



NEW **Ferro-Max C™**
For higher iron absorption.

Available from Symbion, Sigma and API.

Use only as directed. Consult your healthcare professional if symptoms persist.



Tassone issues Chief Pharmacist call

COMMUNITY pharmacies need a strong voice within State and Territory Health Departments, to ensure the sector can function effectively in crisis situations, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, believes.

While issues surrounding access to priority COVID-19 testing for pharmacy staff have eased since the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services listed them as essential workers last week (*PD* 14 Aug), Tassone told *Pharmacy Daily* that there were several issues that had yet to be resolved.

“Whilst it is a relief that hopefully community pharmacy staff aren’t having to endure confusion at COVID testing sites, what it does show is the lack of full appreciation and understanding of the role of community pharmacy by the Department of Health and Human Services in Victoria and possibly the Victorian Government themselves,” he said.

“In addition to the COVID testing misunderstandings, pharmacies

were inadvertently lumped with other retail businesses by Business Victoria when setting out Stage Four restrictions that would have resulted in a reduction of staff levels and operations by one-third, along with other retail businesses.

“This would have been a disaster if it had gone ahead, and if it wasn’t for the intervention of the Guild through high level advocacy – an exemption may not have been achieved.

“Furthermore, we still have the ongoing issues on the NSW/Victoria border whereby hospital pharmacists, but not community pharmacists are considered essential healthcare workers with exemptions from the border order.

“Why is the importance of a pharmacist in a patient facing role deemed by the place of their practice?”

“It’s not only community pharmacy that is being impacted by the current border restrictions and there are genuine concerns across a range of health disciplines of unintended consequences for patients and our system without



appropriate exemptions and special considerations.

“Pharmacies shouldn’t have to sing for their supper to be recognised.

“We have turned up and been there for our patients from the start and throughout the pandemic.

“Perhaps we need a Chief Pharmacist in state Departments of Health?”

“At the very least, somebody senior enough who truly understands the critical role we play each and every day across Australia for the public.”

Today’s issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

AZ pleased with COVID-vax Lol

PHARMACEUTICAL giant, AstraZeneca has told *Pharmacy Daily* that the Letter of Intent (Lol) signed by the Federal Government yesterday is the first step in securing access to a potential COVID-19 vaccine.

Despite Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, reporting the Government had secured access to 25 million doses of the vaccine being developed by Oxford University, an AZ said contractual arrangements had yet to be finalised.

“As a company, AstraZeneca is committed to ensuring fair and equitable access to a vaccine against COVID-19, and will provide the vaccine at no profit during the pandemic,” AZ said.

“We look forward to confirming the next steps with the Australian Government and other critical partners shortly.”



PHARMACY FOR SALE - VICTORIA
SINGLE PHARMACY TOWN

Pharmacy 8822

- EOFY 2020 Turnover: ~ \$1,074,000
- Annual Rent: ~ \$33,912 (plus GST & Outgoings)
- Trading: 43 hours per week

www.blinkpb.com.au/confidentiality-agreement/

Please contact STEWART GRIGG to obtain the Information Memorandum
E: sgrigg@blinkpb.com.au M: 0434 095 592



INFLAMAX®
Freedom to move

NEW

INFLAMAX LIQUID CAPS 25
Diclofenac Potassium 25mg

Diclofenac potassium 25mg
30 soft capsules

PROMOTIONAL OFFER AVAILABLE NOW VIA ALL MAJOR WHOLESALERS
To order or find out more, contact your Arrow or Apotex Sales Representative directly or call 1300 927 769
www.inflamax.com.au

INFLAMAX SPRAY: ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE. IF SYMPTOMS PERSIST, TALK TO YOUR HEALTH PROFESSIONAL. INFLAMAX LIQUID CAPS 25: ASK YOUR PHARMACIST – THEY MUST DECIDE IF THIS PRODUCT IS RIGHT FOR YOU. INCORRECT USE COULD BE HARMFUL. Arrow Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd, 15-17 Chapel Street Cremorne Victoria 3121, Ph 1300 927 769, ABN 53 605 909 911. Copyright © 2020. All rights reserved. www.arrowpharma.com.au



With fully integrated e-Prescriptions, dispensing has never been easier.

Contact us today to find out how to start dispensing with Dispense Works.
www.posworks.com.au | enquiries@posworks.com.au | 07 3277 9488

DISPENSE WORKS
PHARMACY SOFTWARE

Chiro charged

A CHIROPRACTOR in NSW is facing charges relating to an alleged sexual assault of a patient in the state's Mid North Coast last month.

