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eRx script exchange

AFT wins ad case

AN ADVERTISING complaint lodged in New Zealand by AFT Pharmaceuticals in relation to a competitor product has been upheld by the country's Advertising Standards Authority.

AFT complained about a vitamin C supplement called Lypo-Spheric, distributed by John Appleton Associates, according to NZ trade publication *Pharmacy Today*.

A range of issues were raised including an endorsement by a health professional, as well as several unsubstantiated claims.

John Appleton, director of the sponsor of the product in question, said he had been surprised that AFT had lodged a formal complaint.

"Companies who work in this industry compete actively with each other, and I have not come across a situation where any concerns could not be resolved with either a phone call, or a meeting over a cup of coffee," he said.

AFT lost its own advertising case in Australia last year (**PD** 19 Oct 2018) over claims its Maxigesic was superior to Reckitt Benckiser's Nuromol.

New Qld Guild Director

GERARD Benedet has been named as the new Director for the Queensland Branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Benedet (**pictured**) joins the Guild after an extensive career in the public and private sectors, including senior positions in Queensland Liberal-National state politics.

He was most recently National Director for conservative activist organisation Advance Australia, and has also worked at *News Corporation* and at the National Rugby League.

Queensland Guild Branch President, Trent Twomey, said "we are delighted to have recruited such an experienced and driven person to fill this important role."

"We are confident Gerard will be a committed advocate and Branch administrator on behalf of Queensland community pharmacies, helping us to deliver the best possible health services to patients in all parts of the state."

Thanking Twomey for the "unique opportunity to make a difference," Benedet said he was thrilled to join the Pharmacy Guild.

"Community pharmacy is 100% local, providing a direct link between good health and the lives



of millions of Queenslanders.

"I look forward to using my strategic skills and consultative leadership approach to advocate for our members and ensure that pharmacies across Queensland continue their positive contribution to our world class health care system," he said.

Benedet commences his new role next Mon 28 Oct, taking over from outgoing Branch Director, Robyn Eded, who has given the Guild "25 years of dedicated service and left an indelible legacy".

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news and a full page from **TerryWhite Chemmart**.

Pharmacist jailed

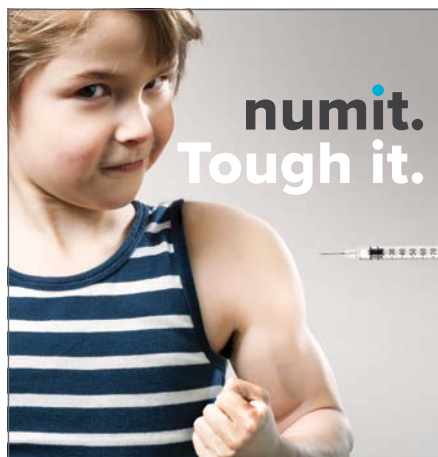
A WELSH pharmacist has been imprisoned for 16 months after pleading guilty to cheating Britain's National Health Service (NHS) out of £76,000 in a prescription scam.

The 52-year-old part owner of a pharmacy in Talbot Green, admitted to a number of instances including billing the NHS £12,000 for dementia drug donepezil, while dispensing medication worth just £233.

The fraud saw him changing information on tablet and liquid medication by "crossing out and using Tippex," according to a *BBC* report.

No patients were put at risk, and the pharmacist repaid the money within a week of being charged.

A spokesperson for the NHS said the sentence sent a "very strong message".



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Reference: 1. Data held on file at Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd.



Prescriptions & Advice

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MedAdvisor plans share consolidation

AUSTRALIAN Securities Exchange (ASX) listed digital medication management business, MedAdvisor is planning to consolidate its issued capital.

The Board is urging shareholders to back the share consolidation that will see one new share issued for every seven currently on issue.

In a statement to the ASX the Board said the proposed move was an important step towards achieving the company's international expansion plans.

"The recent capital raising has strengthened the company's balance sheet enabling it to accelerate the business in the US, UK and Asian markets as well being better positioned to seek strategic opportunities to grow

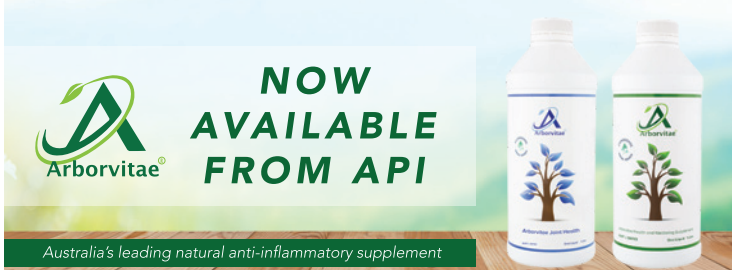
the business," the statement said.

"The consolidation is proposed by the company in order to better position the business internationally by increasing the share price via the share consolidation.

"A higher share price will make the company more attractive to international investors as well as to potential customers."

Shareholders will be asked to vote on the resolution at MedAdvisor's AGM on 18 Nov, and will shrink the shares on issue from approximately 1.72 billion to 196 million.

If the resolution is passed, 19 Nov 2019 will be the final day existing shares can be traded, with the reorganised share trading from 20 Nov.



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Vic holds on cannabis policy

VICTORIA will not follow the lead of NSW and Queensland in streamlining the approval process for prescribing Schedule 8 (S8) cannabis medications.

Victorian Health Minister, Jenny Mikakos, said the state would retain the requirement for prescribers to seek permits from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and State authorities, until after the recording of prescriptions for S8 medicines through SafeScript becomes mandatory in Apr.

