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GP/Pharmacist collab

MEMBERS from United General Practice Australia (UGPA) are advocating for increased collaboration between non-dispensing pharmacists and general practitioners, in bids to better support patient care.

GPs gathered in Sydney last week to discuss the issue, recommending the first step to broader implementation was to trial and "robustly evaluate" the scheme in the Australian context to "Get the model right in order to maximise the potential benefits for patients."

The group said that "the addition of pharmacists in general practise would be designed to make the best use of the skills that the pharmacists can bring to the patient's care".

However, UGPA has rejected the notion that pharmacists should be able to prescribe medication, citing a conflict of interest that the proposal involves.

E-Cigarette for NHS

UK medicines regulator, Public Health England, has approved e-cigarette e-Voke, to be marketed as an aid to help people stop smoking, meaning it could soon be prescribed by the NHS.

Public Health England told *BBC* that e-cigarettes are far less harmful than tobacco and can help smokers leave the bad habit behind.

However, many experts - including the British Medical Association - warn that the benefits and harms are not yet known since e-cigarettes are still relatively new.

PRASA update

THE Pharmacy Regulation Authority South Australia (PRASA) has updated its 'Guidelines for the operation of pharmacy services'.

CLICK HERE to see the updates.

Discount Drug Stores to offer full PBS discount

FOLLOWING suit with Chemist Warehouse's one dollar pledge last month (*PD* 14 Dec 15); Discount Drug Stores has announced that it too will be passing on the full markdown to consumers on all eligible prescriptions due to recent changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

However, Discount Drug Stores executive general manager Doug Kuskopf-Dallas says though they are offering the discount to benefit consumers, he is still encouraging the public to consider their own circumstances as taking the discount could actually disadvantage some.

"That's why Discount Drug Stores is taking a more tailored approach and encouraging customers to speak with their pharmacist to discuss their options.

"It's about empowering our customers so they can make informed decisions about what's best for their situation."

Combatting the Government's decision to de-list many over-the-counter medications such as Panadol Osteo and Panamax from the PBS Scheme, Kuskopf-Dallas said Discount Drug Store pharmacies have priced their over-the-counter medications better than ever to offset the impact.

"Through our competitive pricing and by passing on the full one dollar discount, Discount Drug Stores will be able to alleviate costs for the most vulnerable in the community," he added.

MEANWHILE North Queensland's largest independent pharmacy group, Calanna Pharmacy, is warning that GlaxoSmithKline's decision to hike up the price of

Panadol Osteo by 50% following its removal from the PBS scheme (*PD* 04 Jan 16), may be the first in a series of surges to hit consumers.

Group general manager Matthew Calanna said Panadol Osteo was used by up to 50% of their patients and the changes were leaving them "significantly out of pocket".

"When a manufacturer doesn't have the certainty of volume from the PBS, there is no doubt they will be evaluating how sustainable their current pricing models are," he said.

"Unfortunately that is not good news for consumers because they are now experiencing a double whammy and this may not be the only price hike we will see."

Federal Health Minister Sussan Ley slammed GSK's price increase this week, vowing to take the matter to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission for investigation.

FDA seizes codeine

INDIA'S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have seized 15,000 bottles of codeine-containing cough syrups sold at an open market in the Thane District at a higher cost without licensing.

The cough syrups taken included brands such as Resktop by Promed Laboratories, Rancodex by Smilax Healthcare and Conex by Acron Pharmaceuticals.

The raid was carried out based on a tip-off.

GSK Duodart resupply

GLAXOSMITHKLINE has confirmed that wholesalers will have replenished stock of Duodart Capsules (dutasteride 500 µg/tamsulosin hydrochloride 400 µg), the drug used to treat benign hyperplasia in men, commencing 04 January.

The temporary stock-out was due to a third party manufacturer not being able to supply capsules.

GSK are asking Doctors and pharmacists who require additional information to contact its service centre on 1800 033 109.

Win with Neat Feat



This week Pharmacy Daily and Neat Feat are giving away a prize pack each day including BodySaver and FaceSaver.

