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## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today has three pages of news plus a full page from **Razor Group**.

### AHPRA review

**PROCESSES** and safeguards used to protect the confidentiality of health practitioners who report suspicious behaviour to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) are currently under review.

The safety of notifiers has come to the fore in recent days after court documents revealed a GP was provided with the name of a pharmacist who flagged concerns over his prescribing of benzodiazepines, when he was notified that he was under investigation, and was later told where the pharmacist worked, before he went to the pharmacy and attempted to kill her (*PD* 04 Jul).

A spokesperson for AHPRA told *Pharmacy Daily* the regulator had engaged the National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner, to review its practices and processes.

"The Ombudsman will consider the experience of other organisations with anonymous or confidential complaints both within and outside Australia," the spokesperson said.

## AMA slams WA pharmacy proposals

**RECOMMENDATIONS** to expand the scope of pharmacists in Western Australia, to include limited prescribing rights and a broader range of immunisations have been blasted by the Australian Medical Association (AMA).

The WA Government's review of community pharmacy ownership laws, reported that pharmacists were under-utilised in the state and their skills could be used to alleviate pressure on medical services.

"Changes could be made to improve pharmacist utilisation, which is argued as needed to enhance efficiency of the health system," the review's authors said.

"These changes could include services to provide additional vaccinations, health screening, chronic disease management, health promotion, and other medicines-related activities.

However, AMA WA President, Andrew Miller, warned pharmacists

would "try to short-change patients".

"They're basically Dr Google with a shop," he said.

"If pharmacists need to expand their business they should start looking at other avenues.

"If they want to diagnose and treat illness properly then pharmacists should go to medical school.

"We do not go down to a shop to find out what the symptoms in our body might be causing. That is not appropriate," Miller said.

Responding to the criticism of pharmacists, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) interim President, Dr Shane Jackson (**pictured**), said the AMA's stance showed a lack of knowledge of pharmacists' skills.

"This vitriol is horrendous," he said on Twitter.

"Pharmacists are happy to work as part of teams with team players.

"Total lack of understanding of



expertise is where this criticism fails."

Pharmacy Guild of Australia WA Branch Director, Matthew Tweedie said the proposals were about "utilising the workforce you've got", rather than have pharmacists replacing doctors.

"The AMA's view of what this is... it's ill-informed," he said.

"No-one is planning to be the doctor... There is a role here for general practice and pharmacy to work together. We're happy to work with whomever to make that a reality for West Australians."

### PBS application fees yet to be confirmed

**PHARMACIES** seeking to be approved to supply medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) or to relocate their store, will have to pay a new fee should the Government pass its proposed National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Bill 2019.

Health Minister, Greg Hunt, put the proposals before the House of Representatives on Thu 04 Jul, saying it was in line with an

agreement with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

"The amount of the fee will be determined by the Minister for Health in a legislative instrument and will be calculated based on the regulatory activity involved in processing these types of applications," he said.

"The fees will be reviewed each year by the Department of Health and adjusted accordingly."

### GP vax failures

**NSW** Health is investigating a number of GP clinics where breaches of vaccination guidelines have been identified, according to an *Australian Doctor* report.

An audit of surgeries across the state had identified 44 "high-risk" practices and two clinics that failed to monitor vaccine fridge temperatures at all, contravening the guidelines for storage of the vials.

# CH2

Clifford Hallam Healthcare

With Actelion now a business unit of Janssen ANZ (Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd), both CH2 and Janssen are pleased to announce the continuation of the exclusive supply arrangement of the Actelion range through Clifford Hallam Healthcare (CH2).

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## Umina Blooms phoenix rising



**LIKE** the legendary phoenix rising from the ashes, Blooms the Chemist Umina, NSW, has reopened with celebrations, a resurrection of a type since the store was destroyed by fire in Jan this year.

Celebrations included a series of community events and a grand opening at its new West Street location.

In addition, as part of the relaunch celebrations, store owner and pharmacist Markos Atalla and staff visited a number of local community groups throughout the week including the Ettalong and

Umina Bowling Club, Everglades Country Club and Ettalong Diggers to provide free superfood smoothies and health checks.

An in-store event on Saturday included a wide range of activities and giveaways, with the Star 104.5FM road star party team, live acoustic music, face-painting and a special appearance from Batman and Wonder Woman.

Former NRL legend Adam McDougall was there to help celebrate - he is **pictured** with Blooms the Chemist Umina pharmacist owner Markos Atalla.

## Creso lands UK distribution deals

**ASX-LISTED** nutraceutical developer, Creso Pharma, has announced distribution deals with UK pharmacy chain Boots, and health food group Holland & Barrett for its cannabis-based supplement, CannaQIX.

The agreements will see the CBD product stocked in over

2,500 pharmacies across the UK.

Creso CEO, Miri Halperin Wernli, said that securing the deals validated the company's partnership with sales and marketing business, Pharmacare Europe.

CannaQIX will be sold in the UK under the Naturopathica brand.

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## Unregistered nurse fined \$15,000

**A VICTORIAN** woman has been successfully prosecuted for falsely passing herself off as a registered nurse and injecting a patient with substances "purported to be cosmetic injectables".

