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Timely, independent information about drugs

Title	Why read this
Dabigatran (Pradaxa) for stroke prevention in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation Review article	Dabigatran is an oral direct thrombin inhibitor. It is approved for the prevention of stroke in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation, and the prevention of venous thromboembolism after hip or knee replacement surgery.
13-Valent pneumococcal polysaccharide conjugate vaccine (Prevenar 13) listed on the National Immunisation Program Brief item	Prevenar 13, a 13-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide conjugate vaccine for <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , is registered for immunising Australian infants and children against pneumococcal disease. It will be introduced as an alternative to Prevenar and will replace it if surveillance confirms immunogenicity and non-inferiority to the 7-valent vaccine.
Generic brand of fentanyl patches (Denpax) PBS listed Brief item	Compared to the existing brand (Durogesic), there is no difference in the amount of fentanyl released per hour for equivalent strength patches, however the brands differ in appearance, patch size and the total amount of fentanyl they contain.
Varenicline (Champix) safety update: possible increase in serious cardiovascular events Brief item	Varenicline (Champix) — possible increase in serious cardiovascular events
Saxagliptin (Onglyza) tablets PBS listed for type 2 diabetes Brief item	Information on saxagliptin as add-on therapy with metformin or sulfonylurea for improved glycaemic control in type 2 diabetes.
Dutasteride with tamsulosin (Duodart) PBS listed for lower urinary tract symptoms due to benign prostatic hyperplasia Brief item	Dutasteride with tamsulosin (Duodart) can be prescribed for men with lower urinary tract symptoms due to benign prostatic hyperplasia from 1 August 2011. Treatment must be initiated by a urologist but can be continued by a general practitioner.
Pioglitazone and bladder cancer: new safety advice Brief item	Regulatory bodies have advised that taking pioglitazone for more than 12 months may increase the risk of bladder cancer.
NPS RADAR August 2011 Professional publication - NPS RADAR - Complete issue	NPS RADAR articles provide timely, independent, evidence-based assessment of new drugs, new PBS listings and research for health professionals.

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