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## No need for pharmacist Rx - RACGP

**PHARMACIST** prescribing is “a solution looking for a problem” according to Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) National President, Dr Harry Nespolon.

Responding to the Pharmacy Board of Australia’s position statement declaring there are no barriers to pharmacists prescribing in collaboration with medical professionals or under limited authorisation, Nespolon said it was no surprise that the Board said it had no immediate plans to apply for an endorsement to enable fully autonomous prescribing.

Speaking to the RACGP’s *newsGP* website, Nespolon suggested that if the reason for pharmacist prescribing was to improve access to medicines, changes to the Pharmacy Location Rules could be a remedy.

“It seems odd to ask pharmacists whether they should be prescribing – the not surprising answer was yes,” he said.

“This is a solution looking for a problem.

“Is there any evidence that patients are missing out on medication?

“If so, removing the geographical



location rules [on pharmacy ownership] would fix the problem.”

Pharmacists have rejected the RACGP’s assertion that the Board’s decision not to apply for an endorsement to enable them to prescribe autonomously was “effectively ruling out this model”, with one pharmacist responding on Twitter saying, “that’s not what this means at all”.

While Nespolon’s assertion that removing the Location Rules would improve access to medicines runs contrary to the findings of the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation by Professor Stephen King, published in 2016, which noted there were inconsistencies in the location of pharmacies prior to the

introduction of the rules.

“[The 1988 Pharmaceutical Benefits Remuneration Tribunal] found that many pharmacies in urban areas were clustered together with rural and remote areas having significantly poorer access,” he said.

“In some cases pharmacies were located within 10 metres of each other, 25% of pharmacies were within 100 metres of another pharmacy and 62% were within one kilometre of another pharmacy, while other areas struggled to attract even one.”

King said the introduction of the Location Rules resulted in a restructuring of the sector that encouraged greater efficiency within the sector and led to the opening of pharmacies in areas of need.

Today’s issue of *PD*

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

### Pharmacist osteoporosis role

**PHARMACISTS** will form one of the pillars of educational support for the 4.7 million Australians aged over 50 living with poor bone health, under a new National Strategic Action Plan launched by Osteoporosis Australia (OA) together with the Federal Minister for Health and Federal Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians yesterday.

The first priority of the plan is to “increase osteoporosis awareness and education, with a focus on prevention”.

To implement the plan, \$4 million has been allocated.

The plan calls for patients to take an active role in their health care, including “adherence to pharmaceutical treatment,” with pharmacists also nominated as helping in the process of education.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the plan.

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## Pharmacy kava

FIJI Kava (ASX: FIJ) has inked a deal with 200 of New Zealand's Green Cross Health and Unichem Pharmacies to distribute its kava capsules and powders across their national network - see [asx.com.au](http://asx.com.au).

## Brits slam AMA Rx fears

**CONCERNS** about the potential introduction of pharmacist prescribing in Australia have little or no basis, a British pharmacist says.

Responding to the Australian Medical Association (AMA) Minimum Standards for Prescribing, which suggested pharmacist prescribing should be ruled out on the grounds it could put patients safety at risk, British Primary Care Pharmacy Association President, Graham Stretch, called on the AMA to produce evidence for the organisation's concerns.

"Prescribing by pharmacists is widespread and common in the UK," he said in a Twitter post.

"Studies I'm aware of demonstrate quite the opposite - pharmacists are safer [prescribers]."

Stretch linked to a [study](#) which found pharmacists had a lower error rate when prescribing than doctors and nurses.

University of Leeds Professor of Medicines Use and Safety, David Alldred, said the AMA's standards for



prescribing were "flying in the face of the evidence", citing a Cochrane review, of 46 studies, which found, "pharmacists and nurses...were able to deliver comparable prescribing outcomes to doctors".

Former Royal Pharmaceutical Society President, Steve Churton, joined the social media thread to question the AMA.

"Come on @amapresident (Dr Tony Bartone) and @ama\_media... let's have your responses please," he said.

"[I] would genuinely be interested in your evidence to support your position."

