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Today's issue of PD

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

CWH, Sherpa partnership

CHEMIST Warehouse (CWH) is partnering with on-demand courier service, Sherpa, to deliver online orders within two hours.

The deal will see CWH use the scalability of Sherpa's crowd-sourced driver model to leverage its pharmacy network, with stores acting as "mini-warehouses" to bridge the gap between the ease of online shopping and the convenience of home delivery.

A CWH spokesperson said the partnership will enhance its online ordering platform, and deliver "the ultimate retail experience".

Tech must not disrupt pharmacy: FIP

PHARMACISTS should play a central role in developing digital health technologies and services to ensure they do not dilute the quality of pharmacy care, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) believes.

In its position statement on emerging technologies and pharmacy practice, the FIP warned that technological advancements were disrupting the sector, with "profit-seeking entities", run by non-pharmacy players, harvesting "vast amounts of patient data".

"To protect the professional autonomy and related high standards of professional conduct of pharmacists employed by pharmacy owners, as well as to highlight FIP's long-standing support of ethical principles, FIP continues to strongly advocate for pharmacist autonomy in all sectors of the profession," the organisation said.

"The collection of both health

data and online purchasing history combined with considerable artificial intelligence resources is of concern as our regulators do not currently address the need for transparency in how these data are used and for ensuring that such data collection is in the best interest of patients.

"Regulators also need to address the use of marketing tools and discounts to promote the purchase of unnecessary (and potentially detrimental) medical products, as the health and well-being of patients must be the highest priority.

"Any new disruptive technology or business model must not dilute the inherent protections that are in place for consumers and civil society under the conventional pharmacy model.

"They must allow for the continued pharmacist-based professional stewardship of medicines.



"Pharmacists should be involved in the development of digital health technologies.

"By being part of the technological advances, pharmacy can deliver universally safer, more accessible, timely and better value healthcare through a more compassionate, personalised and rewarding model of care for the communities we serve, now and into the future."

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Time is right for Vic Chief Pharmacist

PLANS to demerge Victoria's Department of Health and Human Services could provide the ideal opportunity for the State Government to appoint a Chief Pharmacist, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone believes.

Premier, Daniel Andrews, announced the plan to separate the department, as part of the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Welcoming the decision, Tassone said "on face value...[it] is a very sensible move".

"There have been challenges in being able to effectively and efficiently engage with the mega department that has been in place since 2015, particularly so during the COVID pandemic," he said.

"With the upcoming demerger



of these departments, now is the right time to appoint a Chief Pharmacist to ensure sufficient and appropriate engagement with the pharmacy profession along with leadership in the Victorian public service, to best utilise the scope of practice of pharmacists to deliver and provide access to

the best healthcare we can for all Victorians.

"The Guild has made representations to the recently appointed Victorian Minister for Health, Martin Foley, on this issue and continue to have constructive discussions with the Victorian Department to see this happen."

Sigma celebrates pharmacists

SIGMA Healthcare is celebrating the achievements, diligence and resilience of pharmacists across its Amcal and Guardian Pharmacy groups, with a 12 Days of Christmas inspired campaign.

The initiative will see the groups tell the stories of pharmacists who have gone above and beyond for their communities throughout 2020, across social media platforms and internal communications.

Amcal and Guardian Head, Kurt O'Brien, said the groups' pharmacists were "true champions" on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic, "delivering unwavering first-class care for their communities and teams."

PBS lists Xarelto for CAD and PAD

NON-VITAMIN K antagonist oral anticoagulant (NOAC), Xarelto (rivaroxaban 2.5mg twice daily) has been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) in combination with aspirin (100mg once daily), for patients with high-risk coronary artery disease (CAD) and/or peripheral artery disease (PAD).

The listing is in line with the European Society of Cardiology and Vascular Medicine's guidelines for the treatment of CAD and PAD, which support the use of rivaroxaban for the



prevention of secondary heart attacks and strokes in high-risk patients.

The PBS note that streamlined authority is required for the new listing, with medical and nurse practitioners eligible to prescribe it.

Statins top PBS prescription count

CHOLESTEROL lowering medication, rosuvastatin, was the top drug dispensed through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) by prescription counts.

NPS MedicineWise reported there were 12,968,693 PBS and RPBS scripts for rosuvastatin between 01 Jul 2019 and 30 Jun this year, followed by atorvastatin (11,241,737).

Gastroesophageal reflux disease treatment, pantoprazole was third by script count (8,283,205).

