

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Nova Pharmaceuticals
- Pharmacy Guild of Australia

New Nova deals

NOVA Pharmaceuticals has released special offers on its MediChoice inhaler and vapour rub, and Trimacorte cream 30g, which are available to pharmacies until 31 Aug.

Savings of 30% are available on orders of 12 MediChoice Inhalers, or six MediChoice Vapour Rub 100g.

Nova is also offering three free units of Trimacorte 15g, when pharmacies buy 12 units of its Trimacorte 30g cream.

See **page three** for more.

Pharmacy robbery suspects arrested

NSW Police have charged four men in relation to a string of pharmacy robberies across Sydney between 01 Jul 2019 and 30 Jun 2020.

The men were arrested over the last week as part of an operation by the State Crime Command's Robbery and Serious Crime Squad, Strike Force Canberra.

The men will face charges relating to an armed robbery at a pharmacy in Moorebank on 01 Jul 2019, during which two men threatened staff before making off with cash and prescription medicines.

All four men are alleged to have threatened staff and customers



at a pharmacy in Castle Hill on 06 Nov 2019, before escaping with medicines and money.

The charges also relate to a third pharmacy robbery on 30 Jun, during which two men, one armed with a knife threatened staff at a Cherrybrook store, where cash and medications were stolen.



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Pharmacy staff a priority for testing

PHARMACY staff are a priority for COVID-19 testing, the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) says, despite reports from Pharmacy Guild of Australia members that staff have been told they are not "essential workers".

Issues around delays in testing of pharmacy staff were flagged on Twitter yesterday by Guild Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, who said he was "sick and tired" of pharmacy employees being told they would have to wait to be tested.

A spokesperson for the Victorian DHHS told *Pharmacy Daily* that it was "prioritising testing for all healthcare workers including pharmacists and their staff", to ensure continued access to critical medicines.

"We're aware of some cases where there has been some confusion from staff at testing sites,

and we're working closely with them to ensure that all pharmacists and their staff receive priority testing," the spokesperson said.

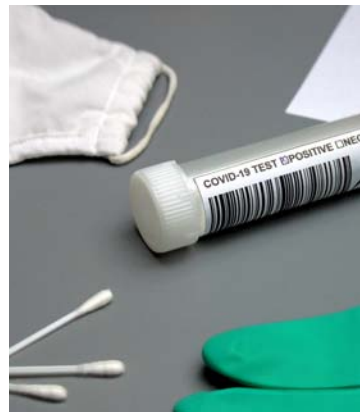
Tassone told *Pharmacy Daily* that pharmacy staff delays in testing threatened the sector's ability to meet the needs of the community.

"The Guild has received countless examples of pharmacy staff having to wait close to a week for results across Victoria in both regional and metropolitan areas," he said.

"This causes significant pressures on an already stretched workforce on the frontline trying to deliver care to Victorians.

"At the start of the COVID pandemic - the Guild sought clarification from the Victorian government that community pharmacy staff were considered essential workers and should be given prioritisation with regards to obtaining COVID test results.

"Despite repeated assurances that this is the case from the office of Victorian Health Minister Jenny Mikakos - we receive regular reports on a weekly basis of community pharmacy staff being informed at a testing centre they're not considered an essential worker and do not qualify for prioritisation.



"The Guild and our members are fed up and this must be fixed.

"Yes the testing centres are under significant pressure, yes there are many challenges we're all facing but it's about time the Victorian government put some action behind the words.

"[There's] no dedicated financial or business support for community pharmacies unlike we've seen in: Tasmania, Western Australia and South Australia.

"No consistency with how community pharmacy staff are treated by testing centres.

"We are not just retail workers.

"We are essential primary healthcare. Fix it and fix it now."

NAB launches pharmacy survey

NATIONAL Australia Bank (NAB) is partnering with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia to survey pharmacy owners about the impacts of issues facing the sector.

The survey will be open until 21 Aug, with the results to be released in a report for Guild Members during a webinar, details of which will be announced next month.



CLICK HERE to take part in the survey.

Dispensary Corner

HEARTS skipped a beat yesterday as unfounded rumours that Victoria Chief Health Officer (CHO), Brett Sutton, had resigned circulated.

As the face of the State's COVID-19 response the silver-haired medic has developed a devoted fan-base as a "soothing fixture and voice of authority" during these uncertain times.

And a Melbourne-based print-on-demand business, Redbubble, is seeking to cash-in on his popularity with a range of products from face masks to doona covers and aprons, featuring the CHO's reassuring face - with stocks of Sutton covered bedding reportedly selling out fast.

In recent days one high-profile locked-down Melburnian sports journalist has reported on social media that she has been debating with friends over who had a crush on the smooth-talking doctor.

Fans can expect their next dose of Sutton tomorrow, when he is due to return to the spotlight after a short break.



FWC rejects unfair dismissal claim

A NSW pharmacy assistant who was let go by her employer in May has had her unfair dismissal application rejected by the Fair Work Commission (FWC).

The FWC ruled that Sarah Batterham had not met the requirements to file an unfair dismissal claim within 21 days of having her employment at The Chemist Cessnock terminated on 25 May.

Batterham told the FWC that she had been absent from work for close to six weeks prior to her dismissal because she was pregnant and "therefore a higher risk in connection with COVID-19".

She noted that pharmacy owner, Sam Ghobrial, had sent a text message on 25 May, noting he "had to hire a new girl" to cover her shifts, with Ghobrial adding "I'll let you know once I have a vacancy again".

Batterham responded saying "it doesn't seem fair that I haven't been the only one to have time off during an unsafe time in my



pregnancy and have had a doctors note to cover such things, so I'll be seeking advice as to where I stand".

She obtained legal advice that she may want to wait to see if new opportunities to work at the pharmacy were offered, with the lawyer also noting she had 21 days from 25 May to make an unfair dismissal claim.

On 29 Jun another member of the pharmacy informed Batterham that Ghobrial was conducting interviews and trials for new staff.

Batterham subsequently learned

that a new pharmacy assistant had been hired on 10 Jul, to fill "the same role" she had held, which prompted the delayed unfair dismissal application.

The FWC ruled there were no exceptional circumstances to make allowance for the delay in lodging the unfair dismissal claim.

The FWC noted that "the absence of an acceptable or reasonable explanation of the delay [in lodging the claim] weighs against a conclusion that there are exceptional circumstances".

TGA recall notice

PRACTITIONER-ONLY nutritional and therapeutic supplements brand, BioCeuticals, has announced a recall of one batch of its Vitamin D3 Drops Forte Liquid 20mL product due to inconsistent mixing of the medicine.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announced the recall, for batch number 002918, which was manufactured in Nov 2019.

The TGA said that no other batches are affected.

Win with John Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and John Plunkett's are giving away a SuperLift Collagen Eye Lift worth RRP\$39.95

John Plunkett's SuperLift Collagen Eye Lift is a day and night eye cream packed with peptides including Matrixyl 3000 and Eyeseryl to boost collagen by 100%, and Hyaluronic Acid to provide cushioning hydration, while Rosehip Oil softens and smoothes delicate skin around the eyes. Effectively targets three causes of ageing – fine line and wrinkles, eyebags and puffiness and dark circles. For more info, click here.



Q: Name one of the peptides contained in Collagen Eye Lift
To win send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

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57659	697370	518408	MediChoice Vapour Rub 100g		6	\$4.49	55%	\$9.99

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