



## Teva ups the Mylan \$s

**TEVA** Pharmaceutical Industries is continuing to stalk rival Mylan, with a number of reports indicating an increase on its previous bid for the company made in Apr this year.

Teva has already increased its stake in Mylan to almost 2.2%, with a regulatory filing indicating it had accumulated about 10.5 million shares in Mylan some weeks ago.

However a *Wall Street Journal* report says this could have breached US antitrust laws which bar firms from acquiring significant stakes in competitors without first obtaining regulatory approval.

Mylan is claiming protection on that basis because although it is incorporated in the Netherlands, its principal offices are in the US.

If Teva were to take over Mylan the combination would have more than US\$27 billion in revenue.

Earlier this year Mylan acquired Abbott Laboratories' non-US developed markets specialty and branded generics business.

Mylan is the parent company of Australia-based Alphapharm.

## New Qld director

**NEW** director-general for Queensland Health, Michael Walsh has started in the role this week.

He was most recently ceo of eHealth NSW, while previous positions include deputy director-general of Qld Health and ceo of the Major Hospitals Project Office.

## Pill to stay on script in NZ

**THE** New Zealand Pharmacy Guild says it's "extremely disappointed" at a decision by the government's Medicines Classification Committee not to downschedule oral contraceptives.

The proposal, which had been strongly supported by the Guild, had aimed to meet community needs, reduce demand on GPs and boost the role of pharmacists in the primary healthcare system.

The minutes of the committee meeting cited a long history of evaluation of the matter in relation to leading contraceptives and extensive consultation with a total of 13 pre-meeting comments, eight in favour of the reclassification, and

five against - some from GP groups.

Practice nurses were proposed as a better alternative and would avoid the problem of patient care fragmentation.

NZ Pharmacy Guild ceo Lee Hohaia said the reclassification "would have better utilised our pharmacist workforce and taken the pressure off general practitioners, while providing a convenient, frontline health service to New Zealand women."

It also closed the door on some women, who normally never access the health system, being given medical help, she said.

"It is more convenient for these women to receive an initial supply of oral contraceptives from a pharmacist than waiting to visit a doctor," Hohaia said.

Perhaps ironically, pharmacists in New Zealand are able to prescribe sildenafil after appropriate training (**PD** 20 Oct 14).

The Guild was also disappointed, but not surprised, at a decision not to reclassify nitrofurantoin as a restricted medicine.

The reclassification would have allowed pharmacists to supply a patient presenting with a urinary tract infection even if they had taken antibiotics in the previous six months, with current restrictions often resulting in treatment delays.

## Burt's Bees icon passes at 80 years

**BURT** Shavitz, co-founder and namesake of Burt's Bees, died yesterday among family and friends in his home town in Maine.

Described by those who knew him as a "wild-bearded and free-spirited Maine man, a beekeeper, a wisecracker, a lover of golden retrievers, a reverent observer of nature, and a kind face," Burt's 80 years were absorbed variously as a photojournalist, bee-keeper and the inspiration for Burt's Bees products which are now sold across the globe.

## TGA Golden Root alert

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a Safety Advisory relating to Golden Root complex capsules, saying that they contain the undeclared prescription-only substance sildenafil and cannot be legally supplied in Australia.

See Dispensary Corner on **page two** for more on these alerts.

## NICE advice for vice

**THE** UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has released its latest quality standard setting out advice to help reduce tobacco-related harm for people who are unwilling or not ready to stop smoking.

As the single greatest cause of preventable illness and early death in England, NICE says the best way to tackle the health problems associated with smoking is to stop, and stopping in one step offers the best chance of success.

However, not everyone who smokes is either able or willing to stop in one step and in such cases, a harm-reduction approach may be effective the organisation says.

NICE's latest quality standard contains four quality statements leading to harm-reduction.

**CLICK HERE** to access the standard.

## Contraceptive safety

**THE** TGA's Advisory Committee on the Safety of Medicines has published the outcome of a review of combined hormonal contraceptive products and risks associated with increased risks of venous thromboembolism (VTE) & arterial thromboembolism (ATE).

The TGA had previously noted that precautions for VTE and ATE in the Australian Product Information documents have become "overly long and confusing for prescribers" with a lack of consistency.

The committee has supported "harmonisation and clarity" across the PI documents for the more than 60 medicines approved for supply in Australia which contain various combinations of progestogens and oestrogens for hormonal contraception.

For more information **CLICK HERE**.

## EMA publishes PSURs

**THE** European Medicines Agency (EMA) has started to publish the outcomes of single assessments of periodic safety update reports (PSURs) for active substances contained in nationally authorised medicines.

The publication is intended to support the harmonised implementation of safety measures for medicines with the same active substance across European Union (EU) Member States.

