



NOT ALL PROBIOTIC STRAINS DO THE SAME THING

Recommend therapeutic, scientifically validated strains.

INNER HEALTH PLUS

Men's health tune-up

DISCOUNT Drug Stores today launches a month long program encouraging men to have a Men's Health Tune Up' in over 100 DDS stores around Australia.

The 'Tune Up' aims to improve men's health and wellbeing by providing a convenient way for them to have a quick and non-invasive check-up of their blood sugar, cholesterol and blood pressure.

"We wanted to provide another avenue for Australian men to have all of their key vitals checked without it seeming too confronting or too much of a hassle," explained professional services manager at DDS, Casey Clark.

In just 15 minutes men will be given their results as well as receive a lifestyle assessment and the opportunity to discuss other health concerns.

Sigma kidney check success

MORE than 3,000 patients have already utilised the new KidneyCheck test kits offered by Amcal and Guardian pharmacies since the initiative launched just over a month ago (**PD** 29 May).

Part of the broader structured professional services programs being progressively rolled out by Sigma, the KidneyCheck scheme was created in partnership with Kidney Health Australia, with the aim of identifying at-risk patients for referral to their GP.

"We know that 1 in 3 Australians is at risk of kidney disease, and many are not aware they may have this life-threatening condition," said Sigma chief operating officer, Gary

Dunne.

The program utilises a "world first" consumer facing home proteinuria test that customers can obtain in the pharmacy and use to check for protein in their urine.

Dunne said that Amcal and Guardian pharmacists are giving at-risk patients a strong reason to see their GP for further investigation where appropriate.

"It's a great example of pharmacists working with general practitioners for the benefit of patients," he said.

Pharmacists refer the test to customers who are filling scripts for medicines to treat high blood pressure or diabetes.

RGH on polypharmacy

THIS week's RGH E-Bulletin discusses the issues surrounding multiple medications particularly in the elderly who have multiple co-morbidities.

The resultant 'prescribing cascades' involving as many 12 drug administrations in a day are known to be associated with more adverse drug reactions, interactions and adherence failures.

CLICK HERE to access the E-Bulletin.

Streamlined authority

THE Department of Human Services has reminded pharmacists that prior to dispensing an Authority Required STREAMLINED item, the appropriate streamlined authority code must be present on the Authority Prescription form.

A complete list of Authority Required (STREAMLINED) medicines is available on the PBS schedule at www.pbs.gov.au.

Other valid authority approval types include an electronic Authority number, a telephone approval number, or a Human Service stamp for Authority prescriptions submitted by mail.

Top of the poppies

GLAXOSMITHKLINE has recognised its top Australian poppy producers at a gala dinner in Launceston, Tasmania last week.

The winners of the GSK State Top Crop were Robert and Karen Addison, whose farm at Moriarty on the Tasmanian north west coast produced a crop which achieved a yield of 4.26 tonnes per hectare, worth almost \$11,000 per hectare.

The crops also produced an alkaloid level of 74 kg/hectare, "an enormous achievement" according to GSK Opiates Division general manager Steve Morris.

GSK pioneered the medicinal poppy industry in Australia almost half a century ago, with Tasmanian grown poppies now supplying almost 50% of the world's requirement for medicinal alkaloid.

New Lacteeze module

A NEW training module 'Lacteeze' worth 25 iReward points is available on iTherapeutics for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants.

CLICK HERE to learn how to manage lactose intolerance.

US Oxycontin ring

FOUR pharmacists in Los Angeles are facing court action after being indicted for their participation in a massive Oxycontin scam which allegedly saw almost 1 million pills diverted.

The pharmacy owners operated chemist shops in Orange, Los Angeles and San Bernadino counties, with the *Orange County Register* saying the prosecutor will allege they were part of a conspiracy to defraud the US Medicare scheme and insurers of US\$2.7m in Oxycontin reimbursements.

The scam allegedly involved recruiters who enlisted low-income patients to come to a pain management clinic to receive bogus treatments and prescriptions.

The "patients" were then taken to the pharmacies to have the scripts filled - and once the Oxycontin was handed over the recruiters took it to sell on the street.

The investigation, called Operation Dirty Lake, has already seen 14 other participants in the scheme plead guilty.