Responding to a proposal by Australian Sex Party MP, Fiona Patten, to scrap the "requirement for a double approval", Mikakos said she was keen to streamline access to the medications, but said the model put forward by Patten could pave the way for prescribers to prescribe homegrown cannabis.

"I am very interested in streamlining the process and streamlining access, but I do not believe these amendments are the way to do this," Mikakos said.

"The Victorian S8 treatment permit system is an important safety oversight mechanism.

"It enables us to allow for the coordination of prescribing S8 drugs of dependency between



doctors and to reduce the risk of multiple doctors inadvertently prescribing these drugs for the same patient.

"It also provides information on a patient's history of drug dependency, and effectively it has enabled doctors to make safer clinical decisions.

"I do think that there are opportunities to assess the ongoing role of Schedule 8 treatment permits following the mandatory rollout of SafeScript next year.

"I know there have been anecdotal reports of long delays in other states, but here in Victoria we have a single portal for doctors to apply for Victorian and TGA permits, and we routinely meet the TGA time lines of turning around permit applications within 48 hours."

TGA sports supplement consultation

SEEKING to remove some ambiguity and uncertainty around the regulatory status of sports supplements, and to ensure they are regulated appropriately to safeguard public health and safety, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has opened a consultation on the matter.

The implications of the consultation result will impact on whether "certain sports supplements, when used, advertised or presented for supply in a particular way, are therapeutic goods (medicines), by way of an order made under sub-section 7(1) of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989".

"Sports supplements often carry explicit or implied claims relating to sport, fitness or recreational performance



that mean they are likely to be consumed for therapeutic use, yet some of them may be considered to be food under law," the TGA said.

"Yet it is appropriate that those sports supplements that are taken to be for therapeutic use are subject to the same national system of controls that are established for other therapeutic goods," the agency added.

Interested parties choosing to comment should submit responses by COB 03 Dec 2019.

More details at tga.gov.au.



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Dispensary Corner

GARDENING, art classes and singing lessons are likely to be prescribed by British doctors "as readily as medical care" under a new plan which aims to reduce financial pressure on the UK health system.

The UK Government has announced £5 million in funding for the new National Academy of Social Prescribing, which will see medics work in partnership with local authorities.

The UK National Health Service is targeting 900,000 "social prescriptions" over the next five years, saying there was evidence that such activities can benefit patients with a range of conditions including anxiety, dementia and mental health issues - in turn reducing visits to emergency departments.

"There are thousands of people up and down the country right now who are already benefiting from activities like reading circles, choir groups and walking football," said UK Health Secretary, Matt Hancock.

The new academy will be led by Helen Stokes-Lampard, who will take up the role after stepping down from her current position as Chair of the UK's Royal College of General Practitioners.

"It's what good GPs have always done in terms of getting the best help and support for our patients beyond the medicines we also provide them with," she enthused.

The funding will support English primary care networks to each employ one Social Prescriber this year.

AHPRA logos morphing



THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the 15 National Boards, which regulate over 744,000 practitioners across 16 health professions are rolling out newly modified logos (pictured right), replacing the previous style pictured above.

Celebrating the 10th year of implementing the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme), the regulatory bodies have created refreshed logos that are "better suited to digital platforms and for use across a variety of other materials".

Both logo designs also include 'AHPRA', now with just an initial capital: 'Ahpra', designed to help



people "pronounce the name correctly" and distinguish Ahpra from other regulators with similar acronyms.

The new logos will be rolled out over coming months while the organisations update their secure online service portals and exhaust existing hard copy stationery stocks.

"Our aim is to ensure no disruption to the important online renewal of 180,000 practitioners across 13 health professions with registration expiring on 30 Nov 2019," Ahpra said.

Ranitidine NDMA contamination update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued an update on the levels of N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) contamination in ranitidine samples tested.

The initial alert from the TGA relating to NDMA contamination was issued in Sep (**PD** 20 Sep).

"NDMA belongs to a class of chemicals called nitrosamines and is classified as a probable human carcinogen," the TGA site states.

The internationally agreed acceptable limit for NDMA in the ranitidine active ingredient is set at 0.3 parts per million (ppm).

A total of 135 batch samples of ranitidine medicines have been tested by the TGA Laboratories,

using a publicly available US Food and Drug Administration test method and resulting in a recall of all products testing at or above this limit.

The consequence is that all ranitidine products have been recalled and removed from pharmacy shelves except AUSRAN ranitidine 150mg tabs, AUSRAN ranitidine 300mg tabs, CHEMISTS' OWN RANITIDINE FORTE ranitidine 300mg tabs, CHEMISTS' OWN RANITIDINE 150mg tabs and RANITIDINE SANDOZ ranitidine 50mg/5mL concentrated injection ampoules.

Each of these named products tested at or below 0.2 ppm NDMA contamination, and remain on sale - tga.gov.au.



Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Flo Travel Nasal Spray*.



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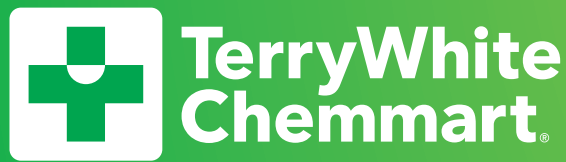
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Travel Daily
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Welcome to our newest pharmacies across the network

Welcome to Con Kassapis and the team from **Aldinga Beach, SA**

Welcome to Peter Moschakis, Bronwyn Perry and the team from **Port Adelaide Plaza, SA**

Welcome to Heath Sampson and the team from **Thuringowa Central, QLD**

Welcome to Andrew Mina and the team from **Willowdale, NSW**



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If you'd like to find out more about joining the TerryWhite Chemmart family, you can call any one of our dedicated team:

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