Brittany Fairthorne pleaded guilty to charges relating to the incident at the Frankston Magistrates' Court, last week, after the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency lodged proceedings against her.

Fairthorne was fined \$15,000 for breaching the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, and ordered to pay costs of \$13,495.85.

AHPRA CEO Martin Fletcher welcomed the court's decision as a strong deterrent to anyone who

falsely claims to be a registered health practitioner.

"This is another very good outcome for AHPRA, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and the public," he said.

"Claiming to be a registered health practitioner when you are not puts vulnerable people at serious risk.

"We will continue to take action against these individuals to support the profession and safeguard the public, including through prosecution in the criminal courts."

The case was heard just days after new tougher sanctions including increased fines of up to \$60,000 and maximum jail sentenced of three years came into effect (**PD** 02 Jul).

## Health products advertising

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has posted a new summary of rules around safety claims when advertising health products.

Advertisers are prevented from claiming that their product is safe, that their use cannot cause harm, or that they have no side-effects.

Implied safety claims are also prohibited, such as claiming a product has a "safe mode of action", "no known side effects", is a "safe alternative", has "non-toxic amounts of..." or is "a safe alternative to prescription medicines without the debilitating side effects".

The TGA also placed emphasis on the inappropriate use of the word "natural" being used to imply safety.

Similarly the use of the word "organic" must not be used comparatively or suggestive of purity versus inorganic.

Even implications that an alternative product can be harmful is considered a safety claim and is not allowed.

See details at [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).



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## FDA myeloma OK

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Xpovio (selinexor) tablets in combination with dexamethasone for the treatment of refractory multiple myeloma.



## Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is Gary West, PDL's Professional Officer.



## Benefits of contacting PDL about incidents and near misses

**SOME** errors or incidents may seem trivial but PDL cannot stress enough the importance of contact at the time for advice and support. A Professional Officer will review the situation and determine if all steps have been taken to ensure the incident is not escalated. As well as receiving advice on incident handling, reporting the issue to PDL is a condition of insurance and provides a record which can assist with legal representation, if necessary. A copy of the incident report is provided which may be required by employers or for QCPP documentation.

Even if a wrongly dispensed item does not leave the pharmacy, it should still be reported as consumers can and sometimes do make a complaint to a pharmacy regulator. If a complaint is made and you have reported the matter to PDL, support is provided and legal advice is available, subject to the policy, to assist in replying to the complaint.

All incidents reported to PDL are collated and analysed for trends in common errors. From this analysis, PDL regularly sends practice alerts to its members alerting them to potential pitfalls. Past alerts are available in the PDL members section of the website.

## Dispensary Corner

A **FUNERAL** parlour worker in the USA has managed to escape a fine for driving in a car pool lane, on a somewhat dubious technicality.

The mortician was pulled over by the Nevada Highway Patrol while driving in a so-called "HOV Only" lane (high occupancy vehicle) because he was the only person in the car.

However, he successfully argued that there was also a dead body in the back of the hearse, meaning technically there were two occupants.

Although he was not formally sanctioned, officers subsequently issued an updated policy via Twitter.

"I guess we should clarify this: living, breathing people count for the HOV lane," they said.

**IT ONLY** took 150 years.

A group of pioneering British female health professionals have been awarded posthumous honorary degrees in medicine, after being prevented from graduating from their courses in the 1870s.

The so-called "Edinburgh Seven" were the first women admitted to study medicine in Britain, but were ultimately prevented from qualifying as doctors, according to the *BBC*.

Their attempts to study caused a riot at the University of Edinburgh's Surgeons Hall, where they were pelted with mud when they attempted to sit an anatomy exam.

The degrees were awarded this week, on the 150th anniversary of their matriculation.

## Sweet \$20k prize for Carter



**AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD** Tasmanian boy claimed a belated birthday present, landing a \$20,000 prize as the winner of the Glucojel Express Yourself Favourites Edition photo competition.

Tasmanian, Carter Lithgow, scooped the top prize for his Happy Birthday to Me photo of a Glucojel-inspired art-work featuring the number eight made from the pharmacy-only jelly beans above eight Glucojel candles.

The youngster said he will use some of his winnings to visit

Melbourne, donate some cash to the local children's hospital and "pay a few bills".

Carter was presented with a cheque for \$20,000 at Kings Meadows Discount Pharmacy, Launceston last week.

**Pictured**, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National Councillor, Helen O'Byrne, competition winner, Carter Lithgow, and Kings Meadows Discount Pharmacy Retail Manager, Leanne Fulcher.



## Win with ULTRASENSITIVE

This week Pharmacy Daily and ecostore are giving readers the chance to win a prize pack of products from ecostore's ULTRASENSITIVE home and body range, valued at over \$50.

Convert your home to an asthma and allergy-aware space with ecostore's ULTRASENSITIVE home and body range, approved by Sensitive Choice for Australians with sensitivities. [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

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



What does the Sensitive Choice 'blue butterfly' logo help customers identify?

[Check here tomorrow for today's winner.](#)

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