

AUSTRALIA'S HIGHEST WHOLESALER PBS DISCOUNT

6.25%

AUSTRALIA'S HIGHEST Rx GENERICS DISCOUNTS

100%

AUSTRALIA'S BEST OTC SUPPLIER DISCOUNTS

TOP + 10%

AUSTRALIA'S LOWEST MEMBERSHIP FEE/MONTH

\$99

Chemsave

MORE INFORMATION:

Contact David Patton m: 0432 515 717

Visit us at APP Stand 188

EMA on interactions

THE European Medicines Agency is recommending an update to the prescribing information for the hepatitis C treatment Victrelis (boceprevir) to reflect new research findings.

The recommendation is based on a Merck Sharp and Dohme study which found that blood levels for ritonavir-boosted HIV protease inhibitors: atazanavir, darunavir and lopinavir, were markedly lower than expected when given to patients in conjunction with Victrelis.

This result could mean that medicines are less effective when given together to patients who are co-infected with hepatitis C and HIV.

The EMA is now recommending that product info be amended to inform people of the findings as a precautionary measure.

Greenridge recall

THE TGA has issued a recall notice for Batch 5972 of Greenridge Gastrocalm Liquid and batch 6797 of Greenridge Triplex Liquid due to unintentional swappage of the products' labels during the manufacturing process.

Consumers taking the affected batches are advised to discontinue use, whilst people who are allergic to the daisy family of plants (incl echinacea) may experience allergic symptoms if taking the mislabelled Triplex.

Pharmacist dispensing laws

THIS week the House of Representatives passed the National Health Amendment (5CPA Initiatives) Bill 2011, which will allow continued dispensing of some medicines by pharmacists in defined circumstances.

Continued dispensing will allow pharmacists to dispense oral hormonal contraceptives and statins to patients where a prescription is unavailable, for example if the prescription is lost or where the GP is unavailable.

As the name suggests, stipulations on continued dispensing mean that it can only be applied to oral hormonal contraceptives and statins that have been previously prescribed to the patient.

Other rules governing this practice mean that pharmacists can only apply continuing dispensing practices where the therapy is stable and there has been prior clinical review by the prescriber that supports continuation of the medicine; and where the medicine is safe and appropriate for the consumer.

In addition, the legislation provides for mandatory notification to the prescriber that dispensing has occurred.

Discussing the legislation, the Member for Capricornia, Kirsten Livermore, said continued

dispensing was "a thoroughly common sense improvement on the current situation."

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed the legislation, saying it is confident that the limited measure will ensure optimal outcomes for patients without jeopardising relationships between pharmacists and doctors.

Meanwhile, a second important initiative of the 5CPA which passed through the House of Representatives via the National Health Amendment Bill this week, enables the dispensing of PBS medicines from a medication chart, rather than a prescription form, in a residential aged care facility.

This medication chart amendment is designed to improve patient safety and streamline administrative procedures.

"I thank the Government and the Opposition for supporting the passage of this important legislation through the House, and look forward to its passage through the Senate," said Guild President Kos Sclavos.

"These measures are just two of the significant benefits for consumers contained in the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement," he added.

Community care boost

THE Federal and Qld State Govt's have announced a \$39.8m boost for home and community care services throughout Qld to help people live independently.

Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* CPD Calendar, featuring upcoming opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

19 Feb: Opioid Dependency Treatment Training, Canberra Hospital, email - caroline.khalil@psa.org.au.

22 Feb: Cardiovascular Risk, Lipid Management; Rockhampton Hospital; email Deborah.Stevens@psa.org.au.

Aspen's appeal

ASPEN Australia's application to stay the cancellation of products containing dextropropoxyphene from the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods has been granted by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

This now means that Aspen can appeal the TGA's decision to cancel the registrations, and pharmacists may continue to dispense the products until further notice.

Aspen has however recommended that the drugs not be dispensed to new patients until further notice.

Affected products include: Di-Gesic (dextropropoxyphene HCl 32.5mg/paracetamol 325mg) 20's- Aust R 52509; and Doloxene (dextropropoxyphene napsylate 100mg) 10's- Aust R 161853.

Medibands save lives



WRITE ON
STYLE ID'S

New Write-on
Technology!

Provides vital information in emergencies

Perfect for Sport & Play Affordable

Order now!

Call us today on
1800 806 873

Find us at APP2012!