BLACKMORES INSTITUTE
RESEARCH | EDUCATION | INNOVATION

Blackmores Institute Symposium 2014

Integrating Natural Medicine into Community Pharmacy – An Evidence-Based Approach
25 July - 26 July 2014
The Westin, Sydney

REGISTER NOW
blackmoresinstitute.org

NICM University of Western Sydney
Bringing knowledge to life
Research Advisory Services Provider

Click Here

MEDICI CAPITAL

PHARMACY STUDY TOUR 2015 DEER VALLEY, USA

Continued Dispensing guide

MEDICARE Australia has published a new reference guide outlining the PBS requirements for the Continued Dispensing initiatives, which allows pharmacists to continue to supply eligible medicines to a patient when there is an immediate need for the medicine but it is not practical for the patient to obtain a prescription.

Under Continued Dispensing, there is no need to get a follow-up prescription, with the initiative complementing existing supply provisions, including "urgent communicated prescriptions" under the PBS and state/territory legislation for emergency supply.

Only community pharmacists (from section 90 and section 90A approved suppliers) can supply PBS medicines under Continued Dispensing, and the pharmacist is required to confirm that the patient is an Australian resident and holds a current Medicare card, or is from a country with which Australia has a

reciprocal Health Care Agreement.

Continued Dispensing currently only applies to oral contraceptives and statins, and pharmacists must also be satisfied that there is an immediate need for the medication and circumstances have prevented the patient from getting a script.

Medicines dispensed under the initiative are subject to online PBS claiming for specific reason codes on the Department of Human Services website.

CLICK HERE for more info.

Menaquinone 7 input

AS PART of the evaluation of 'menaquinone 7' as a new complementary medicine available for use in listed medicines, the TGA has drafted a compositional guideline on the substance.

The TGA now seeks input from stakeholders on the draft guideline.

The consultation on the draft closes on 08 Aug 2014.

CLICK HERE for details.

Pharmacy "Essential Financial Skills"

Brisbane 19-20th August

Last Workshop for 2014

[Click here for detailed brochure](#)

"With the PBS changes, this workshop has empowered me to analyse my business and put strategies in place to reduce the impact. Geoff is a vibrant presenter."

Fiona Mann, Mannum Chemplus



Pharmacy Accredited A1403FMRC1 This course has been accredited for 28 group 2 CPD credits and 10 group 1 CPD credits for inclusion on a pharmacist's CPD Record. Participants can convert the 10 group 1 CPD credits into 20 group 2 CPD credits by completing an optional assessment within 3 months.

APC appointment

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has appointed Professor Peter Fricker OAM to its council.

Fricker's appointment is for a three year term commencing today, 01 July 2014, and follows a call for applications for the role.

Fricker is a sports physician and a former director of the Australian Institute of Sport, and has also been the team doctor to several Australian Olympic and Commonwealth Games teams.

APC President, John Low, said Fricker's skills and experience with organisations including the Australian Sports Anti-doping Authority and the Medical Commission of the Australian Olympic Committee would complement the experience of current Councillors.

"We look forward to working with him to advance pharmacy and drive the innovative practices in pharmacy education, accreditation, credentialing and assessment".

Fricker said he was delighted to have been appointed to the Council.

Euphausia superba guideline

THE TGA has advised that a proposed revision of the draft compositional guideline for *Euphausia Superba* oil will no longer proceed.

The announcement follows a consultation on the guideline which commenced earlier this year and which attracted submissions from three industry stakeholders.

In an update yesterday the TGA noted that the recent publication of the second supplement to the United States Pharmacopeia 37 - National Formulary 32 includes a monograph for 'Krill Oil' which will become official on 01 Dec 2014.

From that date the USP-NF monograph should be referred to for the requirements that define the ingredient *Euphausia superba* oil for use in listed medicines, and until then the monograph or the existing draft compositional guideline "provides the relevant guidance of the quality expected," the TGA said.

Awake or asleep, help your customers stay connected with their health

Introducing "wearable" technology

For more information about this innovative range call 1300 367 611 or visit healthpointtech.com



SHPA e-book library

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists has announced the debut this month of a new e-book library full of pharmacy support.

Incursions are hand-picked by the Accredited Pharmacist Reference Group, the Medicines Information COSP and interested pharmacists.

Thirty e-books will be uploaded initially, with information on conducting HMRS, reviewing patient medicines, answering customer questions about medicines and developing knowledge.

