

Signifor approval

THE US Food and Drug Administration today approved Signifor (pasireotide diaspertate) injection for the treatment of Cushing's disease patients who cannot be helped through surgery.

Bupa acquires dental

BUPA Australia is set to acquire Dental Corporation (Dental Corp), Australia and NZ's largest dental group, through a Scheme of Arrangement under the Corporations Act.

Under the Scheme, Bupa Australia will acquire 100% of the shares in Dental Corporation on completion, whilst financial investors will be entitled to receive \$2.347 per share and management and dentists will be entitled to receive \$0.9388 per share (representing 40% of \$2.347) plus three annual earn out payments over the next three years.

Each of these three earn out payments will be primarily determined by reference to the gross earnings and enterprise value of Dental Corp in each of the 2014, 2015 and 2016 financial years.

Dental Corp's board has unanimously recommended that shareholders vote in favour of the Scheme.

Dental Corp is comprised of 190 clinics and over 560 dentists.

"This deal supports Bupa's purpose of our customers living longer, healthier, happier lives," said Bupa Australia and NZ MD, Dean Holden.

"It also assists in Bupa's aim globally to be a healthcare partner to many more people around the world," he added.

NZ pharmacist prescribers

PHARMACISTS in New Zealand will soon be able to undertake specialist training to prescribe medications to their patients.

The program, announced this week by the NZ Associate Health Minister Peter Dunne, will bring New Zealand in line with countries such as Britain, the United States and Canada, and will see clinical pharmacists across NZ able to undergo special training and competency assessments to register in an advanced scope of practice.

The new pharmacist prescriber practice has been developed by the NZ Pharmacy Council with the support of Health Workforce New Zealand.

As part of the position, the specialist pharmacist will work in a collaborative healthcare environment and be able to prescribe medication to patients under the care of their team.

As such, the pharmacist will work with a designated medical practitioner who will act as a mentor, providing supervision and advice, and who will continue to be responsible for diagnosis and wider patient management.

"This is a natural extension of the experienced clinical pharmacist's role, making the best use of their training and knowledge of medicines and how to manage them," said Dunne.

"But this is also about ease of access to services for patients.

"The positioning of this role, as a key member of the health team,

means patients get access to all the care they need, faster, and in one place," Dunne added.

Meanwhile, the program has kicked off with the first group of 14 pharmacists currently undertaking the new postgraduate certificate in pharmacist prescribing, which builds on the postgraduate diploma in clinical pharmacy.

Seven of the pharmacists undertaking the training currently work in hospitals, whilst the other half work in primary care.

They are expected to complete their training early next year.

Instant HIV testing

THE TGA has approved a new on the spot rapid screening test for HIV, which will be able to give a preliminary result within a half an hour.

The Alere Determine Combo HIV 1/2 Ag/Ab is the first test approved for marketing in Australia that can be used as a point of care test for HIV.

Rapid testing is designed to improve the early detection capability compared to antibody tests alone which can take between 2-3 weeks to 3 months.

Movember pays off

THE Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) has appointed its 13th nurse to the Prostate Cancer Specialist Nursing Program, bringing the pilot program to its full complement.

As such, the newest nurse to the specialist nursing program, Esmail Habibzadah, has been appointed work at Sydney's Westmead Hospital, a feat which the PCFA credits to the continued support of The Movember Foundation.

"This collaboration has allowed us to get Australia's first Prostate Cancer Specialist Nursing Program off the ground," said Julie Sykes, PCFA's Director of Nursing.

"The program was launched in May 2012 and we are already starting to see the positive impact it is having on the lives of prostate cancer survivors," Skyes added.

Kids fall into hospital

FALLS are the most common cause of hospitalised injury for children aged 0-17 years, according to a new report from the AIHW.

Titled *Serious childhood community injury in New South Wales 2009-10*, the report looked at information on hospitalised injury of NSW children (aged 0-17) between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010.

According to the findings, falls accounted for 39% of admissions, with the most frequent type of fall found to involve playground equipment, followed by skateboards and scooters.

In addition, the report noted that boys were more likely to be injured than girls and that the rate of injury among boys, but not girls, increases steeply with age.

Across all age groups the rate of injury was 1,864 per 100,000 boys and 1,036 per 100,000 girls.

Backyard Botox

THE WA Department of Health has issued a warning to all patients who received cosmetic procedures at the home of a registered nurse, Tiffany Fraser of Wembley Downs, to visit their GP as soon as possible for a blood test.

The warning follows an investigation of a possible infection control breach at Fraser's home, which was unable to rule out the risk that a possible infection control breach could have exposed Fraser's patients to blood-borne virus or bacterial infection.

Under Australian law and Medical Board guidelines, nurses are not permitted to administer cosmetic treatments such as Botox, unless supervised by a doctor.

MEANWHILE the Cosmetic Physicians Society of Australasia has responded to the warning by saying "We don't think this is an isolated event, the CPSA is concerned that this illegal and dangerous practice occurs with alarming regularity".

"The order for such administration may only be given after the doctor has completed a full medical history and examination of the patient and then prescribed the treatment," the CPSA added.



