



Arthrem monitoring

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised that it is monitoring the safety of Arthrem capsules, a complementary medicine marketed as a dietary supplement for maintaining and supporting joint health & mobility.

The move follows an alert by NZ regulator MedSafe, which has received a number of reports of liver toxicity associated with the use of Arthrem (PD 19 Feb).

To date the TGA has not received any reports of adverse events, however the product's sponsor, Promisia Australia, is changing medicine labels to indicate the rare possibility of liver harm and amending all messaging to stress it must be taken strictly as directed.

In an update last month (PD 20 Feb) Promisia said adverse events were very rare, and "when taken as directed Arthrem is safe & effective".

NZ pharmacy consultation

AUTHORITIES in New Zealand are seeking input from pharmacy owners, pharmacists and the public on opportunities for pharmacist services in local communities.

A proposed new 'Integrated Pharmacist Services in the Community' agreement would see community pharmacists "work in an integrated team of health professionals to achieve the best outcomes for all New Zealanders".

The NZ health dept said it's strongly committed to stronger patient safety by enabling pharmacists to work at 'top

of scope' as expert medicine managers, while also supporting pharmacists in evolving their business model.

"Tailored pharmacist services offer us a unique opportunity to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in our communities," the proposal states, adding "we'd like to see pharmacists working more closely alongside prescribers and consumers in the future".

More at tas.health.nz.

Lice cure inflammable

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has alerted consumers to check product instructions on head lice products as some are highly inflammable and can ignite hair if near a naked flame.

A Drug Safety Alert from the agency has been issued to pharmacists to advise consumers.

Popular Hedrin 4% cutaneous solution (dimeticone w/w in cyclomethicone) has been at the source of most reports.

Ten cases of serious burns associated with the use of head lice removal products have been reported to MHRA since 2007.

GP meds Rx fail

AN INTERN doctor registered in Feb 2015 has been arraigned before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal for breaching professional boundaries in respect of three female patients later that same year while a resident medical officer in a public hospital.

It was alleged that the young doctor failed to maintain a proper clinical record of S4 medications inappropriately prescribed to the patients, as well as engaging in sexual relationships including on more than one occasion while at the hospital premises.

The practitioner's registration has been cancelled, he cannot apply for registration for a period of three months and he has been ordered to pay Complaints Commission costs.

CMs to fight AMR?

USE of complementary medicines (CMs) may help reduce over prescribing of antibiotics, ultimately contributing positively to the fight against anti-microbial resistance (AMR), according to a UK study published in the *BMJ*.

GP surgeries with doctors who also have training in complementary and alternative medicines appear to be less likely to prescribe antibiotics to patients and may hold the



key to reducing over-prescribing of these drugs, the study showed.

Data from 7,274 GP surgeries was studied and compared with nine practices that had GPs who had training in integrative medicine, looking at overall prescribing of antibiotics, as well as prescribing of these drugs for respiratory tract infections and for urinary tract infections.

While the authors pointed out that patients who visit integrative medicine doctors may be less keen on using antibiotics anyway, the data was interesting and demanded further investigation.

CLICK HERE to access the study.



PD NRL ROUND 2 WINNER

Congratulations
MEGAN CAVILL
from
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TBN goes vegan

COLOUR by TBN has announced that the cosmetic brand's full range is now not only Certified Cruel-free, but is also Certified Vegan.

The company claims it is a first for an Australian cut-price brand and said it is celebrating by launching three all-new collections: they include 20 shades of lipsticks RRP \$3.95 available now, and two ranges of nail polish RRP \$2.95 ea, the Gemstone Collection on counter now and the Accents Collection, out in May - more in tomorrow's *Health & Beauty* feature in *Pharmacy Daily*.



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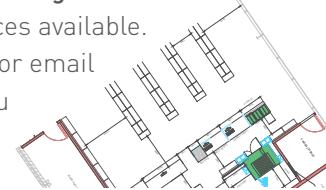
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Dispensary Corner

EVER been told you look like death warmed up? Well that's exactly the nightmare a man in Romania has been facing after been told by the government they don't believe he is alive.

