or pharmacist if pregnant or breastfeeding.

A full consultation document has been made available on the TGA website, and interested parties are invited to respond by the close of business on Fri 03 May.

Walgreens care boost

US pharmacy giant Walgreens has announced the expansion of its in-store clinics to cover a range of chronic illnesses.

Currently Walgreens has 370 'Take Care Clinics' run by nurse practitioners and pharmacy technicians, which were created to treat minor ailments and provide some immunisations.

Walgreens said it will now expand the services offered by the clinics to address diabetes and heart disease as well as a range of preventive health care services.

Ubiquinol available

BIOCEUTICALS has launched Australia's first supplements containing ubiquinol, which is the active form of coenzyme Q10.

The company says that heart health patients may be able to achieve healthy LDL cholesterol levels using the supplement, which has higher bioavailability than coenzyme Q10 and is said to be "ideal for middle-aged to elderly patients or those who have increased energy requirements".

Ubiquinol was listed for use in Australia by the TGA last Nov, with the BioCeuticals Ubiquinol BioActive Range now available - more info 1300 650 455.

Zaltrap approval

SANOFI Australia has received TGA approval for its Zaltrap (afibercept *rch*) in combination with irinotecan-fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy for use in adults with metastatic colorectal cancer previously treated with an oxaliplatin-containing regimen.

In Australia, colorectal cancer is the second most common cancer in both men and women.

Zaltrap is a recombinant fusion protein which acts as a decoy receptor binding to growth factors related to angiogenesis.

Latest from MATES

THE Veterans' MATES service from the Dept of Veterans' Affairs has released a new range of resources for patients and health professionals covering the Diabetes Cycle of Care.

It includes a Therapeutic Brief which promotes the provision of support, resources and education for veterans with recently diagnosed diabetes.

There's also an insert providing a list of DVA funded services available to veterans with diabetes, and a brochure for patients encouraging them to become the "central member" of their health team.



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Jobs of the Week

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- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Far North, QLD (Job# 2009708)
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For an information pack, contact:

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Events Calendar

WELCOME to Pharmacy Daily's events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points. If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

- 10 Apr:** Guild NSW Medical Devices workshop - 12 Group 2 CPD credits 02 9467 7132.
- 30 Apr:** Pain Management in Community Pharmacy seminar, ANU - details from PSA ACT.
- 01 May:** Cardiovascular Update and Adherence - full day workshop in Sydney hosted by Guild Clinical - 02 9567 7132.
- 02-09 May:** PSA Offshore Refresher Conference, London - more info 1300 139 293.
- 31 May-02 Jun:** PSA CPEXpo, Hordern Pavilion Sydney - see www.psa.org.au/cpexpo.
- 21-23 June:** NSW Pharmacy-National Convention & Exhibition. Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. For details see: www.nswpharmacy-nce.com.au.
- 5-8 July:** Australian College of Pharmacy's 24th Annual Conference and Exhibition, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre - www.acp.edu.au.
- 04-07 Sep:** Navigating the Future - Pharmacy 2013: The Pharmacy Management Conference; Sheraton Mirage, Port Douglas; see pharmacyconference.com.au.
- 19-22 Sep:** Medicines Management 2013, the 39th SHPA National Conference, Cairns Convention Centre - www.mm2013shpa.com.
- 11-13 Oct:** Pharmacy Australia Congress in Brisbane - details www.psa.org.au/pac.
- 14-16 Oct:** Global Drug Safety Conference and Exposition, Brisbane - for more details email qldadmin@psa.org.au.
- 14 Nov:** 2013 ASMI AGM, Conference & Awards, Bicentennial Park Homebush - see www.asmi.com.au

Harrison's in receivership

THE Harrison's Pharmacy Group is continuing to trade as normal, after Jason Tracy and David Lombe from accountancy firm Deloitte were appointed as receivers and managers of the business last week.

The group was established in 1959 by Warren Harrison, and according to the company's website now boasts 15 pharmacies and seven medical centres in NSW, South Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory.

The receivers have advertised the group for sale, but say it now comprises 14 pharmacies and six medical centres.

"Expressions of Interest are sought for the business of all pharmacies and medical centres as a group, part thereof or individually," according to Deloitte.

"Pharmacies and medical centres are located adjacently, generally in suburban and regional centres".

Expressions of interest in purchasing the pharmacies close next Mon 08 April, and any

enquiries can be directed to Chris Wollinski on 02 9322 3122.

In the meantime the businesses are continuing to trade normally, with Deloitte saying there would be no impact on company operations, employees, customers and clients in the short term.

According to the *Smart Company* website the first meeting of company creditors will take place next week.

Sigma agm details

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals this morning advised investors that its annual general meeting will take place on Wed 08 May 2013.

The AGM will be held at the ANZ Pavilion, Victorian Arts Centre in Melbourne, with the agenda including the approval by shareholders of new remuneration arrangements for ceo Mark Hooper relating to the proposed issue of options under the Sigma Executive Short Term Incentive Plan.



DISPENSARY CORNER

THE obesity epidemic is now starting to affect air travel, with South Pacific carrier Samoa Air this week controversially announcing a plan to charge passengers by weight.

The matter has attracted worldwide attention, even though the carrier only operates a small number of routes within the island nation.

Samoa Air fares are now based on a fixed price per kilogram, which varies depending on the length of the flight.

"Airlines don't run on seats, they run on weight, and particularly the small the aircraft you are in the less variance you can accept in terms of the difference in weight between passengers," said the airline's ceo Chris Langton.

It's not all bad news, with Langton claiming some families were now paying less for their travel because of their lightweight children.

HERE'S the perfect accessory for your pharmacy's lunch room.

A new coffee maker has been announced by an Italian manufacturer, which looks exactly like a huge car engine.

The Espresso Veloce V12 (pictured) dispenses espresso via the exhaust pipes, after high pressure water is forced through grounds in an oil filter lookalike coffee chamber.

It comes complete with piston-shaped cups, and is said to be modelled on a half-scale 3-litre Grand Prix engine - the perfect way to get your motor running on a cold winter's morning.



WIN A DESIGNER BRANDS PRIZE PACK

This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a Designer Brands prize pack, valued at over \$60.

Each pack includes Natural Ground Minerals, Showoff Mascara, Pore Minimising Primer, Kabuki Brush and Kohl Pencil.

Designer Brands NEW Affordable Face Essentials Promotion contains all the tools to create a flawless complexion!

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Besides Foundation, what other Natural Ground Mineral products are available?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Lucy Huynh** from **Visible Results**.