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## Pharmacist urged to prepare for fires

PHARMACISTS from NSW, Queensland and Western Australia are being urged to be prepared for the impact of bush fires, as temperatures across Australia soar.

With the Rural Fire Service in NSW issuing a catastrophic warning for large parts of the state, including the Greater Sydney and Hunter regions, the Department of Health is expected to issue advice regarding the provision of medications under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) in emergency circumstances.

Over the weekend Guardian Pharmacy Old Bar, in the fire affected north-east of NSW, pharmacist, Akash Mehta, led the way, opening his store on Sunday evening to meet the needs of his community.

Speaking with *Pharmacy Daily*, Mehta said State Emergency Services crew had knocked on his

door on Friday evening warning the fire were likely to spread to the town, prompting him to evacuate.

Throughout the weekend access to Old Bar was restricted with police saying it was too dangerous to bring him into the town to secure emergency supplies of medicines.

However, on Sunday evening a report came through that the SES was helping staff from the local supermarket to get generators into the store, and Mehta contacted the SES in Taree who agreed to escort him back into the town to reopen the pharmacy.

"I put a note on the Guardian Pharmacy and Community Facebook pages that we were going to open the pharmacy for an hour or so and we were able to help out a few people," he said.

"It's crazy at the moment, because the pharmacy was closed for two



days and the weather forecast for tomorrow is bad as well.

"We have done over 400 prescriptions already and it's only 2pm - the average script volume would be 300 scripts a day."

Mehta added his team was committed to staying open for the community.

MEANWHILE, Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS) President, John Coppock, has urged pharmacists in affected areas to contact the service if they need to talk about their experience.

"We live in a country prone to natural disasters such as fire and flood but when these events occur and you are involved it can cause a lot of distress," he said.

"After the acute situation the stress can be ongoing as even with full insurance, the sense of grief and loss and the work of rebuilding can take months to years to resolve, this impacts on both pharmacy owners and staff."

### Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from Eagle Shared Services.

## MS drug TGA nod

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved Novartis' drug Mayzent (siponimod), for adults with secondary progressive multiple sclerosis.

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\* 8 weeks clinical study, Dermatology 233(2-3); August 2017

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**KLOXEMA**  
clobetasone butyrate 0.05% w/w

**Moderate strength topical corticosteroid**<sup>1</sup>

Therapeutic Guidelines recommend moderate strength topical corticosteroids for first-line use in atopic eczema of the trunk and limbs<sup>2</sup>

- Chlorocresol free

**DermAid**  
hydrocortisone 1.0% w/w, 0.5% w/w

**Mild strength topical corticosteroid**<sup>1</sup>

Therapeutic Guidelines recommend hydrocortisone for first-line use in:<sup>2,3</sup>

- Mild atopic eczema on the face, axillae or groin<sup>2</sup>
- Facial, flexural or scrotal seborrheic eczema, in combination with an antifungal<sup>2</sup>
- Contact dermatitis on the face<sup>2</sup>
- Psoriasis of the face in children<sup>2</sup>

**DermAid:** Use for the temporary relief of minor skin irritations, itching and rashes due to eczema, dermatitis, cosmetics, jewellery, itching genital and anal areas and sunburn.

**Kloxema:** Short term (up to 7 days) treatment of milder forms of eczema, dermatitis and other steroid responsive skin conditions. **Dosage:** For 12 years and over. Apply a thin film and gently rub in, using only enough to cover the affected area twice daily for up to 7 days.

**References:** 1. Dermatology Expert Group. Therapeutic Guidelines: Dermatology, version 4. Topical corticosteroid preparations (Appendix 4.1). Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd [Internet]. 2019 [cited 2019 June 28]. Available from: <https://pubs.tg.com.au/view/topic/2019-06-28-topical-corticosteroid-preparations>. 2. Dermatology Expert Group. Therapeutic Guidelines: Dermatology, version 4. Dermatitis. Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd [Internet]. 2018 [cited 2019 June 27]. Available from: <https://pubs.tg.com.au/view/topic/2018-06-27-dermatitis>. 3. Dermatology Expert Group. Therapeutic Guidelines: Dermatology, version 4. Psoriasis. Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd [Internet]. 2018 [cited 2019 June 27]. Available from: <https://pubs.tg.com.au/view/topic/2018-06-27-psoriasis>.