Leading personal care company, Neat Feat, has developed your sweating solution. Neat 3B BodySaver incorporates an antiperspirant in an emollient and a soothing cream to help combat sweat rash and chafing. Neat 3B FaceSaver is a soothing gel formulation that evaporates rapidly, leaving the active antiperspirant ingredient as a thin film with an antiperspirant effect that's long-lasting. Visit www.neatfeat.com

To win, be the first from **WA** to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

How often should you apply BodySaver?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Jihui Kang** from **Icon Cancer Care**.



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Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au



DISPENSARY CORNER

IF YOU'RE hoping to get some added protein into your diet, would you go as far as to eating grubs or bugs?

UK restaurant 'Grub Kitchen' has started serving up a range of bug-based dishes which includes mealworm panna cotta, wellington filled with crispy grubs and bug bhaji.

Co-owner Dr Sarah Beynon told Sky News that with millions of people around the world already surviving off a diet of bugs, more of us could benefit from trying them.

"The amount of protein in that insect burger, depending on which insects are in there could actually be higher in protein than the same size beef burger," she said.

"A beef burger would take about 3,290 litres of water to produce, the equivalent insect burger would take less than a pint."

Grub Kitchen's head chef Andy Holcroft says that "we're not trying to force people to eat bugs...we're just saying to people to really think about their food".

HAVE you ever glanced at pictures of Russian President Vladimir Putin and thought to yourself, "I bet he'd smell lovely?"

Well fantasize no more! Belarussian perfumer, Vladislav Rekunov, has released a brand new fragrance inspired by Russia's head honcho named "Leaders Number One".

The fragrance is sold in a black bottle featuring Putin's profile at luxury department stores in Moscow.



Colgate 360° Whole Mouth Clean toothbrush

This toothbrush cleans the entire mouth - teeth, tongue, gums and cheeks. **Colgate 360° Whole Mouth Clean Toothbrush** has four innovative features: tapered inter-dental bristles to help reach deep down along the gum line, removing embedded plaque; textured tongue and cheek cleaner to remove odour-causing bacteria that can cause bad breath; polishing cups to delicately help remove stains, leaving teeth cleaner and brighter and fourthly, the raised cleaning tip to improve access to hard-to-reach places like the back teeth.

Stockist: 1800 802 307

RRP: \$4.99

Website: www.colgate.com.au



Blackmores Natural E 500IU - for natural vitamin E

Blackmores **Natural E 500IU** is a source of natural vitamin E with approximately twice the bioavailability of synthetic vitamin E which means it is retained longer and is twice as active in the body, the company states. In addition, Blackmores says that Natural E 500IU helps protect cells from free radical damage and supports heart health. Product reference: CHC43525-05/14

Stockist: 1800 803 760

RRP: \$50.99 for 150 caps

Website: www.blackmores.com.au

New Palmer's Coconut Oil Formula with Vitamin E Body Lotion

Palmer's **Coconut Oil Formula with Vitamin E Body Lotion** is a body lotion that works to deeply moisturise and hydrate the body. The formula features organic coconut oil, vitamin E, sweet almond oil, coconut water, coconut milk, macadamia nut oil, shea butter and cocoa butter. It is lightly scented with coconut and monoi and is free from parabens, phthalates, mineral oil, gluten, sulfates or dyes. This new product hits the shelves for the first time this month.

Stockist: 1300 191 918

RRP: \$7.39 for 250mL, \$9.99 for 400mL

Website: www.palmersaustralia.com



Verbena Citrus Shower Gel - new from L'OCCITANE

L'OCCITANE **Verbena Citrus Shower Gel** features the lingering Verbena Citrus fragrance. The fragrance blends citrus fruits and crushed, lemony leaves. Organic verbena from Provence and grapefruit and lemon from the Mediterranean come together in a zesty accord. The bracing lemon colouring is reflected in the bottle tint with attractive citrus leaf design. This new product is in store Jan 2016.

Stockist: 02 8912 3000

RRP: \$28 for 250mL

Website: au.loccitane.com

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