Constantin Reliu spent more than 20 years of his professional life working as a cook in Turkey, however, when he returned to his homeland he learned his wife had him formally registered as dead.

"I am a living ghost," Reliu recently told local media.

"I have no income and because I am listed as dead, I can't do anything."

The only thing left to do I suppose is tell the Romanian Government to drop dead - I mean, fair's fair, right?



IT TURNS out that being a fall down drunk might not be bad for you after all, so long as by falling down we mean taking a nap and by drunk we mean a little bit tipsy.

A study from Washington State University and Harvard Medical School Scientists recently concluded that two glasses of wine before catching 40 winks could actually help people in the fight against obesity.

Scientists identified a polyphenol in red wine that aids with weight loss.

Despite the medical revelation, you're not likely to see any contestants on *The Biggest Loser* getting drunk anytime soon.

PIES for pharmacy interns

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia (PBA) has launched a large scale survey of recent pharmacy interns and preceptors across Australia, known as the Pharmacy Internship Experience Survey (PIES).

The aim of the survey is to give interns and preceptors the chance to give feedback on their own experiences, so the PBA can continue to improve the supervised practice process for future interns and preceptors.

PIES builds on the PBA's 2017 pilot study which surveyed a select group of interns and preceptors and investigated issues relevant to the quality of the intern training experience.

The pilot and its rollout to the large-scale survey are part of the Board's goal to continuously improve the training experience for interns, to better prepare the pharmacy workforce to provide



safe services to the public.

Interns and preceptors are urged to participate in the 15-20 min poll and share their experiences to improve future outcomes for those ahead.

Recent interns and preceptors will receive an invitation from the Pharmacy Board by email - **CLICK HERE** for the survey and **HERE** for more information on registration and internships.

Qoctor's 10K sick days

"QOCTOR," an online service offering Skype consultations with doctors who issue absence from work certificates is marking a milestone after delivering 10,000 sick notes over the last two years.

The company says patients are saving hours of time by bypassing the "dreaded doctor's waiting room," as well as claiming to have saved Medicare almost \$500,000.

Win with Bellé Botanique

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Belle Botanique are giving readers the chance to win a Collagene Triple Action Anti-Ageing Moisturizer Cream valued at \$79.75 each.

Developed by an expert in formulation-science, **COLLAGENE** cream provides optimum age-defying nourishment and protection for the skin, suitable for both young and mature women.

www.bellebotanique.com.au

To win, be the first person from QLD to send the correct answer to the question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



COLLAGENE cream addresses the three main causes of skin ageing which are; oxidation, inflammation and glycation.
What is the fourth cause of skin ageing?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Cindy Hume from The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Guild Update

Rural support

COMMUNITY pharmacists are reminded to check their eligibility for the Intern Incentive Allowance for Rural Pharmacists (IIARP) which aims to support the rural and remote pharmacy workforce.

The Intern Incentive Allowance for Rural Pharmacies program provides financial encouragement for rural and remote pharmacies to employ graduate pharmacy students. Rural and remote pharmacies may be eligible to receive up to \$10,000 for every intern employed for 12 months. Eligible pharmacies also have the option of employing intern pharmacists for six months fulltime (or equivalent) to receive a \$5,000 incentive payment.

For the purpose of the Intern Incentive Allowance for Rural Pharmacies, the Community Pharmacy and/or Hospital Authority must be located in PhARIA categories 2 to 6 and applications must be received no later than 90 days after the commencement of employment of the pharmacy intern.

To find out more about the Allowances visit the 6CPA site or contact the Rural Pharmacy Workforce team on 02 6270 1888 or via email ruralpharmacy@6cpa.com.au.

The Intern Incentive Allowance for Rural Pharmacies Program and Intern Incentive Allowance for Rural Pharmacies - Extension Program are funded by the Australian Government Department of Health as part of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.