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eRx script exchange

RACGP fears “disingenuous”: Guild

WARNINGS that plans to trial pharmacist prescribing in Queensland could increase the threat of antibiotic resistant infections are “disingenuous”, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia says.

The Guild’s comments came in response to a statement from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, which claimed the Queensland Government was “exposing the community to one of the biggest global health risks” by allowing pharmacists to prescribe antibiotics for urinary tract infections.

A Guild spokesperson told **Pharmacy Daily** that RACGP Queensland Chair, Dr Bruce Willett’s (pictured), comments that “As doctors, we are seriously concerned about the growing rate of infections that are antibiotic resistant,” did not hold water.

“The RACGP’s claims that the trial

could increase antibiotic resistance seem somewhat disingenuous given that doctors over-prescribing antibiotics has led to the current concerns,” the Guild said.

“Pharmacists, as the medicines experts, are well placed to ensure prescribing for the conditions allowed under the trial (contraceptive pill and antibiotics for urinary tract infections) is targeted and effective.

“This sensible and progressive decision will provide Queensland patients with safe and convenient access to medicines as required, under appropriate protocols which will ensure collaboration with the patient’s other health professionals including their doctor.

“This is a major step forward for patient care and sensible use of the community asset that is represented by highly-trained pharmacists distributed across the



State in the most accessible health infrastructure of all – community pharmacies.”

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National President, Dr Chris Freeman, said it was disappointing that the RACGP had chosen to once again diminish the role of pharmacists.

“It is essential that all health professionals work together for the benefit of patients, and the pharmacy profession will continue to do just that,” he said.

“PSA supports collaborative prescribing of medicines by pharmacists to improve Australians’ access to safe and effective healthcare...we will work with the Queensland Government to ensure that any prescribing trial is performed in a way that protects patient safety.”

Today’s issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news and a full page from Sigma Healthcare.

Sigma's WA best

SIGMA Healthcare has celebrated excellence in its Western Australian Amcal, Guardian and Discount Drug Store network, with top state award winners on **page four**.

JOBS OF THE WEEK

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AUSTRALIAN MEDICINES HANDBOOK

Vit D update

GUILD Learning and Development has worked with Sanofi to update the course titled "Vitamin D supplementation in bone health".

Pharmacists who complete this course will be able to describe the process of bone metabolism, including the role of vitamin D in bone metabolism.

This course will also help pharmacists identify patients who may benefit from vitamin D supplementation, and includes counselling points and advice for patients.

The accredited course is suitable for a pharmacist's CPD plan and brings CPD credits.

Enrol at guided.guild.org.au.

Jab in the back never happened

A PERTH-BASED pharmacist is strenuously denying claims he caused nerve damage to patient when administering an influenza vaccine last week.

Patient Michael McGrady told a number of WA news outlets, including radio station *PR6*, that he had gone to a pharmacy near his work to get the flu vaccine and that the pharmacist who administered the vaccine "didn't really seem like he knew what he was doing", adding that the pharmacist was reading a piece of paper.

McGrady claimed the pharmacist proceeded to inject the vaccine into the back of his shoulder, which he described as "excruciating" when asked by *PR6* presenter, Gary Adshead, whether it was painful.

A spokesperson for the pharmacy denied the allegations.

"Vaccinations in our pharmacy are carried out according to our vaccination training, with utmost regard for the safety and well-being

of patients," the spokesperson said.

"No patient in our pharmacy has ever been administered the influenza vaccine by injection into the back.

"We are aware of a patient who has recently appeared on a television news item alleging that he was vaccinated by injection into the back...without identifying or denigrating the patient in any way, we categorically assert that no patient has ever received a flu vaccination in the back at our pharmacy," the pharmacist said.

"Influenza vaccines are administered through injection into the upper arm, with no exceptions.

"I administered a number of vaccinations that day and all of them were administered in exactly the same manner as per our accredited training. The paper work referred to would have been the required patient consent form which must be checked prior to administering the vaccination."

ACP open CPD

THE Australian College of Pharmacy has released five new CPD activities, which are available at no cost to all Australian pharmacists.

The additions to the existing range (**PD 29 Apr**) cover key OTC areas, including women's intimate health, functional gastrointestinal disorders, infant feeding, cow's milk allergy and toddler nutrition.

Upon successful completion the five new activities are accredited for an overall total of 17 Group 2 CPD credits.

The modules were developed by the college with the support of an unrestricted grant from Bayer Australia.

Register at acp.edu.au to access the CPD at no charge.

AFL

AFL R16 WINNER

Congratulations

MARK TUCKER

from *Pure Beauty Australia Pty Ltd*

Mark is the top point scorer for Round 16 of *Pharmacy Daily's AFL* footy tipping competition.



GuildDigital

Pharmacy Daily AFL tipping competition is sponsored by GuildDigital, with the top tipper for the season winning a \$1,000 gift card.

NSW permit LTPS/19/31793 / ACT permit TP 19/02664

Boots adds one, takes away 200 more

UK PHARMACY chain, Boots, has been celebrating the opening of its newest store in London, just as it plans to pull the pin on 200 regional pharmacies across Britain.

The Covent Garden store will feature more than 300 beauty brands, while the pharmacy will offer express pickup lanes and consultation areas where patients can receive advice from pharmacists.

Despite the stylish finish the flagship store has attracted criticism on LinkedIn, with several people calling on the chain to invest in upgrading existing stores rather than splashing out on a lavish London shop at the expense of regional pharmacies.

One LinkedIn user posed the question, "is this the reason why 200 stores nationwide will close?"



NRL TIPPING R16 WINNER

Congratulations

APRIL PEARCE

from *Ayr Hospital Pharmacy*



GuildDigital

Pharmacy Daily NRL tipping competition is sponsored by GuildDigital, with the top tipper for the season winning a \$1,000 gift card.