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Guild Update

APP2013

The Pharmacy Guild is pleased to confirm that the Australian Chef de Mission for the 2012 London Olympic Games, Nick Green will be presenting at APP2013.

Nick Green not only led the entire Australian Olympic team to London, but as the 2012 Australian Chef de Mission he represented the aspirations of a nation.

Since the early 1990s, Nick has dedicated himself to building Australia's sporting profile on an international scale, not only as a world-class athlete as one of the 'Oarsome Foursome' but now as a leading Olympic advocate.

In recognition of his international sporting achievements, Nick was rewarded the Order of Australia Medal in 1993 and at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, was invited to carry the International Olympic Flag at the Opening Ceremony.

Attend APP2013 to hear Nick's journey and see how you can 'Build a winning team' within your pharmacy.

To view the full APP program and register now, visit www.appconference.com.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

HPS Associate Partners

HPS Pharmacies has unveiled its new Associate Partner Program, designed to "attract and assess talent for potential inclusion in the shareholder group".

Developed by the HPS Partnership group, the Associate Partner Program is being implemented in recognition of the high performing individuals "and the development of robust succession plans in light of HPS Pharmacies' rapid growth and dominant market success".

According to HPS Pharmacies the program is eligible to all employees, not only pharmacists; and is an exclusive offer made to select individuals, by way of stakeholder nomination and selection by the HPS Pharmacies' Board.

Those who become Associate Partners will remain employees of HPS Pharmacies, and will discharge their normal duties as well as Associate Partner responsibilities.

In addition, Associate Partners, whilst not yet having an equity stake in the business, will be entitled to attend the Partnership biannual GM

and other stakeholder meetings.

"The Associate Partner Program is a wonderful opportunity for the candidate and the Partnership group to critically assess if there is a natural fit between both parties," said Tony Wyatt, Partner and Chief Executive Officer of HPS Pharmacies.

"This program represents a commitment from the Partnership group in ensuring the continued success of HPS Pharmacies, through investment in its valued employees".

To this end, Wyatt has welcomed the first nine Associate Partners: Jason Cattonar, CFO, specialising in accounting and business finance; Dion Hutchins, Pharmacist, HPS Toowoomba; Brooke Kenny, GM, Corrections and Health Facilities; Pan Kwong, pharmacist, HPS Knox; Photios Poupoulas, pharmacist, HPS Ashford; Aleksandra Stankovic, Pharmacy Manager, HPS Brunswick; Stephanie Tieu, pharmacist, HPS Calvary North Adelaide; Alan Tuxford, Regional Operations Manager - VIC/TAS; and Steven Yeo, COO.

WIN A HYDRALYTE PRIZE PACK

Every day this week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving four lucky readers the chance to win a Hydralyte prize pack, valued at \$60.



Each prize pack includes 2 Orange Effervescent Tubes and 2 Apple Blackcurrant Effervescent Tubes.

Hydralyte is an oral rehydration solution which is scientifically formulated. It contains the correct balance of electrolytes and glucose required for rapid rehydration.

Hydralyte helps replace water and electrolytes lost due to vomiting, diarrhoea, heavy sweating, vigorous exercise and other dehydrating conditions such as excessive consumption of alcohol or due to a hot and dry environment.

For your chance to win this great prize pack, be one of the first four readers to send the correct answer to the question below.

What are 2 signs of moderate to mild dehydration?

Send your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners, Sam Develin from Medicines Australia, Mell Williams of Plunketts Chemmart Pharmacy Wauchope, Wendy Tran of Thi Nguyen & Partners Pharmacy and Jonathan Mayes from MPS Australia.

DISPENSARY CORNER

THE future of toilets?

A Japanese company is promising to help users bowel health with its newest toilet model, which can be controlled through a smart phone app.

The Satis toilets will be available from 2013, and will be controlled via the app, meaning that users can lift or close the seat, flush, play music through built-in speakers, and control bidet spray via their phone.

The phone app also allows users to track their bowel movements, as well as water and electricity usage to cut down on waste.

IRONING your face.

Many people have wished that they could simply iron out their wrinkles, but for one Polish man, this wish became a reality, albeit accidentally.

The man, Tomas Paczkowski, was at home while his wife was at work, when he decided to prove that he was able to multi task housework and relaxation, by ironing the laundry whilst drinking beer and watching a boxing match.

Unfortunately for Tomas, the phone rang mid match, and perhaps under the groggy influence of beer he answered the iron instead of the phone.

"Women are always going on about multi-tasking, so I set up the iron, opened a beer and put the boxing on the telly," Tomas said.

"Trouble was, I got so involved in the boxing that I wasn't really thinking about what I was doing.

"So when the phone rang I picked up the iron by mistake and pressed it to my ear," he added.

To make a bad situation worse, when Tomas made a bee-line to dunk his head in water, he misjudged distances and slammed right into his bathroom door.

"That gave me a black eye so now I look more like I've been in a boxing match instead of just watching one," Tomas said.

The good news however, is that doctors expect Tomas to make a full recovery from his injuries.