

## FDA OKs Abilify

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB has announced the US Food and Drug Administration approval of its Abilify (aripiprazole) as an adjunctive treatment to antidepressant therapy in adults with major depressive disorder.

It's the first medication approved by the FDA as add-on treatment for the condition, which affects about 6.7% of the US population each year.

## Sunglass safety

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has accepted undertakings from a firm called Cosmetics Plus, after sunglasses and fashion spectacles it sold failed to comply with safety and labelling standards.

A regular ACCC product survey identified a number of glasses at Cosmetics Plus retail outlets which didn't carry the correct labelling, which is meant to have details of the lens category and an indication of sun glare and UV protection.

"Retailers are reminded to test all styles of sunglasses and fashion spectacles on a regular basis to ensure compliance with the mandatory standard," said ACCC chairman Graeme Samuel.

## Two pages today

PHARMACY Daily today has two pages including our weekly Health, Beauty and New Products update - see p2.

## Labor urges obesity push

A FEDERAL Labor government will lift the issue of obesity to a National Health Priority Area, according to a statement issued yesterday by opposition health spokeswoman Nicola Roxon.

Roxon said that making obesity a priority area will help drive efforts aimed at tackling obesity, which affects more people than several of the existing Health Priority Areas combined.

She said a greater focus on prevention in the health system would see the treasury produce a series of "definitive reports on the impact of chronic disease on the Australian economy" as well as shift the focus from so-called 'six minute medicine' in general practice, by providing incentives to GPs to practise "quality preventative health care".

The Australian Self-Medication Industry welcomed the ALP move, saying it's consistent with ASMI

## Imaging upgrade

A GROUP of doctors and patient groups is urging an increase in Medicare rebates for radiology, saying the current payments are less than a decade ago in real terms due to inflation.

The Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association is calling on major parties to commit to a 10% increase in patient rebates to "make radiology services affordable".

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## Apollo Myer deal

PUBLICLY listed Apollo Applied Science has launched a new range of skincare products which use its Intradel nano-technology.

Branded *Ellipse Skin Science*, the products deliver "nano-sized water droplets" carrying other ingredients, deep into the skin.

Apollo said the sale of the range through Myer would generate cash-flow as the firm progresses trials of its needle-free therapeutic drug technology.

## ADEC Oct recommendations

THE Australian Drug Evaluation Committee has published the results of its Oct meeting, which recommended the approval of the following medicines:

- Pfizer's *Exubera* powder for inhalation containing insulin, for the treatment of adult patients with type 1 or type 2 diabetes
- Delpharm Consultants /L's *INOMax* medicinal gas for the treatment of neonates with hypoxic respiratory failure
- UCB Phara's *Neupro* transdermal drug delivery system containing rotigotine, for the treatment of Parkinson's disease
- Orphan Australia's *Busulfex* solution for injection for use in haematopoietic stem cell transplantation
- Celgene's *Revlimid* capsules containing lenalidomide, for the treatment of multiple myeloma patients
- Pierre Fabre Medicament Australia's *Navelbine*/

*Vinorelbine* Pierre Fabre injection solution for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer

- CSL's *Daivobet* ointment containing calcipotriol and betamethasone, for the treatment of plaque-type psoriasis vulgaris.
- MSD's *Januvia* tablet containing sitagliptin for the treatment of type 2 diabetes
- Octapharma's *Gammanorm* injection solution containing human normal immunoglobulin, for adults and children with primary immunodeficiency syndromes
- Roche Products' *Herceptin* powder for injection containing trastuzumab, for the treatment of patients with HER2 positive localised breast cancer
- Schering's *Valette* tablet containing ethinyloestradiol and dienogest, for the treatment of mild to moderate acne in women who seek contraception.

## RGH Pharmacy

Due to popular demand the  
**RGH Pharmacy**  
**Anticoagulation Handbook**  
is now available to the  
pharmacy industry across Australia.

The handbook gives patients important information about warfarin treatment and has a chart to record INR results.

Repatriation General Hospital is making it available for purchase for \$2.80 per booklet, reduced to \$2.40 for PSA and SHPA members.

More information  
[chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au)



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### Frangipani pampering with free display unit

Soul Therapy is a luxurious, Australian-made body care range with a summery frangipani scent. The seven core items are a soap bar, hand wash, hand cream, hand and body lotion, velvet body cream, shower foam, and glow salt scrub. To support the new products, SAX International provides a free contemporary unit to display stock with header card.

RRP: \$9.95-\$24.95  
Stockist: SAX International  
Tel: (03) 9568 5999

### Summer loving skin care

Napoleon's summer range adds style to any young woman's beach bag. Products include the green-based Summer Lovers Self Tan Mousse, which prevents a fake orange colour, and also covers pink and red tones in the skin; Whipped Dream Tan Enhancer to deeply moisturise; After Sun Body Oil with light reflectors; and Smooth Over Body Scrub for micro-exfoliation.

RRP: \$30-\$45  
Stockist: Napoleon Perdis  
Tel: 1800 025 488



### Gift box of youth

RoC has packaged its Retin-Ox range into gift boxes in time for Christmas. The Day and Night kit and the Intense Anti-Aging kit both come with three products normally worth a total of \$148. The French company is supporting this and several other launches with an extensive advertising campaign.

RRP: \$79  
Stockist: Trimex  
Tel: 1800 774 590

### Bumper value beauty hamper

Elizabeth Arden's Christmas 2007 Luxury Beauty Hamper, valued at more than \$420, comes in a snakeskin red clutch and cosmetic bag, containing a soft compact with removable colour palette, two lipsticks, lip glosses, lip pencil, eye pencils, shimmer powder and make-up brushes.

RRP: \$129  
Stockist: Elizabeth Arden  
Tel: (02) 9409 7700



### Metallic shine

Gold, silver and bronze are the 'must have' colours this season. Lady Jayne's limited-edition range of metallic accessories is a collection of 24 glamorous claw grips and headbands to add some sparkle and glitz to any outfit.

RRP: \$4.99  
Stockist: McPherson's Consumer Products  
Tel: 1800 651 146



## DISPENSARY CORNER

WE know supermodels can be bitchy, but this is ridiculous.

A female dog in Britain will be paid more than \$55,000 to be the new "face" of a special canine fragrance released this week.

3-year-old Shirley the Grand Basset has been dubbed the "Kate Moss of dog modelling," and will be used to promote Petite Amande, a new perfume for dogs created by Mungo & Maud.

CENTRAL American drug distribution has reached new depths with the discovery of a makeshift submarine capable of smuggling up to 12 tonnes of cocaine to the US.

The nearly-completed fibreglass submersible was discovered by naval officers who described it as "one of the more inventive transport methods used by traffickers".

A NOVEL method of therapy is gaining currency in some US hospitals, with patients saying it provides more than what is offered just by pain medicines.

So-called 'Healing Touch Therapy' uses light touch and deep breathing to address energy imbalances and help patients remain calm.

In use at 30 hospitals by 2000 qualified practitioners, reports say a therapist gently glides hands through a patient's energy points or affected areas.

A spokesperson for Healing Touch International said the method is "not intended to replace standard treatment".

OFFICIALS in Thailand have launched an investigation after an air force helicopter reportedly made a detour so its pilot could pick some special mushrooms for his mother.

Seven crew are being probed after the unscheduled hour-long stop in a rice paddy in western Kanchanaburi province, well known for its herbal ingredients.

An Air Force spokesman saying the pilot would "face punishment for abandoning his helicopter without anyone to look after it and also for violating other rules".