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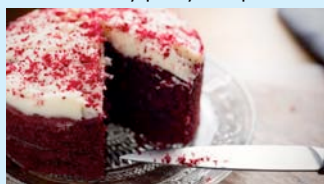
Dispensary Corner

NURSE, why are you floating on the ceiling?

A group of innocent nurse imbibers of cannabis in a cack, found themselves a little untidy with very crooked hospital corners on their beds, in Warrington Hospital, Cheshire, UK, *Sky News* reports.

The care given by the nurses was so wonderfully appreciated by an elderly grandfather, he gave them the red velvet sponge cake as a thank you, not knowing that it was strongly laced with marijuana.

It had been originally concocted for his grandson's 18th birthday party - oops.



AND IN another marijuana muddle, a disused police station was found to have been converted into a cannabis farm, the *British Daily Star* reports.

Passing officers noticed the old building, which had been closed six years previously, was insecure and went in to investigate.

They found the entire first floor and loft space of the disused cop shop had been given over to the cultivation of more than 1,000 plants.

One officer quipped, "It was a bit surreal though, seeing the old Inspector's office full of root balls and empty pots."

Police believe the farmers had also been living on site.

Ascensia Blooms

ASCENSIA Diabetes Care and Blooms The Chemist have announced they are uniting to upgrade blood glucose meters for hundreds of people at the Live Your Life event, organized by Diabetes NSW/ACT.

Ascensia is offering CONTOUR NEXT meters at the event for free, and participants can consult with a pharmacist from Blooms The Chemist about diabetes supplies such as strips and lancets for their new meter, and related matters.

Mupirocin tick

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved the first generic equivalent of Bactroban (mupirocin) following an application by Medsurge Healthcare.

The new Mupirocin Nasal Ointment has the same indications as the originator brand, and is available through all wholesalers as a 5g tube.

Win with ULTRA SENSITIVE

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

Convert your home to an asthma and allergy-aware space with ecostore's ULTRA SENSITIVE home and body range, approved by Sensitive Choice for Australians with sensitivities. **CLICK HERE** for more.

To win, be the first from QLD to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Which brand is currently the only Sensitive Choice approved body care range?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Findlay Hay.



Travel & Cruise Weekly

Discover the hidden ruins of Greece

Read more in the Winter edition of *Travel & Cruise Weekly* magazine online

TBN set to drive demand

PHARMACY-FAVOURITE nail polish brand COLOUR by TBN is celebrating 10 years of successful retail marketing, with the Total Beauty Network (TBN) plotting a "monumental push to drive consumers into pharmacy doors" as part of the milestone.

The company has flagged prime time TV advertising along with print, digital and "meaningful influencer collaborations" to help cement its position as the "health beauty brand specialist".

The initiatives were unveiled during TBN's annual conference this month, with the success of its brands seeing almost 1.5 million COLOUR by TBN units sold in Australian and NZ pharmacies in just the last 12 months.

CEO, Tony Rechtman, said sister label Designer Brands also had its best year in 2018, with the business continuing to perform strongly.

Rechtman acknowledged difficult conditions in some markets, but said the TBN range, which also includes superfood-infused beauty brand Raww, was denying the

overall market trend.

"Retail is tough...but only if you have the wrong product.

"With the right product, offer and marketing programs, retail brands can fly and that's exactly why our competitors are flatlining."

Rechtman said some rival multinationals were seeing sales declines of up to 10%, in contrast to TBN's cosmetic range which were up between 5% and 12% depending on the pharmacy group.



Guild Update

Top bureaucrat to address pharmacy conference

THE Secretary of the Australian Department of Health, Glenys Beauchamp PSM, has confirmed she will attend and speak at the Pharmacy Connect conference in Sydney on Friday 6 September. Ms Beauchamp, a distinguished senior Federal public servant, has led the Department of Health since September 2017. Pharmacy Connect and the Guild are delighted that Ms Beauchamp will address delegates at the conference at this very important time in community pharmacy, with negotiations due to commence on the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement. The conference is being held at Sydney's Hilton Hotel from 5 to 7 September.



Award Winning Pharmacies Announced for WA

The winners of the best performing Amcal, Guardian and Discount Drug Stores pharmacies in Western Australia have been recognised at the Sigma Pharmacy Assistant Annual Conference and Gala Awards.

The winners will now represent their region in the national awards, early 2020.

Brian Tomlin, Sigma's General Manager Retail Sales congratulated all the award winners

'The awards night provides the opportunity to recognise the hard work of our pharmacy teams. We would like to acknowledge and thank all our award nominees, finalists and winners for their contribution and commitment to serving their local communities.'

Pharmacy of the Year

Amcal Award Winner -

Amcal+ Burswood

Guardian Award Winner -

Night & Day Pharmacy Baywater

Discount Drug Stores Award Winner -

Busselton Discount Drug Store

Professional Services Pharmacy of the Year

Amcal Award Winner -

Donnybrook Pharmacy

Community Engagement Pharmacy of the Year

Guardian Award Winner -

Rangeway Pharmacy

Discount Drug Stores Award Winner -

Kingsley Village Discount Drug Store

Retail Manager of the Year

Amcal Award Winner -

Rita Karreman - Amcal+ Burswood

Guardian Award Winner -

Ashlee Worthington - Night & Day Pharmacy Bayswater

Discount Drug Stores Award Winner -

Jacinda Crompton - Mandurah Discount Drug Store

Pharmacy Assistant of the Year

Amcal Award Winner -

Sharni Mifflin - Donnybrook Pharmacy

Guardian Award Winner -

Jaimey-Lea Watkins - Dongara Guardian

Discount Drug Stores Award Winner -

Ellen Ryan - Innaloo Discount Drug Store

