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**SmarterPharm**



### Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a front page wrap from SmarterPharm and a full page from Pharmacy 4 Less.

### Smarter pharmacy

SMARTERPHARM is today highlighting its unbeatable discounts on generics and "wholesale discount maximiser" offerings for independent pharmacies - see the cover page.

### Student regos open

PHARMACY students who will soon complete an approved program of study and who seek provisional registration are being invited to apply online now. The Pharmacy Board of Australia has highlighted the online graduate application service on the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency website, which enables final-year students to apply for registration four to six weeks before completing their course. The Board noted that in addition to making an online application for provisional registration, graduates must also lodge a separate application for approval of supervised practice. They cannot start their supervised practice (internship) until both of these applications have been received and approved by the Pharmacy Board of Australia, which can take place once the education provider has confirmed that the student is eligible to graduate. See [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

## Guild urges NIP extension

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia says extending the National Immunisation Program (NIP) to cover influenza vaccination services delivered by pharmacists would ensure more vulnerable people are protected against the disease.

Writing in *Forefront* yesterday, Guild executive director David Quilty noted several reports highlighting the success of community pharmacy vaccinations, which for the first time this year were available across the country.

Quilty said the accessibility of pharmacist vaccinations was a strong factor in high levels of uptake of the service, adding that while it was a record flu season in terms of length and confirmed cases, "there is little doubt the numbers would have been higher

### ScriptMAP update

THE Pharmacy Guild has updated its financial support product, ScriptMAP 2020, to strengthen the software's forecasting which is unique to each pharmacy.

The update takes into account the extended/additional F1 statutory price reductions and an increase in the 16% Statutory Price Reduction to 25%, due to the agreement between Medicines Australia and the Federal Government.

In addition it recognises the Guild-Government agreement varying the 6CPA that increases the administration, handling and infrastructure for the remaining three years of the arrangement.

Visit [guild.org.au](http://guild.org.au) to find out more.

this year if not for the availability of pharmacist-delivered vaccinations in community pharmacies".

He said the research had shown more than six million Australians were more likely to have a flu shot if it could be administered at a local pharmacy, including two million who previously had no intention to vaccinate under the flu.

Under the NIP, free vaccination is available to people in several risk groups including those over 65, pregnant women, Indigenous Australians (aged 6 months to under 5 and 15+) and people aged over 6 months with medical conditions predisposing them to severe influenza.

"The fact that 95% of Australian adults visit a community pharmacy annually makes pharmacies the ideal locations to immunise patients who may not visit a doctor," Quilty added.

### Pharmacy fraudster

A PHARMACIST in the USA has this week reached a settlement with prosecutors in relation to allegations of a major health-care fraud scheme.

John Lemley, owner of Southern Compounding in Illinois, has entered a plea agreement on charges of conspiring to defraud prescription benefit schemes of more than US\$10 million.

Prosecutors alleged improper contracts, kickbacks and script forgeries, including selling misbranded OTC drugs as prescription medications.

## Pharmacists reduce med errors in ED

PHARMACISTS and technicians reduced admission medication history (AMH) errors and resultant admission medication orders (AMO) errors by over 80%, according to new research out of the US and Canada.

In a three-arm randomised controlled trial involving 306 inpatients, different combinations comparing procedures around AMHs were compared.

AMH errors and resultant AMO errors were identified and rated.

Published in the *BMJ*, authors of this original work concluded that "future research should examine other sites and patient-centred outcomes."

Visit [qualitysafety.bmj.com](http://qualitysafety.bmj.com) to access the study.

### No jab, no repeats

A GENERAL practice in the UK has been reported to NHS England and Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group by local pharmacists, who became aware that patients who were eligible for a flu vaccination had been told that they could not receive drugs on repeat prescription until they had had a flu vaccination at the practice.

The practice subsequently withdrew the threat after being warned by commissioners over its conduct.

The NHS subsequently warned general practices "not to let their push to deliver flu vaccinations this winter spill over into bad behaviour."

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## Dispensary Corner

**VITAMIN A** certainly won't be a problem for a gardener in the US state of Minnesota, who has proudly grown the world's largest carrot.

Christopher Qualley from the rural town of Otsego has earned a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records for his massive effort (pictured) which weighs more than 10kg.

He said the keys to his success were "soil, seed, weather and a little luck," and said he plans to now turn his sights on growing a record breaking tomato or pumpkin.



**PLASTIC** surgery has proved somewhat of a problem for three Chinese women, who flew to South Korea for a facelift and then had trouble getting home because they no longer looked like the photos in their passports.

The trio (below) were spotted at the airport with extremely swollen faces wrapped in bandages, and according to a fellow traveller they were barred from taking their flight, detained and questioned by authorities.



## MAESTRO pharmacy success

A DATABASE of drug assessment decisions created



Novartis & Amgen, with MAESTRO developed to offer

by a Sydney pharmacist is attracting a global audience, with the Russian government the latest subscriber to the MAESTRO data resource.

The success of Cronulla-based pharmacist Michael Wonder has been showcased in a feature article in today's *Financial Review*.

Wonder launched MAESTRO in 2011, with the system collating and analysing decisions made by global healthcare assessment agencies.

Subscribers also include a number of pharmaceutical companies such as Bristol-Myers Squibb, MSD,

a user-friendly way of navigating assessment processes.

Wonder covers regulators in about 10 countries, making all the complex information about every new and potential treatment available and searchable.

"My aim now is to be the global reference point for pharma companies and governments wanting to keep track of new healthcare technologies," he said.

Wonder previously worked for Novartis, and said he knows how time consuming it can be to get an overview on a particular drug.

"So hardly anyone does it, which means it's not as clear as it should be whether a government is doing a good job of supporting their citizens' health," he added.

The connection to Russia has led to other contacts with regulators in Kazakhstan and Colombia, with Wonder saying "it just goes to show your customers can come from anywhere these days".

## Guild dinner keynotes

**PRIME** Minister Malcolm Turnbull and opposition leader Bill Shorten have been confirmed as keynote speakers at the Pharmacy Guild's Annual Parliamentary Dinner in Canberra on 28 Nov.

The dinner will also see the Guild formally recognising the 20th birthday of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation.

## WIN WITH PLAQUEAWAY

Each day this week, Pharmacy Daily and PlaqueAway are giving away one bottle of PlaqueAway capsules valued at \$37.95.

PlaqueAway is a new and unique food supplement in Australia with significant oral health benefits. The capsules contain organic *Ascophyllum nodosum* (seaweed) powder which reduces plaque and tartar on teeth. Oral health benefits include a reduction in bad breath. As plaque is often stained, teeth will be whiter.

For more info visit [www.plaqueaway.com.au](http://www.plaqueaway.com.au).

To win, be the first from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)



Can PlaqueAway help reduce bad breath?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Donna Delgado from Woodlake Village Pharmacy, Ellenbrook.

## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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### le boat

### Who's on board?

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