Officers from Mid North Coast Police District commenced an investigation following reports a 31-year-old woman was sexually assaulted while being treated at a clinic in Port Macquarie on 14 Jul.

"Following inquiries, a 56-year-old man was arrested at Port Macquarie Police Station [yesterday]," NSW Police said.

"He was charged with sexual intercourse without consent.

"The man was granted conditional bail to appear at Port Macquarie Local Court on Wed 20 Sep."

Investigations are continuing.

Pharmacy on a high pre bushfires

AUSTRALIAN pharmacists were optimistic about the profession's future before the dual impacts of the nation's bushfire and COVID-19 crises hit, the latest University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Pharmacy Barometer reveals.

Data from the annual report found confidence levels had surged by 10 points from 99 to 109 out of 200 in Nov 2019, compared with the prior corresponding period, despite uncertainty around negotiations for the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) at the time the "reading" was taken.

Former Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National President, Warwick Plunkett, said the latest results reflected "the value of the 6CPA in stabilising the industry from a revenue point of view".

The Barometer reported 42% of employee pharmacists saw their



level of remuneration change in 2019 - up 12% from the 2018 report.

The report found 39% of respondents are now earning between \$40-50 an hour, while 4% reported earning an hourly rate of more than \$50, up from 0% last year, while the number of pharmacists taking home less than \$30 an hour fell to 1%.

Despite 38% of respondents expressing concerns that inter-

professional turf wars between GP and pharmacy organisations may damage the reputation of pharmacists, the report found pharmacists continue to have good relationships with their local GPs.

"It is in the interest of the healthcare system and patients that the two professionals are able to locally coexist collegially and collaboratively to improve outcomes," the report said.

AMA president gets pharmacy invite

NEW Australian Medical Association (AMA) President, Dr Omar Khorshid, is being urged to "save the rhetoric" and learn about the role of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, after flagging concerns about the pharmacy profession's ties to politicians.

In a Q&A piece with *Australian Doctor*, Khorshid described the Guild as "an incredibly powerful lobby group", and said the AMA needed to "shed more light" on the Guild's relationships with politicians.

"At the end of the day, they are not there to promote health, they are there to promote the interests of the small number of Australians who are lucky enough to own a pharmacy in this closed shop that is the pharmacy industry," he said.

"If they want to play in this space of primary care then they should be opened up to competition.

"We should let Coles and Woolworths sell drugs... we should let GPs dispense.

"It is unethical in my view that this industry continues to damage general practice by pushing its own financial interests."

Responding to Khorshid's comments on Twitter, Guild Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, expressed disappointment at the suggestion pharmacists were not interested in the health needs of patients.

"Whenever you want to visit pharmacies, or learn what we at the Guild actually do give us a call," Tassone said.

"Seriously, save the rhetoric."

Pharmacy robbery suspect charged

NSW Police have arrested a 42-year-old man in relation to an armed robbery at a pharmacy in southwest Sydney yesterday.

Police reported the thief, armed with a hammer, entered a pharmacy on the Hume Highway in Liverpool, at around 11.30am and threatened staff while demanding cash and medications.

The bandit fled the scene in a Holden Cruze, before being identified by an off-duty officer at a shop on the Princes Highway at Blakehurst around 5.40pm.

The 42-year-old was arrested and taken to Sutherland Police Station where he was charged with attempted robbery while armed with a dangerous weapon, robbery armed with offensive weapon, unaccompanied learner,



and receive/dispose stolen property.

Police allege the suspect also attempted to rob a branch of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sutherland, prior to his attack on the pharmacy.

7CPA: What does it mean for your health service offer?

As we begin the 7th CPA agreement period, ask yourself: **Did you really make the most of the 6th CPA? How can you ensure that you maximise the benefits this time around?**

This webinar will cover: • Details of the 7CPA agreement and how they impact you and your Pharmacy business • Practical implementation advice on meeting your 7CPA goals • Planning and delivering your health service offer beyond 7CPA

Webinar date: Thursday 3rd September
Time: 10:00am
RSVP: mannon@instigo.com.au



Dispensary Corner

USUALLY this column searches high and low for an amusing anecdote or tale - seldom do they walk straight into the newsroom and sit down at a desk.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic many have gone to desperate lengths to keep their hair out of their eyes, with some considering letting a better half loose to tidy up an out of control hairstyle.

Few would be brave enough (read - foolish enough) to allow a scissors-happy five-year-old anywhere near them.

