# Pharmacy

Thursday 10 Jan 2013

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### Securing cold chain

FOR the first time ever, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's APF 22 pharmacy practice resource includes a detailed section on cold chain management.

"Summer in Australia presents many difficulties for managing the transportation and storage of temperature-sensitive medicines (cold chain)," the PSA said in a statement.

"Some of the challenges faced by pharmacies include power outages resulting from summer storms, bushfires and other natural disasters," the PSA added.

The guidance includes the advice to review their written procedures for dealing with cold chain breaches and power failures, and contains a list of information that may be required by manufacturers to determine the most appropriate action to take.

In addition to the cold chain management information, APF 22 contains many new sections, including palliative care, opioid conversion and dose calculations in children.

APF 22 was developed by a range of expert contributors and an editorial board chaired by Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom.

# Lung cancer goes online

IN the ever increasing world of online health it is perhaps not surprising that the Cancer Council Australia has just released the new clinical practice guidelines for the treatment of lung cancer in an electronic 'wiki' format.

The move marks the first update to the guidelines in eight years, with the guide designed to assist healthcare professionals and their patients to make informed treatment choices based on the most current research available.

At present, lung cancer is the fifth most common cancer in Australia, and whilst survival rates have improved, the five-year relative survival remains relatively low at 14%.

According to the Cancer Council, this fact highlights the "importance of appropriate referral to multidisciplinary teams and evidencebased treatment to improve survival outcomes".

The Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Treatment of Lung Cancer, commissioned and co-funded by Cancer Australia and developed by Cancer Council Australia, revise the treatment section of the 2004 "Clinical practice guidelines for the prevention, diagnosis and management of lung cancer".

Organised according to disease stage, the guidelines cover questions such as: What is the role of radiotherapy in the treatment of operable stage I non-small cell lung cancer? What is the optimal secondline therapy in patients with extensive stage small cell lung cancer?

The guidelines also cover questions such as: What is the role of palliative care in symptom management for patients with lung cancer?

Speaking about what has been hailed as a "game changing" wiki format, Professor David Ball, from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, and Chair of the Lung Cancer Guidelines Working Party, said the web-based electronic format allows editing and updating by expert committees as new evidence becomes available.

"We invite readers who become aware of new evidence to create a personal account and make comments online in the appropriate section, so that the working party can consider whether it should change any of the recommendations," he said.

To view the new guidelines visit http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/ Main\_Page.

### Intern e-learning

**THE** Department of Human Services has launched a brand new eLearning module and a redeveloped face-to-face workshop for its PBS pharmacy intern program.

The self-paced, interactive eLearning program needs to be completed before the face-to-face workshop and covers PBS claiming, rules and requirements, and the individual topics let you refer back to content when you need it.

### Script changes

**MEDICARE** is reminding healthcare professionals that it will not pay claims for PBS prescriptions if changes are made to: prescriptions for Schedule 8 (Controlled Drugs) medicines; or if the drug supplied is a completely different medicine (e.g. Atenolol to Metoprolol) or additional medicine (e.g. prescription for Atenolol only, changed to Atenolol and Fluoxetine).

In addition Medicare will not pay out on changed PBS prescriptions where: there is an increase in the quantity and/or repeats; or where the date of prescribing has been altered; or where the medicine has been supplied to a different patient.

For details see www.medicareaustralia.gov.au.



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# Crosthwaite joins Guild Vic

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Victorian branch has appointed Allan Crosthwaite as its new Director.

Crosthwaite comes to the position having most recently served as the CEO of the Melbourne Market Authority, and according to the Guild, has extensive experience representing industry bodies and organisations in Canberra and Victoria.

His recent achievements include overseeing the plan for the relocation of the Victorian Wholesale Market to Epping.

In addition Crosthwaite has held senior positions with the Complementary Health Care Council of Australia and has worked with Commonwealth and state governments on policy development and implementation.

"We look forward to Allan joining us in January, his business development and leadership skills particularly in the area of major projects makes him the ideal choice for this key role in community pharmacy," said President of the Victoria Branch George Tambassis.

Meanwhile, Crosthwaite's

retirement of Maurice Sheehan, after almost 20 years in the role.

### NDIS to kick off in July

THE National Disability Insurance Scheme will kick off in SA, Tasmania, the ACT, the Hunter in NSW and the Barwon area of Victoria in July this year.

"The scheme will provide people with significant and permanent disability the same rights as other members of Australian society to realise their potential for physical, social, emotional and intellectual development," a statement from the Dept of Human Services said.

"The scheme will give people with disability control to choose the care and support they need to reach their goals over their lifetime.

"Under the NDIS, those who are eligible will develop an individual plan with the Launch Transition Agency, which will be used to assess their need for reasonable and necessary supports," the statement added.

See www.ndis.gov.au.



**TRAGEDY** tourists brush close to catastrophe.

A group of five German tourists who hired an inflatable boat to get a close look at the *Costa Concordia* wreckage have narrowly escaped an unfortunate fate after they found themselves at the mercy of the sea.

Interestingly the group were passengers onboard the *Costa Magica*, and decided to inspect the wreck during a port call to Civitavecchia, where they picked up transport to Santo Stefano, and then in turn hired the inflatable boat.

It all went pear shaped for the group however when they neared *Concordia* and the waves started to get bigger and bigger and began to swamp their small craft.

Fortunately the Italian Coast Guard managed to get to the hapless tourists in time before their boat sunk.







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# WIN A QR HEALTH™ PRIZE PACK



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving ten lucky readers the chance to win a Quick Response Health" prize pack, valued at \$92 each.

Quick Response Health" is a new brand from the Hydration Pharmaceuticals Trust – the makers of Hydralyte".

Q.R Health<sup>™</sup> is a range of high potency, premium quality effervescent vitamins

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True or False: The QR Health range has an effervescent formulation to promote rapid absorption

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners, <mark>Jolyon Hawley</mark> of <mark>Aspen</mark> Pharmacare and Katy Duldig of The Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

EDITORS Bruce Piper and Amanda Collins EMAIL info@pharmacydaily.com.au ADVERTISING Magda Herdzik EMAIL advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au page 2