Before recommending please refer to the full Product Information.

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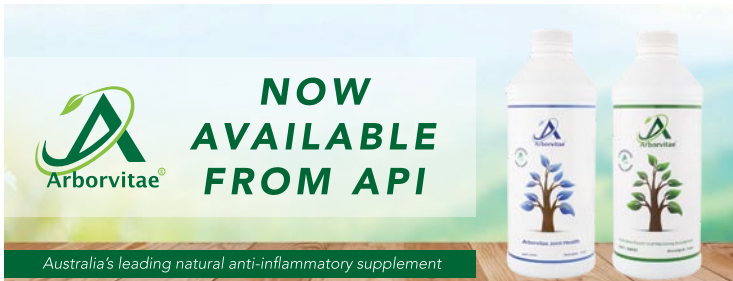
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## Dispensary Corner

**THE** not so humble avocado may not just be a tasty treat for those millennials who have abandoned dreams of home ownership for a moderately satisfying smashed brunch.

Canadian researchers have identified the fruit as the sole source of a fat molecule, avocatin B, that appears to be able to prevent type 2 diabetes in mice.

The mice were placed on an eight-week high-fat diet to promote obesity, before half the group's diet was adjusted to include avocatin B, while the rest continued to gorge themselves on the rodent equivalent of a fried breakfast at every mealtime for the next five weeks.

At the conclusion of the study the mice who'd been given avocatin B on top of the fatty food had gained weight at a slower rate than their peers who'd missed out on the avo substitute, and they also had greater insulin sensitivity.

So maybe the younger generation aren't wasting their cash on overpriced food fads, but are actually looking after themselves?

With interest rates low, it might be time to remortgage!

## AACP backs RC report

**THE** Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy (AACP) has backed the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety interim report's call for improved access to residential medication management reviews (RMMRs).

AACP Chair, Dr Stephen Carter, said an enhanced Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) program tied to aged care facilities through the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement could also boost outcomes.

The organisation said it was "ready and willing to be involved in planning and delivery discussions on how to meet the interim



report's recommendations pertaining to the improvement and enhancement of the RMMR program".

## Guild Update

### Gearing up for APP 2020

**REGISTRATIONS** are streaming in for the 2020 Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition (APP2020)!

APP2020 will be held from 19-22 March 2020 at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre. Registrations can be made at [www.appconference.com/registration/delegate-registration](http://www.appconference.com/registration/delegate-registration).

2020 marks the 30th anniversary of Australia's largest pharmacy conference and trade show and it's set to be the best year yet – hey, we always say that, but it generally turns out to be true!

Over 100 international and Australian speakers will be featured in 60-plus sessions during the four-day event, covering all areas of pharmacy from cutting edge industry issues and clinical updates, to finance and business management topics.

A networking focal point of APP, the trade exhibition, will feature 450-plus stands showcasing the latest pharmacy products, services and industry developments.

## Chrissie Swan dives into Priceline role

**TELEVISION** and radio presenter Chrissie Swan (pictured) joins Ita Buttrose and Comedian Tanya Hennessy, as the newest Priceline brand key Ambassador.

Priceline Pharmacy Head of Marketing, Sophie Smith, said, "Chrissie is relatable: she's a Mum, a wife and works full time.

"We chose Chrissie as our newest Ambassador because she's welcoming, authentic, fun and most importantly real; exactly how our customers should feel when they are in any of 480 stores across the country".

Swan's first role for the brand



will be its 2019 Christmas campaign dubbed the "Chrissie campaign," launched on 10 Nov.

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