But one of those few sits amongst us in the **Pharmacy Daily** newsroom, with Editor, Nick O'Donoghue, now sporting an only mildly uneven "do" after his kindergarten-aged daughter cut into what was an unruly thatch.

"I was just sitting on the balcony waiting for my wife to cut my hair, when my daughter starts giggling in my ear as she cut into my hair," he said.

"I thought my wife would stop her, but the damage was done, and in the end, she didn't do too bad a job."



TWC fuels EBOS growth

SIGNIFICANT growth in the community pharmacy sector including the expansion of the TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) has fuelled a 26.5% increase in revenue for EBOS Healthcare.

The Australian Securities Exchange listed health business, which owns wholesaler, Symbion, reported an underlying net profit after tax (NPAT) of \$168.3 million in the 2020 Financial Year, with revenues of \$8.8 billion.

In its annual report released this morning EBOS revealed community pharmacy revenue grew by 37.4% in FY20, driven by the improving performance of TWC network and the commencement of Symbion's wholesale distribution deal with Chemist Warehouse on 01 Jul 2019.

EBOS said TWC recorded 4.1% sales growth, with prescription sales growth of 6% on a like-for-like basis, with technology improvements driving pharmacy gross profit and efficiency.

TWC pharmacies have also administered more than 500,000 influenza vaccinations in the last 12 months.



EBOS noted that the TWC network responded to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 with a robust plan including personalised care for vulnerable and isolated patients, and daily guidance for pharmacy teams.

The company added that while TWC pharmacies "benefited from unprecedented demand during Mar 2020 as consumers stockpiled ethical and over-the-counter products", they were hit by lower foot traffic in Apr and May, as customers ran down supplies built up earlier in the pandemic.

NZ pharmacy developing a reputation

A PHARMACY on New Zealand's North Island is developing a reputation as a lucky lotto site, with a customer winning a NZ\$5 million share of the country's NZ\$50 million Powerball last weekend.

The *New Zealand Herald* reported that the Andrew Spence Pharmacy in the Napier suburb of Onekawa, has a history of big wins, with punters at the store landing more than NZ\$40 million in lotto prizes to date.

An Onekawa councillor told the



paper he had bought a ticket at the pharmacy, noting "they are a lovely team that work there", but stressed he was not their mystery lotto winner.

US mask fury

A CANCER patient in the US has hit out at pharmacy staff for not wearing personal protective equipment in-store.

In a Facebook post, Dwight Lee Wolter, who had visited the pharmacy to pick up a prescription issued by his oncologist said, "I left the pharmacy, horrified and fearful that I have been exposed to COVID-19 by a pharmacist filling my medications".

Win a Shady Lady

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily & Jacaru are giving away one of their Shady Lady hats worth RRP \$69.95

One of the best selling hats in all our 50yrs of making them. The Jacaru Shady Lady, handmade with a thick brushed cow suede leather and crowned with a durable mesh that allows for maximum airflow. The chiffon scarf around the crown is changeable. Simply un-clip the tabs on the side and add your own hatband or check out our range.



Orders: Power House Pharmacy Brands
Phone: 0430 241 521
Website: www.power-housepharmacybrands.com.au
Contact: helen@powerhousepharmacybrands.com.au
For more information, click **HERE**.



Q: Where is the hat made?

To win send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

YOUR EXCLUSIVE UPDATE ON COVID-19 VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

from the perspective of the University of Oxford

This webinar will assist participants in understanding the development and clinical issues with one of the lead COVID-19 vaccine candidates.

**PROFESSOR
SARAH GILBERT**



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Join Professor Sarah Gilbert, Professor of Vaccinology at the University of Oxford and Co-Founder of Vaccitech, live from the United Kingdom.

Prof. Gilbert is the lead vaccinologist on the front-running University of Oxford team developing a COVID-19 vaccine. She will detail her mission to create the world's first mass-produced COVID-19 vaccine and take questions from Australian and New Zealand pharmacists during this exclusive clinical webinar.



apci ACCREDITED
CPD


A2008COVID19-5

This activity has been accredited for 1.5 hrs of Group 1 CPD (or 1.5 CPD credits) suitable for inclusion in an individual pharmacist's CPD plan. CPD accreditation expires 24/11/2020.

**25TH AUGUST
2020**

TUESDAY
7:00 PM (AEST)
9:00 PM (NZST)

Sponsored by:

 the australasian
college of pharmacy



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Register at guild.org.au/COVIDvaccineupdate