



## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today has two pages of news plus the **Weekly Comment**.

## Video comp

**PHARMACISTS** working in PhARIA 3-6 pharmacies are being urged to get their cameras rolling to take part in the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's rural pharmacy video competition.

With the theme of 'Rural First Dates' pharmacist can highlight their stories of relationship building in the bush.

The best videos will be aired at the APP Rural Pharmacy Forum on the Gold Coast forum on 19 Mar, with the when the winner will be announce.

**CLICK HERE** to enter.

## 'Owing' scripts come with risk: PDL

**PHARMACISTS** are being urged to familiarise themselves with their legal requirements when it comes to emergency supply and owing prescriptions, to avoid potential disciplinary action, in a practice alert issued by Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL).

The article, written by Meridian Lawyers Principal, Scott Ames, noted pharmacists needed to adhere to their state or territory drugs and poisons legislation when reconciling patients' Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Safety Net cards, when providing owing and emergency scripts.

"Pharmacists are often confronted by patients seeking medications without a valid prescription," he said.

"A range of factors can lead to such a situation, for example when the patient has not seen

the prescriber before supply is exhausted or, in the case of Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF), the prescriber is yet to review the chart or write the necessary prescription(s) to provide for continuity of supply.

"These situations may place pharmacists in a difficult professional and ethical position when they rightly have the patient's wellbeing at the forefront of their minds, and do not want to see therapy interrupted."

Ames recommended that pharmacists should contact the patient's prescriber, saying they should seek a faxed or electronically transmitted prescription where possible.

However, if not he said, "good risk management practice requires that conversations with prescribers be well-documented".

"A doctor is not obliged to provide



a prescription to a pharmacist and this process can lead to delays in receiving the prescription or the refusal to supply the prescription if the medicine has been ceased or the patient's situation changes," he said.

"This scenario is especially problematic if the medicine involved is a Schedule 8 item".

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## Machete-wielding bandits on the run

**NSW Police** are searching for two machete-wielding robbers who held up a suburban Sydney pharmacy on Thu night.

The armed raiders entered the Late Night Chemist on Blaxland Road, Ryde, and threatened two employees before demanding cash and prescription medications.

Two customers were also in the pharmacist at the time.

Police described the men were as being aged between 25 and 35, both were described as being tall, one with a large build, while the other had a medium build.

**MEANWHILE**, police in Queensland are investigating a robbery in Arana Hills, after a not so friendly neighbourhood Spider-Man threatened to bomb a TerryWhite Chemmart store last month.

*The Courier Mail* reported that the costumed thief fled the scene on foot with an undisclosed sum of cash for the register having handed a note to staff, demanding medications and claiming he had a bomb.



Police are currently reviewing CCTV footage of the incident and have appealed for anyone with information to contact PoliceLink on 131 444.

Pharmacists who have been the victims of crimes, including armed robberies, or who are struggling with stress or anxiety, can contact the pharmacist-run, Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS), for support on 1300 244 910, or **CLICK HERE** to access resources designed for pharmacists.

Pharmacists can support the PSS by making a donation to its General Appeal **HERE**.

## Price Disclosure

PRICE reductions of up to 38.3% have been announced by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, for the 01 Apr round of cuts under the price disclosure mechanism. [CLICK HERE](#) for more.



## Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is



**Marta Stybowski**, pharmacist and General Manager, Pharmacium.

### Tips to Turn your 2020 Resolutions to Reality

If you're like me, a new year brings renewed enthusiasm and energy to tackle a list of projects. However with the best of intentions, turning ideas into successfully implemented processes or projects is easier said than done – and what I often hear is "but how do I do that in my business and where do I start?"

So my advice for 2020 is to surround yourself with a high performance pit crew. A champion F1 driver wouldn't stand a chance if he had to hop out and change his own tyres would he?

#### Wise elder

A good mentor with their wisdom and experience is invaluable and many successful business people enjoy sharing their stories (good and 'interesting') which can be a source of great learning.

#### Coach

Elite athletes achieve success with personalised coaching that challenges them, pushes them to their limits and supports them through a training program. Having a coach by your side can keep you on track to your goals.

#### Cheer squad

Nothing like playing in front of a home crowd cheering you on. Get your team on board, excited and backing your project. Collective enthusiasm and energy gets you through the tough times of implementation.

In 2020, reach out and connect with some of the amazing people and knowledge in our industry – the ideas and passion will inspire and assist you to turn your resolutions into reality!

## Dispensary Corner

A BRITISH pharmacy delivery service is no doubt ruing the repeated failures of Parliament to enact legislation to "get Brexit done", after falling foul of European Union (EU) law.

Doorstep Dispensaree Ltd's failure to comply to the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which came into effect in 2018, as earned it a fine of more than \$500,000.

The British Information Commissioner's Office revealed Doorstep Dispensaree had stored close to half a million documents featuring sensitive patient information including, names, addresses and prescriptions in unlocked containers, some of which were water damaged.

MEANWHILE, teenage members of Ireland's national youth choir, Cor Linn, visited Dublin's St Vincent's Hospital, on Fri, to bring some Christmas cheer to patients and visitors.

However, it wasn't simply their angelic voices that brought smiles to the faces of those present, as they inadvertently drew attention to a public health campaign urging men to check their baubles - to use a festive euphemism.

To the amusement of those watching, the group of 35 singers had set up in a convenient location outside an Irish Cancer Society office, which had a digital display flashing through campaigns, before the testicular cancer promotion popped up as the boys hit a high note.

## Capital Chemist celebrates PotY



CAPITAL Chemist Chisholm is celebrating its second successive Capital Chemist Group Pharmacy of the Year (PotY) title, with the Canberra store also in contention for the prestigious Pharmacy Guild of Australia title in 2020 (PD 31 Oct).

The pharmacy topped the group across 40 measures covering dispensary management, retail execution, health services and business management, ahead of runner-up, Capital Chemist Kingston, also in the ACT, which took out the Community

Engagement Award.

Capital Chemist HQ POS and Systems Co-Ordinator, Lisa Williamson, was named the group's Team Member of the Year, with the Chisholm store's pharmacist, Vijay Babu, named among the runners-up for the gong.

Capital Chemist Group Business Manager, Andrew Topp, said the awards were an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of each store in the network.

**Pictured**, the team from Capital Chemist Chisholm celebrating their PotY win.



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