

Continued from page 1223

News Briefs

- **Blood glucose test strips** sold under the brand name FreeStyle by Abbott will no longer use the glucose dehydrogenase pyrroloquinolinequinone (GDH-PQQ) method, which does not differentiate among glucose, maltose, galactose, and xylose. The company announced in May and June that FDA had approved the requests to market FreeStyle Lite and FreeStyle test strips that use glucose dehydrogenase with flavin-adenine dinucleotide. Shipments to customers will start in August, and the company said it expects the new test strips to be widely available by the end of October. FDA had recommended in August 2009 that health care facilities avoid using GDH-PQQ glucose test strips because of the potential for a fatal drug–device interaction. Since 1997, according to FDA, at least 13 patients have died after receiving insulin doses or infusions that were guided by falsely elevated results from glucose test strips with GDH-PQQ. Those results were falsely elevated because the patients were also receiving a pharmaceutical that contained what FDA calls a nonglucose sugar, such as maltose.

- **Pharmacist executives in the Veterans Health Administration** (VHA) may receive up to \$40,000/yr in **special incentive pay**, thanks to a law signed May 5 by President Obama. The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 allows the Department of Veterans Affairs to use the incentive pay “to recruit and retain highly qualified Department pharmacist executives.” One of the conditions to be taken into account in awarding the incentive pay is the local labor market. The act limits a pharmacist executive’s pay, including bonuses and awards, received in a year to the annual pay of the president.

- The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) should develop **national practice standards** and study the **concept of multistate licensure**, delegates from member boards of pharmacy decided in May at the group’s annual meeting. National practice standards would help the state boards of pharmacy regulate the practice of pharmacy in a consistent, effective manner, the newly adopted resolution states. Multistate licensure would facilitate the practice of pharmacy and provision of patient care services across state lines. All 10 resolutions adopted by the delegates are available at www.nabp.net/members/resolutions.

- **John E. Clark, Pharm.D., M.S., FASHP**, received the Wendell T. Hill Award from the Association of Black Health-system Pharmacists at its annual awards banquet in May. The award was named in honor of the first African-American president of ASHP. Other award recipients included **Donna D. Bellamy, Pharm.D.**, President Award; **Cori E. Brock, Pharm.D.**, Research and Publication Achievement Award; and retired U.S. Army **Lieutenant Colonel Horace Knight, M.S.**, John J. Scrivens Distinguished Service Award.