PSURs are reports providing a regular evaluation of the benefit-risk balance of a medicine following marketing authorisation.

Marketers need to submit these at regular intervals as long as the product is on the market.

## WIN with Hydralyte

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Hydralyte** are giving away a Hydralyte pack each day.

**FACT:** Dehydration is the biggest health risk associated with vomiting and diarrhoea.

**FACT:** Vomiting and diarrhoea will often reach its peak in late winter/early spring. Be prepared this gastro season and always keep Hydralyte on hand with Ice blocks in the freezer, pre-mixed drinks in the fridge or the convenient effervescent tablets and powders in the first-aid cupboard. Visit [www.hydralyte.com.au](http://www.hydralyte.com.au) for more information. Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist consult your healthcare professional.

To win, be the first person from **WA** to send the correct answer to the following question to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

True or false: in a case of vomiting and diarrhoea, Hydralyte should be consumed for as long as the signs and symptoms or dehydration persist.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Amie Lloyd-Jones from Eastside Pharmacy.





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## Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy.

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### Ward off winter with Australia's own liquid gold: Fresh-Picked Olive Leaf Extract

Comvita's **Fresh-Picked Olive Leaf Extract** has been a staple guard against the cold & flu season and continues to be acknowledged as an excellent supplement to build a strong front-line winter defense, the company says, adding that the product has five times more antioxidant power than the equivalent amount of vitamin C, according to a scientific study published in *The Journal of Alternative & Complementary Medicine*.

Stockist: 1300 653 436

RRP: \$40.50 for 500mL

Website: [www.olea.com.au](http://www.olea.com.au)



### Burt's Bees Baby Bee Getting Started Kit

Burt's Bees **Baby Bee Getting Started Kit** includes the best of the Baby Bee range to pamper baby's soft and sensitive skin from top to bottom. The kit includes Baby Bee Nourishing Lotion (25g), Baby Bee Shampoo & Body Wash (50g), Baby Bee Dipeer Ointment (20g), Baby Bee Nourishing Oil (30g) and Baby Bee Buttermilk Soap (20g).

Stockist: 1800 813 661

RRP: \$24.95

Website: [www.burtsbees.com](http://www.burtsbees.com)

### Clinique 2-in-1 Beyond Perfecting Foundation + Concealer

Clinique **2-in-1 Beyond Perfecting Foundation + Concealer** is a lightweight, full-coverage foundation that smooths on skin like a foundation but covers like a concealer. It offers 12-hour wear and is formulated with dual-sphere particles that adapt to different skin conditions. The doe foot applicator allows for easy application, and the formula is allergy-tested and 100% fragrance-free. This Clinique gem is now available in 13 shades.

Stockist: 1800 556 948

RRP: \$50.00

Website: [www.clinique.com.au](http://www.clinique.com.au)



### Just For Men Shampoo-in Haircolour

Just For Men **Shampoo-in Haircolour** is a shampoo that has been formulated for greying hair. The shampoo was designed with patented Grey Target Technology that targets only grey hair. It replaces the grey with subtle tones that match the natural hair colour leaving the rest of the hair unchanged. Just For Men differs from traditional hair colours by having a non-ammonia formula. The dye vehicle in Just For Men is specially engineered to drive the dye molecules into the grey hair in only five minutes.

Stockist: 1800 062 019

RRP: \$11.99

Website: [www.justformen.com](http://www.justformen.com)

## DISPENSARY CORNER

### CREATIVE nomenclature.

Barely a week goes by without the TGA alerting pharmacists to yet another interestingly named erectile dysfunction illegal drug entry to Australia.

Some of the banned items include: *Golden Root* (see TGA alert on **PD page one**), *MosKa-energy*, *So Hard for Men*, *My Man His Enhancer*, *The Rock* tablets, *VigRX for Men*, *Tiger King* tablets, *MME Naturally Maxman* capsules, *Super Hard* tablets, *Erec-Bull* tablets, *Viaplus Gold Capsules* and *LOVher* capsules, most of which contained unqualified levels of sildenafil or other PDE5 inhibitors.

We're sure **PD** readers could come up with a better list of names for these products!

The other most common therapeutic class of illegally imported drugs is weight-loss, many of which contain the now banned substance sibutramine, the active ingredient in *Reductil*, which was withdrawn in October 2010 after a study showed higher risk of major cardiac events.

**RESEARCHERS** in Israel have suggested a "sniffing test" as a possible diagnosis for autism.

According to a report in the journal *Current Biology*, the scientists looked at how long people spent inhaling different aromas.

As you would expect most of the subjects spent much longer dwelling on the scent of a delightful bunch of roses than when smelling the stench of rotting fish.

However in the case of 36 autistic children tested there appeared to be no such difference.

The scientists developed a computer algorithm which was able to detect autism in the group of children with 81% accuracy.

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