## Measles cases

**EIGHT** cases of measles have recently been detected in Brisbane's southern suburbs, with around 1,000 people thought to have come into contact via a China Airlines flight from Auckland.

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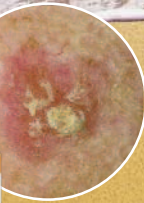
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## Dispensary Corner

**AN ARMED** robbery at a Brazilian pharmacy took an unexpected turn when one of the gun-toting bandits refused to take money from an elderly patron of the store.

The raid was caught on CCTV, and showed a pair of thieves sporting motorcycle helmets, hold-up a pharmacy in the city of Amarante.

During the robbery one of the duo ran through the pharmacy grabbing items from the shelves before ordering a staff member to empty the cash register, when the elderly woman approached his accomplice and presented her handbag, offering to hand over her money.

Instead of greedily taking the pensioner's cash, the pistol carrying thief said "no, ma'am, you can be quiet, I don't want your money," and patted the woman reassuringly on the shoulder, local media website, G1 reported.

When the old lady reached out to protest at the cashier being forced to the ground, the gentle thief put his hand on the retiree and kissed her on the forehead, before the pair escaped with about US\$240 and some products.



## CSL: 25 years on the ASX

**ICONIC** Australian health brand CSL, which started life as Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, is this year celebrating 25 years listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX).

Speaking at the 2019 CSL Annual General Meeting this week, Chairman, Brian McNamee, told shareholders, "the world has changed dramatically" in that time and "CSL has changed with it".

Highlighting the positive financial year dividend result which was up 18% in AU\$ terms (PD 15 Aug), McNamee recognised company CEO and MD Paul Perreault and his management team for their leadership.

"CSL has a presence in almost 70 countries globally and employs more than 25,000 people," he said.

"We have in our stable some of the brightest and most educated minds within the scientific and business communities alike.

"This year we had a 13% growth in our employee base - a testament to the promising futures we offer our employees and job-seekers alike."



Covering off a reference to instabilities in the world political landscape, McNamee explained that in anticipation of Brexit, CSL has established "a new quality release laboratory in Amsterdam to allow Seqirus to seamlessly deliver vaccines across Europe".

He went on to identify four company strategic pillars:

1. People and culture
2. Growth
3. Efficiency, and
4. Public Health.

McNamee reaffirmed the company's commitment to retaining corporate headquarters and the company global R&D hub in Australia.

He also reminded investors that CSL's global corporate head office is to be relocated into the heart of the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct as announced in Aug (PD 09 Aug).

## Freedom of info



**THE** Federal Department of Health reminds health professionals and consumers they have rights to access information, and has posted a link to the latest Freedom of Information application form at [health.gov.au](http://health.gov.au).

## 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](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**19 Oct:** QLD Annual Therapeutic Update; Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre; for program details and to register visit: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**27 - 30 Oct:** Pharmacy Alliance Members' Forum; Pullman Cairns International; for details visit: [www.pharmacyalliance.com.au](http://www.pharmacyalliance.com.au)

**14 - 16 Nov:** SHPA Medicines Management 2019 (MM2019); GCCEC, Gold Coast; register now at: [www.mm2019shpa.com](http://www.mm2019shpa.com)

## Win with NS8

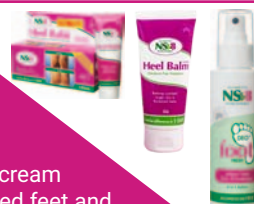
Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and NS8 are giving away a prize pack valued at over \$30.

NS 8 Heel Balm is a fast absorbing, non-slip, cream which rapidly repairs dry cracked and calloused feet and heels. NS 8 Deo Foot and Shoe Spray has a 4-way action to treat smelly sneakers, shoes and feet. NS 8 Natural Footcare is diabetes friendly and recommended by podiatrists. Visit: [www.ns8.com.au](http://www.ns8.com.au) for more.

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

Fill in the missing word: NS 8 Heel Balm Hydrates, Softens, Smoothes and \_\_\_\_\_ dry, cracked heels and feet.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Vicki Whalland.



### EDITORIAL

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