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Fires highlight need for autonomy

BUSHFIRES raging across the country forcing people to evacuate from their homes highlight the need for pharmacists to be given greater freedom to dispense critical medicines to patients in need, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia National President, Dr Chris Freeman believes.

Freeman told *Pharmacy Daily* it would be better to automatically empower pharmacists to provide Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listed medicines to patients living with chronic conditions during emergency situations, rather than having to wait for a Department of Health emergency advice notice.

The Department of Health announced emergency dispensing rules came into effect yesterday and will remain in place until "at least 30 Dec", allowing pharmacists to dispense PBS medicines under the three-day emergency supply rule, once they had confirmed the patient's medication details with

their prescriber (*PD* breaking news).

"PSA has long proposed that pharmacists should have the ability to provide at least a month's supply of medicines, especially those medicines for chronic disease when a patient has run out of their current supply," Freeman said.

"It's when these disasters occur that these issues come to the fore.

"Pharmacists unfortunately in these bush fire hit regions will be actually impeded by state and territory legislation as well as PBS legislation in ensuring continuity of medicines supply.

"This needs to be fixed as a matter of priority.

"It prevents pharmacists from caring for their patients in an effective way.

"Enough is enough."

MEANWHILE Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS) has called on pharmacists impacted by the fires to call 1300 244 910 if they need support.

The volunteer-led organisation's



website offers resources to help pharmacists who have experienced traumatic events, including fires.

A spokesperson for the PSS said it relied on the generosity of the profession to maintain its service.

CLICK HERE to donate to the PSS.

Suicide Prevention Australia has also urged people who are finding the bush fires distressing to seek support by contacting Lifeline Australia on 13 11 14.

Today's issue of *PD*


Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news including our weekly **Health & Beauty** feature plus a full page from **Sigma Healthcare**.

GORD & PPIs

PHARMACY Club & Aspen Pharmacare have jointly developed a new online CPD-accredited module for pharmacists titled 'GORD and PPI Therapy: a Burning Topic'.

This learning module has been designed to help pharmacists identify patients who may suffer from gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD) and may benefit from an over-the-counter proton pump inhibitor (PPI), as well as those who may benefit from stepping-down their PPI therapy, as recommended by guidelines.

See pharmacyclub.com.au.



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Corum clarifies Pharmacy4Less deal

LISTED pharmacy software provider, Corum Group, has issued further information on its proposed agreement with the owners of the Pharmacy4Less Group (PD 25 Sep), detailing the conditions for the handover of shares worth almost \$4 million relating to the development of a new cloud-based multi-store management system.

The share issue is based on achievement of two key milestones - half for the estimated Feb 2020 delivery of a "minimum viable product" suitable for early adopters, featuring comprehensive security features, near real-time data synchronisation and cloud-based multi-store reporting.

The second tranche will be



handed over upon the finalisation of the system, described as a "sophisticated SaaS platform for enterprise multi-store management suitable for medium to large pharmacy groups".

Expected to be finished in Sep next year, this milestone

will include the handover of all source code, documentation and other material so Corum can independently own, manage, support and develop the software.

The agreement is with BAMM Group Administration Pty Limited, headed up by Assad Kareem and his brother Feras (pictured), who is also Senior Vice President Finance of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch.

Corum shareholders are being asked to vote on the proposal at the firm's upcoming Annual General Meeting in Sydney next Wed.

Shares will be issued at "nil cash consideration" and are deemed to be worth 3c each - less than half Corum's closing price yesterday.

Probiotic launch

ACTIVATED Probiotics is launching to pharmacy its four-strain probiotic product which has been shown to significantly improve mood and sleep quality in healthy volunteers in just six weeks compared with participants taking placebo.

Biome Lift Probiotic supports the role of gut microbiota in both physical and mental health, according to company founder, Blair Norfolk.

New Merck office

MERCK will today formally open its new centralised office in Sydney's Macquarie Park, for the first time seeing the company's 120 local staff under a single roof.

The move brings together Merck's Healthcare and Life Science divisions, with the premises to be opened by local MP, John Alexander, alongside Dr Frank Stangerberg-Haverkamp, Chairman of the Executive Board and the Family Board of E. Merck KG.

Merck Healthcare MD for Australia/NZ, Leah Goodman, said the opening was a "very significant milestone in the history of Merck in Australia," with the workspace aligned with the firm's global mission to apply scientific expertise to improving people's lives.

