

# Pharmacy DAILY

Monday 14 Jan 2013

PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

2013 Annual Therapeutic Update – March Weekend

1 – 3 March 2013

Crowne Plaza, Terrigal NSW

[www.psa.org.au/education/conferences](http://www.psa.org.au/education/conferences)

UP TO 38 CPD CREDITS GROUP 2



## Tetrazepam review

THE European Medicines Agency's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee has started a review of tetrazepam-containing medicines following new reports of serious skin reactions associated with these medicines.

Tetrazepam is a benzodiazepine, and is used to treat painful muscle spasms mainly in patients with rheumatological diseases.

The investigation follows a French review which found that side effects affecting the skin occurred at a high rate in comparison with other benzodiazepines.

## Rural health workshop

THE PSA's Medicines in the Bush Workshop will "break new ground", highlighting the collaboration between health professionals working in rural health and the benefits to patients from collaboration.

Topics to be covered include palliative care, Aboriginal health, telehealth, management of complex chronic disease and health practitioner prescribing.

The workshop will take place on 07 April prior to the commencement of the National Rural Health Alliance conference between 08-10 April.

See [www.nrha.org.au/12nrhc](http://www.nrha.org.au/12nrhc).

## Guild offers pharmacist support

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has added its weight to the Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS), supporting the PSS both financially and through participation in the PSS Management Committee.

"I am very pleased that PSS now has representation from all the major pharmacy membership organisations," said John Coppock, President of PSS

"This is the essence of PSS with the pharmacy profession looking after its own.

"PSS is all about pharmacists supporting pharmacists," he added.

The PSS service includes phone support to pharmacists, pharmacy interns and students, provided by trained volunteer pharmacists using a toll free number to a mobile phone they carry.

Currently the service is available in Victoria, Tasmania, SA and the Northern Territory, however the PSS is hoping to expand to WA and Queensland this year, and pending adequate funding to be expanded Australia wide in 2014.

Funding for the PSS comes from the member organisations and donations from individual pharmacists and the broader pharmacy profession.

The PSS has said that with its continued expansion there will be a greater need for administration and background support for the volunteers.

"Training of the volunteers is a significant cost but it is essential to ensure the quality of the service," said Coppock.

"The many administrative expenses for PSS include training, insurance, registration fees, telephone and other overheads," he added.

Meanwhile, pharmacists requiring assistance can contact PSS for anonymous and discreet support on 1300 244 910 between 8.00 am and 11.00 pm every day of the year.

## Member breakfast

SPOTS at the Pharmacy Guild's Member Breakfast on Friday 22 March are selling fast, with places limited to 500.

The breakfast will hear from National President Kos Sclavos who will provide a confidential briefing on the latest Guild modelling regarding dispensary performance and the impact of price disclosure, including the latest April cuts.

See [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com).

## Health check success

TERRY White Chemists had a very busy week last week, delivering more than 450 free Health Checks for tennis enthusiasts at the Queensland Tennis Centre for the Brisbane International.

The health checks were the result of a partnership between Terry White Chemists and Asteron Life, with the pharmacy chain providing the health checks (including testing total cholesterol, HDL, blood pressure, BMI and blood glucose), and Asteron picking up the tab.

Speaking about the success of the week-long promotion, Terry White Chemists' Professional Services Pharmacist Chris Campbell said the Health Checks had been well received by visitors at the event and that they had showed the effectiveness of the program in identifying potential health problems.

"We referred roughly one in four people to their GPs for further testing – that is a relatively high number of people wandering around with some sort of health concern which warrants investigation," Campbell said.

Pictured right is Terry White Chemist health stand at the Queensland Tennis Centre.



## Unbelievable SPECIAL OFFERS

### OFFER 1

GET UP TO 132, 2 FOR 1 MOVIE PASSES VALUED AT \$2508

**FREE!**

### OFFER 2

ODOURLESS FISH OIL 1000MG 200 FROM JUST

**\$3!**

### OFFER 3

ODOURLESS FISH OIL 1000MG 400 FROM JUST

**\$5!**

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR FULL DETAILS AND ORDER FORMS!

