

Fri 22nd Nov 2019

## World COPD Day 2019

GuildCare NG

COPD Screening Program updated with AirNext



#### **UK prescribing concerns stir RACGP**

GROWING concerns over unsafe practices by independent pharmacist prescribers in the UK, highlighted by the Pharmacists' Defence Association (PDA) have prompted the Royal Australian College General Practitioners (RAGCP) to reiterate its opposition to expanding pharmacists' scope of practice.

In a message to its member the PDA said it had become "increasingly concerned about incidents of unsafe practice which have started to emerge as the number of independent prescribers working in GP practices has risen".

"We have seen a number of serious incidents recently and are currently in the early stages of dealing with cases where patients deaths have been reported," the PDA said.

"Some of these recent cases are linked in some way to pharmacists prescribing inappropriately or offering poor advice, often underpinned by an assumption of competence which was ill-founded."

Responding to the PDA alert, RACGP President, Dr Harry Nespolon, said it highlighted the "dangers of non-medical prescribing".

"Pharmacists don't have the necessary medical training to safely prescribe medications, irrespective of where they work.

"Anything beyond providing medicine management advice and dispensing is completely beyond their level of expertise and professional scope of practice.

"It's vital we put the health needs of Australians ahead of the commercial imperatives of pharmacists keen to expand their scope and commercial reach.

"In the UK their pharmacy representative group is now dealing with cases where patients deaths have been reported. Is this really a road we want to go down?"

However, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National



President, Dr Chris Freeman, backed pharmacist prescribing.

"PSA's initial priority is the first two levels of prescribing (prescribing via a structured prescribing arrangement and prescribing under supervision)," he said.

"The first application of this should be expansion of continued dispensing arrangements and prescription adaptation, as well as the development of collaborative prescribing frameworks.

"Medicine safety is everybody's responsibility including pharmacist prescribers which is why collaborative prescribing models are important in achieving safe and quality use of medicines."

#### Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from Wizard Pharmacy Services.

#### OA patients wanted for study

THE Institute of Bone and Joint Research at the Royal North Shore Hospital and University of Sydney is recruiting patients for a 12-week internet-based study for people with hand osteoarthritis, called the RADIANT study.

The research will investigate the efficacy and safety of a new supplement combination compared with a placebo.

The RADIANT study aims to recruit 106 people, and asks pharmacists to help identify and encourage patients who may be eligible.

**CLICK HERE** for more details.



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#### Guild opportunity analysis

MORE than 1,000 community pharmacies now have received professional services income potential reports as part of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Health Advice Plus program.

The program is a support service



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for member pharmacies who want to get started or need additional support to integrate and deliver successful health programs and services, Pharmacy Guild Group Executive Member Services and Innovation, Colm Maguire, said.

"The first step in the process is to access the Opportunity Analysis tool - provided free of charge for Guild members – which analyses the income potential from services for individual pharmacies," he said.

"The online Opportunity
Analysis tool provides a report
that includes an estimate of
untapped opportunity potential
and establishes a performance
benchmarking mechanism to
ensure this opportunity is secured
as the pharmacy moves to a
professional services model."

The Opportunity Analysis report covers: 6CPA funded programs, fixed third party income, prescription and medication programs, as well as screening and testing services and is supported by an individual review session with a trained pharmacy coach, the Guild said.

The Health Advice Plus and Opportunity Analysis Program has been developed as a partnership between the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and established professional services provider and consultants instigo.

Findings from the analyses show that 87% of pharmacies now have private consulting rooms, 72% provide vaccination services but 56% have still not reached their DAA cap level.

#### Prescription opioid guide - NPS

NPS MedicineWise Choosing Wisely Australia has released a new patient guide to managing pain and opioid medicines in an effort to help reduce the number of Australians experiencing harm from pharmaceutical opioids.

NPS MedicineWise CEO, Adj A/ Prof Steve Morris, said, "With statistics showing three lives are lost, 150 people are hospitalised and 14 people present to emergency departments every day due to harm caused by pharmaceutical opioids, we need to ensure more information is available to people at the point these medicines are prescribed.

"Ultimately, we hope to see this practical guide provided to everyone in Australia who is prescribed an opioid medicine," Morris said.

Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) Chief Executive, Kristin Michaels, says many Australians leave hospital with more opioids than they need, which has the potential to lead to preventable harm.

"SHPA's landmark 2018
Reducing opioid-related harm
report revealed opioid deescalation plans at hospital
discharge are rare and supplying
opioids for patients to take home
'just in case' is still common
practice," she said.

Earlier this week the
Therapeutic Goods
Administration also placed a
consumer summary on the
subject (PD 20 Nov) - tga.gov.au.

The new NPS opioids resource, Opioid medicines and chronic non-cancer pain (nps.org.au) has been released to coincide with a new NPS MedicineWise national education program, Opioids, chronic pain and the bigger picture, which helps health professionals and consumers reduce harm from opioids, while ensuring adequate pain control for people with chronic noncancer pain - visit nps.org.au.







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#### Dispensary Corner

**UPGRADING** your bedding sounds like a harmless luxury ditching sweaty synthetic foam for feather-filled pillows... what could possibly go wrong?

Quite a lot, is the surprising answer, just ask one 43-year-old British gent, who became the subject of an article in BMJ Case Reports - casereports.bmj.com.

The paper reported the man presented to his GP in Nov 2016 with a three month history of malaise, fatigue and breathlessness.

Initially his symptoms were attributed to a lower respiratory tract infection, which was treated, however despite an brief improvement in his condition he relapsed and had to take 14 days off work.

By the following month he was experiencing breathlessness walking between rooms, and his GP referred him for an urgent respiratory clinic review.

Blood tests came back normal, however an assessment of a chest x-ray revealed signs of hypersensitivity, with researchers identifying his new duck feather filled bedding as the cause of the ailment.

A 12-month course of steroids and a switch to hypoallergenic bedding resolved the ailment.



#### Barmera leads the Fullife fundraisers

BARMERA Pharmacv in South Australia has led the field in fundraising for the Fullife Foundation, raising \$2,060 to contribute toward the national total of \$11,500.

Fullife Foundation is a nationally registered charity working in the pharmacy industry, with the sole aim of improving the health of women and children in Ethiopia.

Founder, Ian Shanks, said, "We have a guarantee that all money raised goes direct to our trusted partners on the ground in Ethiopia.

"My pharmacy, Fullife Pharmacy Mill Park covers all admin and marketing expenses of the Fullife Foundation," he said.

"We are represented by over 100 pharmacies nationally, and are the nominated charity for the Pharmacy Alliance group of over



700 pharmacies."

Barmera Retail Manager Jesse (pictured with Ian) ran a raffle, charity bingo night and more to win the Fundraising Champion title.

#### **Events** Calendar

WELCOME to Pharmacy Daily's events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily. com.au.

25 - 29 Nov: ASCEPT-PAGANZ 2019 Joint Scientific Meeting; Rydges Lakeland Resort, Queenstown, New Zealand; details and registration here: www. asceptasm.com

23 - 29 Jan: NAPSA Congress; University of Newcastle; for more info visit: www.napsa. org.au

19 - 22 Mar: APP 2020; Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre; Early bird registrations now open: www.appconference.com

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