Pharmacists will be able to read the books on their phone, in the patient's home, while commuting or on the ward, said the SHPA.

Guild Update

Casual Conversion – do you know your obligations?

THE Pharmacy Industry Award 2010 (PIA) does not allow an employee to be employed on a casual basis if they work 'reasonably predictable hours'. While transitional provisions permitted employees employed for 'reasonably predictable hours' prior to certain dates to be paid as casuals, these provisions cease to operate from today, 1 July 2014.

Failing to convert casual employees who work regular and systematic hours by 1 July 2014 will mean that the casual rate paid to those employees (for the most part 25% more than permanent staff) will become their permanent base rate. These employees will then be able to claim annual leave, personal leave, etc, all accruing at the higher rate of pay.

Failure to make the conversion will also be breach of the PIA and penalties can be applied to employers who neglect to meet their award obligations.

For more information on converting casuals to full time or part time status, contact the Workplace Relations Manager in your State or Territory Guild Branch.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

CHC cites AIHW report

THE Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia has urged the government to foster "appropriate proactive policies" to recognise complementary medicines as a vital part of the health system.

CHC ceo Carl Gibson cited the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's *Australia's health 2014* report (PD 26 Jun), saying it highlights "the growing preference of individuals to take responsibility for their health."

He said the report found that

while the proportion of total recurrent health expenditure on medicines rose from 11.7% in 2001-02 to 14.2% in 2011-12, the majority of the increase was related to unsubsidised over-the-counter and complementary medicines.

Gibson said this was further evidence of "increasing consumer preference to take responsibility for their health," with more than two out of every three Australians regularly using a complementary medicine product.

He said over 40% of users take complementary products for chronic medical conditions.

"Complementary medicines are an often underestimated part of the health care system that contribute strongly to wellbeing and that assist in the prevention of disease," Gibson said.

Inhaled insulin ticked

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Afrezza (insulin human) Inhalation Powder, which is a rapid-acting inhaled insulin to improve glycaemic control in adults with diabetes.

Afrezza is administered with meals, with the FDA alert to use it in combination with long-acting insulin in patients with type 1 diabetes.

It's also not recommended for the treatment of diabetic ketoacidosis or in patients who smoke.

The FDA has ordered several post-marketing studies including a clinical trial to evaluate Afrezza's use in paediatric patients.

Bronchitol nomination

PHARMAXIS'S cystic fibrosis product Bronchitol has been shortlisted for the UK Prix Galien Orphan Drug Award, which recognises the skills needed to develop innovative medicines.

The winners of the 2014 award will be announced on 01 Oct.

DISPENSARY CORNER

A TREATMENT centre for social media addiction is set to open on a remote Scottish Island, where patients will undertake a "cold turkey" detox program away from electronic gadgets.

It's the brainchild of the Scottish Youth Hostelling Association, which is staging a three day Tech Time-Out experiment in which participants will have no access to wi-fi connection or any devices.

As an alternative the organisation will operate a series of outdoor activities such as hiking, archery and abseiling.

According to *The Scotsman* more than 50 people have already applied for the event on the Isle of Arran - ironically having been alerted to its availability via a website and social media.

SENIOR officers in the Philippines Army have revised a key fitness test for their troops, after deciding that a two mile run could be "life-threatening" to soldiers.

The country's military must undergo a six-monthly fitness examination, which includes the timed run - however the course has now been shortened to 2km due to safety concerns.

The change follows a review by a "technical working group" which found that "after two kilometres soldiers can fall victim to heart attack or stroke."

The time limits for the run are determined by the ages of the soldiers, with the youngest required to run the distance within 12 minutes.

WIN AN AROMABABY GIFT PACK

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Aromababy** are giving 5 readers the chance to win an Aromababy gift pack.

Pure, gentle, organic - that's the Aromababy promise. Launched two decades ago as the first, natural baby brand of its kind, Aromababy offers a comprehensive selection of pure products for mother and child including unscented for sensitive skin.

100% Australian made and used in select hospitals, Aromababy offers absolute peace of mind when only the best will do.

Visit: www.aromababy.com

To win, be first to send in the correct answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



Are all Aromababy products free from sulphate, parabens, propylene glycol and petro chemicals?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Nigel Ng from Warringal Private Hospital Pharmacy.

DOWNLOAD the FREE *Pharmacy Daily* iOS App, **CLICK BELOW.**