A video of the new office is at pharmacydaily.com.au/videos.

Suicide prevention pharmacy training

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Queensland Branch, has received funding from the Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast Primary Health Network (PHN) to conduct early suicide prevention training to both community pharmacy staff and members of the public.

The Queensland Branch has partnered with ConNetica to deliver free, early suicide prevention training programs 'Conversations for Life' and 'Stronger Smarter Yarns for Life' in early 2020.

Queensland Branch President Trent Twomey said this initiative provides an integrated training approach that connects both pharmacy staff and members of the public.

"By integrating both community pharmacy staff as well as members of the public, this training promotes community



connections and social inclusion whilst reducing stigma related to mental illness," Twomey said.

Between 80,000 and 90,000 people attempt suicide in Australia each year, and more than 3,000 die.

"It is critical that pharmacy staff and the community are confident in engaging in conversations with people at risk for early intervention," he added.

Pharmacy staff and others can register at guild.org.au.

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Weekly

Dispensary Corner

ARE some of your patients having trouble sleeping? Many pharmacies are introducing new professional services in this area - but they are unlikely to have helped a Chinese man whose snoring was found to be due to a tooth growing in his nostril.

Zhang Binsheng, 30, was admitted to hospital after telling doctors he had struggled to breathe through his nose for about three months, and had also experience a "constant smell of decay".

An X-ray revealed a shadow at the rear of his nasal cavity, which it turns out was a long-lost tooth which had been knocked out when he had an accident at the age of 10.

Somehow the errant denture had managed to take root in his nose, and Zhang is believed to be breathing easier now, after minor surgery to extract it from his sinuses (**below**).



BRITISH bakery Greggs has come up with a unique approach to dealing with the global obesity crisis.

The breakthrough consists of basically removing the centre of their popular jam-filled pastries to create - guess what - a donut!

Greggs CEO, Roger Whiteside, told delegates at a recent obesity conference in London that the revolutionary initiative "takes some of the calories out".

NEW PRODUCTS

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Omnitest® 3 Blood Glucose Meter Kit and Test Strips



B. Braun Australia brings its **Omnitest® 3 Blood Glucose Monitoring Kit** to market with Omnitest® 3 test strips reimbursed under the NDSS for people with diabetes. Monitoring blood glucose with the Omnitest® 3 blood glucose monitoring system is as easy as 1, 2, 3 – insert the strip (automatic coding), apply the blood (0.3µL) and read the result in 3 seconds. Medications and meal times can be included with the blood glucose result if necessary and the convenient strip ejector enables hygienic strip removal. The accuracy of Omnitest® 3 has also been confirmed by clinical studies and laboratory tests according to ISO15197:2013¹.

To protect against accidental swallowing or insertion, batteries are secured within a child proof battery compartment which requires a screwdriver to open.

9332731A Omnitest® 3 Test Strips 100pk - NDSS Code 324 – can be ordered via NDSS Connect from your preferred NDSS wholesaler:

API Article Number – 41777, **Sigma PDE Number** – 303339, **Symbion Line Number** – BRN-37.

Website: www.bbraun.com.au

1. Guido Freckmann, Annette Baumstark, Christina Schmid, Stefan Pleus, Manuela Link, and Cornelia Haug. Diabetes Technology & Therapeutics. Vol. 16, No. 2, Feb 2014. <http://doi.org/10.1089/dia.2013.0208>

Block expression wrinkles without paralyzing muscles!

NEW WRINKLE BLOCK provides a 78% relaxation effect on expressions in just 30 minutes, without needles or paralysis, and the effect lasts two full days. With two powerful peptides, **WRINKLE BLOCK** not only slows down the movement which creates wrinkle creases, it simultaneously charges skin with the energy it needs to bounce back from expression trauma. The results: this breakthrough new technology took just one week to smooth volunteers' skin in a clinical trial, with almost 40% of deep wrinkles smoothed in seven days! Ideal for crow's feet, frown lines, smile lines and marionettes, **WRINKLE BLOCK**'s skin energising action also has the remarkable effect of waking up eyes and freshening the entire face, while reducing eye bags and puffiness by up to 76% in just seven days.

As Australia's first anti-aging skincare stick, **WRINKLE BLOCK** not only delivers an impressive long-term wrinkle reduction of 60% less visible wrinkles in 28 days, this handy stick provides targeted, hygienic application for on-the-go lifestyles.

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