

TGA advert guidance

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has posted updated answers to Frequently Asked Questions about advertising of therapeutic goods, responding to feedback from recent training sessions relating to the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code 2018.

As more detailed answers to the most common questions are formulated they will be added to the Q&A pages, the TGA said. Visit tga.gov.au for more.

J&J powder clouded

THE iconic brand of Johnson & Johnson Baby Powder is under threat, due to a *New York Times* and *Reuters* investigation which found "from at least 1971 to early 2000s" raw talc and powders may have contained traces of asbestos.

The J&J share price dropped 10% last month after details of the probe were published - BMJ.com.

Pharmacists out, techs in

OVERSEAS-QUALIFIED retail pharmacists can no longer access special visa provisions if they work in the Northern Territory, under a revised Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) between the NT Government and the Commonwealth.

The new pact - which notably now also allows eligible visa holders to apply for Australian permanent residency after three years of working in the Territory - prescribes a range of eligible "shortage occupations" where employers can

recruit skilled migrants if they are unable to fill positions locally.

An additional 36 occupations have been added to the five-year agreement, including Pharmacy Technicians, but the previous option allowing employment of Retail Pharmacists under DAMA is no longer available.

Federal Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs David Coleman said "DAMA II" was an example of the Government using Australia's migration program to benefit specific locations.

"Our first priority is always to fill jobs with Australians, but the immigration system can play an important role in helping to address regional skills gaps," Coleman said.

"Every Territorian benefits when we attract more people to the Territory," NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner added.

No Jab, No Pay works

A SIGNIFICANT surge in children's vaccination, averaging 500 immunisations per day, has been attributed to the Federal Govt's 'No Jab, No Pay' policy which requires vaccination in order to receive welfare benefits.

Some 80,000 children have caught up with their vaccination programs between 01 Jul and 30 Nov 2017.

This represents around a third of the potential number of unvaccinated children granted a 63-day grace period to get on schedule, contributing to Australia's 94.62% of children aged five fully vaccinated.

FDA funding lapses

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) currently has no funding under the US "government shutdown" which is causing administrative chaos due to an impasse in Congress.

The FDA noted that it was able to only continue "such activities necessary to address imminent threats to the safety of human life," such as dealing with outbreaks of food contamination or diseases as well as food and medicine recalls - for more details see fda.gov.

Back to School special

PHARMACY Daily will next week offer an opportunity for industry suppliers to showcase their Back to School product ranges.

The Back to School Spotlight will feature a number of items including an image, description, price and call to action - to take advantage of this opportunity to reach pharmacies across Australia contact Melanie on advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au or call 1300 799 220.



Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Travel & Cruise Weekly*.

Travel & Cruise Weekly

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Norwegian Cruise Line Excitement in 2019

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has just revealed its exciting lineup of 2019 itineraries allowing Aussies to escape winter this year.

Explore the globe with five ships sailing in Europe, three to Alaska, two via Bermuda, and itineraries to the Bahamas & Florida, the Caribbean, Canada & New England, and Hawaii.

For example, cruise nine days to Scandinavia, Russia & Baltic from Copenhagen for \$1,934 pp with the famous Free at Sea deal.

Visit ncl.com for details.

Intern of the Year 2018

NOMINATIONS for the 2018 MIMS/Guild Intern of the Year Award 2018 close 13 Jan.

Candidates can be nominated by supervising preceptors, employers and Guild ITP clinical tutors, and can also self-nominate.

The winner will receive a travel and educational scholarship to the value of \$4,500 courtesy of MIMS Australia - for more information visit internpharmacist.or.au.

NSW measles alert

AUTHORITIES in NSW are warning the public to watch for symptoms of measles after three diagnoses in Sydney this week.

Victims include a baby admitted to Royal North Shore Hospital yesterday and an ACT woman who visited several public locations on Boxing Day while infectious.



Dispensary Corner

THE countdown to Christmas is meant to be a fun time for kids but for one UK family, it was the cause of a near cat-astrophe.

Nine-year-old Alissa Evans was given a Garfield advent calendar by her mother and spent 11 days chomping down the slightly green-tinged treats, before refusing to eat any more.

Her mother then had a closer look at the packaging, before realising that what she thought were apple-flavoured chocolates were in fact yogurt and catnip delicacies meant for cats.

Thankfully there were no ill effects for the young girl following the incident - in fact, one might say she was "feline fine".



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