March 8-11 Stand number: 253
www.mediband.com.au/pharmacy

NOW AVAILABLE

The trusted, independent Australian medicines information on the go!
Online and AusDI mobile access for just
\$295 excl. GST

- Simple and fast search
- Updated monthly
- The complete drug reference
- Access saved favourites offline

Don't have a subscription?
Get it Now



“Boost Your Financial Management”



At Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove
GOLD COAST 20-22nd March 2012
Essential skills you need for profit & growth.
Over 2,000 pharmacists have attended.
CLICK HERE to go to brochure.
Accredited for 54 Group 2 CPD points
“The most practical, demystifying course I have been to” - Megan Kelly, Kiama



Sanofi fined for radio

SANOFI Aventis is facing a \$40,000 fine for breaching the Medicines Australia Code of Conduct, after comments made by Associate Professor Charles Inderjeeth in June last year on the 6PR radio station which broadcasts in Perth.

The seven minute radio segment saw Professor Inderjeeth discuss osteoporosis treatments, the result of which saw Sanofi's Actonel EC mentioned 15 times, once with the product's name spelt out by the radio host.

“It's called Actonel EC and go to your - it's A-c-t-o-n-e-l EC, so go to your doctor,” the station host said.

Bayer goes into bat for Yas

BAYER Pharma AG and Bayer Australia Limited have gone into bat to protect the company's oral contraceptives Yas and Yasmin, launching Federal Court proceedings yesterday against Lupin Australia and Generic Health.

As part of its action Bayer is alleging infringement of the Bayer Australian Patent No. 780330 (pharmaceutical combination of ethinylestradiol and drospirenone for use as a contraceptive) covering Yasmin and Yaz.

As such, Bayer is seeking

permanent injunctions against Generic Health and Lupin to stop the pair from importing, marketing and selling their oral contraceptive Isabelle, together with damages or an account of profits.

According to Bayer's legal team, the company had “established patent rights to protect its considerable investment in the research and development necessary to bring its unique Yasmin and Yaz products to Australian consumers”.

“Bayer is determined to enforce these patent rights and is committed to doing so as quickly as possible,” Bayer Australia's General Counsel Emma Press said.

The case is now listed for hearing on 19 March.

MEANWHILE lawyers for Generic Health have responded to the law suit saying the company is “confident that the Isabelle product does not contravene Bayer's patent rights and it [Generic health] will continue to supply the product and strenuously defend any claims Bayer makes”.

“Our client has also been informed by pharmacists that Bayer sales representatives are making certain claims to pharmacists regarding Isabelle, asserting that it is not bioequivalent to Yasmin,” Generic Health's lawyers said.

“This is incorrect - the Isabelle product is approved by the TGA as bioequivalent to Yasmin,” the lawyers added.

Guild Clinical dates

THE Guild is reminding pharmacists that there are still places left for the AACP Workshop being hosted by Guild Clinical on 22 February at St Leonards, call on 02 9467 7132.

DISPENSARY CORNER

HEART attack grill.

The infamous US burger joint, the Heart Attack Grill in Las Vegas has lived up to its name after a patron suffered a heart attack whilst chowing down on one of the restaurant's fattiest burgers.

The man was elbow deep in a Triple Bypass Burger when he began to have chest pains and sweat profusely.

Noticing the man's condition, a waitress, dressed as a nurse, went to fetch the restaurant's owner Dr Jon Basso.

Dr Basso told reporters that fellow patrons thought that the man's condition was a stunt.

“Even with our morbid sense of humour we wouldn't pull a stunt like that,” he said.

There is a happy ending for the burger lover, as according to reports, he is recuperating well in hospital.

He may however reconsider the type of foods he will chow down on in the future.

TINY discovery.

The world's smallest chameleon has been discovered in the wildlife powerhouse of Madagascar.

With a maximum measurement of 29mm the *Brookesia micra* is one of four new species which have been uncovered by scientists in the wilds of Madagascar.

The tiny creature was discovered on one of the Island's a remote limestone inlets, with scientists positing that it may have, over the years, adapted to living on a small island by becoming small itself.

WIN A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF NS-8

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **NS-8** are giving you the opportunity to win a year's supply of NS-8 Heel Balm.

Each prize pack is valued at \$100.75 and contains a year's supply of NS-8 Heel Balm PLUS NS-7 Dry Skin Moisturiser to keep your legs looking soft and smooth:

- ✓ 2 x NS-8 Heel Balm 250ml
- ✓ 2 x NS-8 Heel Balm 60g
- ✓ 1 x NS-7 Dry Skin Moisturiser 250ml
- ✓ 2 pairs of NS-8 Sports Socks

NS-8 Heel Balm is different from most heel balms – it is a cream formulation that is truly non-greasy and not waxy so it is quickly absorbed and doesn't stain bed linen or carpets. You can feel the difference from the first day you use it.

For your chance to win this prize pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the daily question below:

When will you feel the difference with NS-8 Heel Balm?

Hint! Visit www.ns8.com.au

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

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Kaye Hazel** from **Angel Medicine**.



You don't have to NAVIGATE the PBS changes alone!

Pharmacy Catalyst Buying & Retail Group

www.pharmacycatalyst.com.au call: Andrew Pattinson 02 9248 2609