Everest™

## THE NEW AMH ONLINE



It's more than good looking

It's good

In fact, you may even think it's better than good. Find out more for yourself at [www.amh.net.au](http://www.amh.net.au)

# Get the power to access every off-patent product on maximum discount.

Call 03 9860 3300 and we'll do the same for you.

pharmacy alliance  
Your formula for independent strength



- Cost Effective
- Targeted
- Easy

## Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is

**Richard Manthey,**  
National Manager  
at Pharmacy Choice.



### Training for success

Ensuring your staff are well-trained is one of the quickest and most affordable ways to positively influence your business.

Training is a means of improving the service your store provides and this in turn can exponentially improve your pharmacy's financial performance.

There are many benefits which come from training staff including:

- Boosting overall morale and confidence
- It allows you to generate skills where you need them for the longer term
- It's more cost effective: it's cheaper to train existing staff and promote from within than it is to get new staff
- It allows you to create better working relationships and improves staff engagement
- It allows you to promote sales and potentially increase profit in areas of your choice

Importantly, the focus of any training is something you can control and it can therefore be targeted toward the areas of your business that need it most.

What's more, most employees value training for a qualification.

Speak to your retail support program and make sure they help you access all of the training options available to ensure you're equipping your staff with the skills that can make your business stand out from the pack.

## AMA calls for more training

**CORE** pharmacist training should include components in how to administer vaccine injections if pharmacists are to be allowed to give Australians seasonal flu jabs, according to the Australian Medical Association (AMA).

The comments come in response to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's *Draft Practice Guidelines for the Provision of Immunisation Services in Pharmacy*, with the AMA saying it would "not support legislative changes to allow pharmacists to administer injections until such procedures were included in core pharmacist training, and were not just an adjunct".

Speaking in the wake of the Guidelines AMA President Dr Steve Hambleton said "The AMA has a lot of concerns with pharmacies offering vaccinations".

"There is no privacy.

"Patients need to be made aware of possible side effects and discuss their medical history.

"What private room can a pharmacy offer a patient?" he added.

In addition, the AMA said the PSA's draft guidelines could be

improved by ensuring appropriately qualified and authorised registered nurses also held a statement of proficiency in CPR; pharmacies were able to demonstrate adherence to vaccine management policies and protocols; and ensuring consumers were asked if they had a regular GP and, if so, if they would consent to that GP being provided with a copy of their vaccination statement.

**MEANWHILE** the AMA also expressed concern over nurse practitioners giving flu shots in pharmacy, with Hambleton saying any nurse who administered a vaccination must be able to diagnose anaphylaxis.

"I want to know who will deliver the needles, they need specific training," he said.

"What questions are asked before the vaccine is administered? And where will they record the information?"

"This fragments the health record, because then we have patients coming into the GP to say they had some kind of needle at a chemist," he added.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

### MONSTER fight.

Locals strolling along a South African beach stumbled along a rather grim sight recently, with the head of giant salt water crocodile bobbing in the surf.

Crusted with pippies and other sea life the head appeared to have been torn from the reptile's body some time before it wound up on the beach.

According to speculation, and the appearance of bite marks on the crocodile's head, it looks as if the decapitation was the result of a dispute between the croc and a giant great white shark.

Torn from the plot of a Hollywood B grade horror film, the crocodile is estimated to have measured around three metres, and was most likely hanging around the mouth of a river when it encountered the shark.

"It's quite normal for sharks to swim here in the sea at St Lucia and it's also very normal for very large sharks to be very close to the shore," said one spectator.

### A BIT run down?

An American possum who met its maker following an unfortunate collision with a car has returned to the scene of the crime "feeling a bit run down".

The unusual joke, saw the possum taxidermied by an unknown source, then dressed in a cardigan, pants and a hat, and placed beside the road, under a sign that reads "I'm feeling a bit run down".

According to sources, the possums' appearance has caused more than a few cars to slow down with motorists doing a double take.



## WIN A REEF PRIZE PACK



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a Reef prize pack, valued at over \$50 each.

Each prize pack contains Reef Dry Sun Tan Oil SPF30+, Reef Dry Touch Sunscreen Lotion SPF30+, Reef After Sun & Tan Extender and Reef iPhone cover.

Iconic Australian brand Reef will have you beach ready with this fabulous pack of Reef products including Reef Dry Sun Tan Oil SPF30+, Reef Dry Touch Sunscreen Lotion SPF30+, Reef After Sun and Tan Extender and a Reef iPhone cover. With Reef's full suncare range scented with their signature coconut fragrance, every day will seem like a summer day!

To win this great prize pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### Name one Reef product other than the Reef After Sun and Tan Extender