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March 2011

This month in the Buzz....**b Panel declares PBM fight 'united effort'****b The Insider Section—our regular feature:*****The SuperSaver HotFive™***** Newly Added Drugs****b In Other News—NCPDP conference and more...****Panel declares PBM fight 'united effort'**

After a discussion sponsored by Pharmacy Development Services in mid-February, the feeling was unanimous; independent pharmacies must band together to fight the chokehold placed on the independent community by the health care industry's generous implementation of pharmacy benefit managers.

The oversight panel, headed by various communities involved in the industry and with knowledge of PBM practices specifically, discussed ways in which pharmacists could get involved. NCPA Senior VP and panel member Mark Hoey strongly encouraged the search for grassroots efforts, noting that these are some of the most active and effective channels for change.

The panel also noted that it isn't just pharmacy owners who must be involved, but equal importance is placed on informing the general public of the destructive forces that mandatory mail order policies and PBM practices are having on the community as a whole.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/i9QrQU>

The Insider Section**IN OTHER NEWS.....****NCPDP Annual Conference**

Phoenix, Arizona will mark the site of this year's conference sponsored by the National Council for Prescription Drug programs, held May 15-19. Topics include healthcare reform, regulatory updates, market trends and more.

See more at <http://mwne.ws/hFjgD>

Independent sells to independent

When an independent pharmacy owner decides it's time to retire, there are a few options he or she faces. When Jim Schumacher of T&H Pharmacy in Longview, Texas decided to sell, he was lucky enough to find an independent pharmacy willing to buy.

Schumacher says the purchasing store, Louis Morgan Drugs, had a nearly identical store setup. Everything from the in-store credit to the drive-up window will make the transitions for current customers seamless.

Read more about Schumacher's pharmacy merger at <http://www.ketknbc.com/news/longview-pharmacy-to-close>

b This month's SuperSaver HotFive™: save 20% or more!

5. Amlodipine/Benazepril 5/20 mg (100 Tabs)
4. Digoxin .125 mg (1000 Tabs)
3. Fenofibrate 160 mg (90 Tabs)
2. Lansoprazole 30 mg (100 Caps)
1. Tamulosin 0.4 mg (500 Caps)

b Newly Added Drugs (some not included)

- HYDROXYZINE HCL 50 MG (500 Tabs)
- INDOMETHACIN 25 MG (1000 Caps)
- AMLODIPINE 2.5 MG (1000 Tabs)
- JINTELI 1 MG/MCG (5x28 Tabs)
- JINTELI 1 MG/MCG (90 Tabs)
- CALCITROL 0.25 MG (30 Caps)
- GABAPENTIN 250 MG/ 5 ML OS (470 MLS)

Adding a new drug is easy! Just click on the Request New Drug link under the Tools section of your Status Page and tell us what drug you want to see priced through BG.