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Pharmacist spared suspension

A PHARMACIST who self-supplied prescription medications and altered dispensing records has avoided suspension at a Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The tribunal rejected the Pharmacy Board of Australia's call for Min-Ning Annie Ye's registration to be suspended for "at least three months" in relation to incidents of profession misconduct and unsatisfactory professional performance.

In its ruling the Tribunal noted that between Sep 2015 and Dec 2016 Ye had worked in a south west Melbourne pharmacy, and had been overlooked for a promotion, which had been promised prior to going on maternity leave.

The Tribunal noted that Ye had a difficult relationship with the person who was appointed pharmacy manager, worked long hours at the store and a lack of colleagues left her without people she could rely on when sick.

On four separate occasions in

Nov 2015 and Jan and Nov 2016, Ye supplied herself with medications to treat illnesses without having a prescription, the Tribunal heard.

In Dec 2016 after a failed effort to resolve tensions between Ye and her manager, the pharmacy owner decided to relocate her to another store, but before she left the pharmacy, she deleted records relating to her self-dispensing.

Ye told the Tribunal she amended the records out of fear of reprisal by the pharmacy manager, who she had reported to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) for other issues.

However, the manager reported the incidents of self-supply, alongside dispensing errors Ye had made between Apr and Sep 2016.

Ye admitted to the allegations of self-supply and amending the dispensing records, which amounted to misconduct, while she also accepted the dispensing errors equated to unsatisfactory professional performance.



The Tribunal ruled that Ye, who is currently working in a hospital setting, would "gain insight by participating in an education course in relation to ethics, with subsequent mentoring".

"The protection of the public is best served in this case by tailoring the conditions of Ye's registration to ensure that she continues to practice in an ethical manner, rather than imposing a period of suspension," the Tribunal panel said.

Australian trio join FIP YPG

THREE young Australian-based pharmacists will sit on the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Young Pharmacists Group (YPG) Subcommittee in 2020.

University of South Australia School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences Research Supervisor, Dr Renly Lim, has been named President-elect of the subcommittee.

University of Technology Sydney Graduate School of Health Minor Ailment Service Trial Chief Investigator, Sarah Dineen-Griffin, has been elected to the position of General Grant Coordinator.

With immediate Past-President of the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association, Han-Fang (Jess) Hsiao, appointed to manage the YPG media team's Twitter account in 2020.

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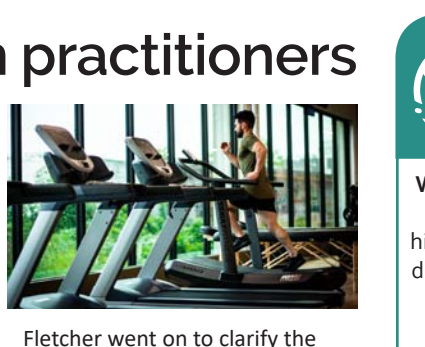


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Healthy health practitioners

HEALTHY practitioners are good for patient safety, according to Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Authority (AHPRA) CEO, Martin Fletcher.

Referencing a new set of resources for health practitioners around mandatory notifications, Fletcher said AHPRA wants to "ensure that practitioners with health issues feel safe to seek treatment without fear of an unnecessary mandatory notification being made about them.

"A practitioner with a health issue, on its own, does not require a mandatory notification."

The circumstances demanding a report are very specific, he explained, naming "impairment, intoxication at work or practice that departs significantly from accepted standards places the public at substantial risk of harm.

"Mandatory notifications are an important part of patient safety.

"We need to know when patients may be at substantial risk of harm from a registered health practitioner."



Fletcher went on to clarify the AHPRA position on concerns and barriers to people seeking help when they need it.

"After listening to practitioners, we understand their fears about mandatory notifications and the changes to the legislation.

"When a practitioner has a health issue, people want to know what is, and what is not, a trigger for a mandatory notification.

"We want to work together, to address any confusion and create the culture and leadership needed to support practitioners and make mandatory notifications easier to understand.

"These resources aim to both ensure patient safety and support practitioner wellbeing," he said.

See the resources at ahpra.gov.au.

Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away the pictured prize pack valued at over \$60.

Aloe Barbadensis 'Natures medicine plant' is renowned for its soothing, cooling and hydrating properties. Plunkett's Aloe Vera is fragrance and colour free and contains pure certified organic Aloe Vera extracted from Aloe Barbadensis Leaf - rich in vitamins, minerals, amino acids and anti-oxidants to restore dry and damaged skin all year round. Visit: www.Plunketts.com.au for more.

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Congratulations to yesterday's winner,
Gayle Mennilli.



Dispensary
Corner

DECEMBER'S here and the madness of the festive season will soon be upon us - Christmas carols have already been played in the *Pharmacy Daily* office, and the tree is up.

One US pharmacist, Suzanne Soliman, has compiled six tips to prevent the holiday season from spiralling into a logistical nightmare for *Pharmacy Times*.

Here are Soliman's recommendations for staying sane this Christmas:

Create a shared calendar - keep track of work parties, school plays and end of year tasks for everyone at home, leave nothing to chance.

Hosting - set a menu for Christmas lunch and stick to it.

Don't see everyone - tempting as it might be to get out of the house and visit all the relatives individually, between screaming kids and high temperatures, it's just not worth it - Skype and FaceTime can let you see the mother-in-law from a safe distance.

Take advantage of family and friends - it's the time of year to call in any favours, especially when it comes to finding someone to look after the nippers.

Shopping - you don't have time to a leisurely trip to Westfield these days, and let's face it there's not much pleasure in combatting the masses fighting it out for the last Barbie, look online!

Purge - kids have a lot of stuff, it might be time to declutter and empty out the toy-chest to make way for the latest fad.