Atorvastatin topped the list for PBS/RPBS drugs by defined daily dose per 1000 of population a day, (72.93) ahead of rosuvastatin (61.03) and long-acting ACE inhibitor, perindopril (52.34).

Prescriptions for wet macular degeneration treatment, aflibercept, topped the list of PBS/RPBS drugs by cost to government (\$392, 045,570), followed by cancer treatment, nivolumab (\$344,751,398) and immunotherapy, pembrolizumab (\$342,875,272).



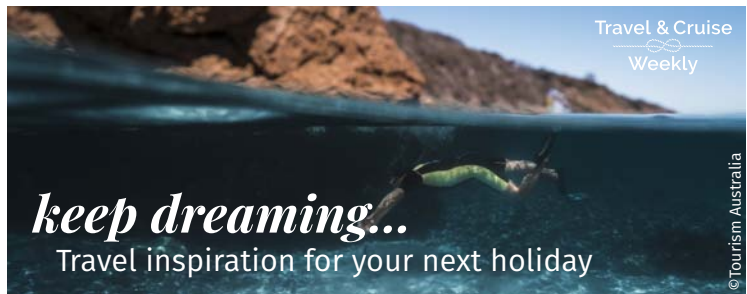
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Dispensary Corner

IT'S unclear exactly how they work, but the residents of some Cambodian villages are swearing by magical scarecrows to help ward off COVID-19. Known in the local vernacular as "Ting Mong," the home-made effigies maintain a long-held belief that the creatures are able to fend off diseases along with evil spirits, according to a Reuters report.

Anecdotal it seems to be working, with official figures claiming Cambodia has only had 307 cases in total, and no deaths, after quickly containing small outbreaks this year.

The scarecrows are usually made of hay, with a "skeleton" of bamboo and old clothes.

The report says some homeowners also provide their Ting Mong with motorbike helmets and arm them with sticks and knives to increase their effectiveness.

FORGET mind-altering drugs - funding of a mind-reading project by the US military has seen a recent breakthrough in decoding brain signals reported by the Army Research Office.

The study was able to separate neurological impulses into those which influence action or behaviour from those that do not, according to tech website c4isrnet.com.

Potential uses of the discovery could be "silent communication" between soldiers and computers, researchers said, but warned any sort of battle-ready interface was decades away.

Mo-grow no more



AFTER a year of stresses and strains, pharmacists across Australia probably did not need to have their social media feeds bombarded with mo-growing updates from **Pharmacy Daily** Editor, Nick O'Donoghue, and *Australian Journal of Pharmacy* (AJP) Editor, Chris Brooker, throughout Nov.

The usually clean-shaven editorial duo put their publishing rivalry to one side for their month-long #MoFoe campaign to raise funds for the Pharmacists' Support

Service (PSS), meeting up last night to compare taches, before shedding the facial fuzz.

While the #MoFoe campaign may be at its end, donations can still be made to PSS **HERE**, and if you would like to acknowledge Brooker and O'Donoghue's moes, tag donations with #MoFoePD or #MoFoeAJP in the message box.

Pictured: **Pharmacy Daily** Editor, Nick O'Donoghue, and *AJP* Editor, Chris Brooker, celebrating the end of their mo-off.

Win with Powerhouse Pharmacy Brands

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Powerhouse Pharmacy Brands are giving away a product hamper filled with products from the PHPB portfolio to the RRP Value of \$150.00.

Powerhouse Pharmacy Brands is a leading Australian-owned pharmacy & health sales agency based in Sydney. Our dedicated team of experienced sales professionals services thousands of pharmacies, health stores and retailers nationally and maintains strong and well-established relationships with the pharmacy wholesalers and banner groups.

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Q: Name one of our brands



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Guild Update

Electronic prescription training

THE arrival of electronic prescriptions (eScripts) requires significant change management to pharmacy workflows.

For those patients who choose to have their medication prescribed electronically it will be a big change, and may require some time for them to understand this new method.

It's important that all pharmacy staff are educated on eScripts so that they can meet the needs of their community.

Guild Learning and Development has partnered with the Australian Digital Health Agency to produce a new online module titled *Electronic prescriptions: A guide for pharmacy assistants*.

The module introduces the different ways that an eScript may be presented in a pharmacy - via a token or Active Script List - and helps pharmacy assistants to answer questions from patients.

The module is free to access for all pharmacy assistants in Australia.

For details, please contact [Guild Learning and Development](#) on 1800 049 056.





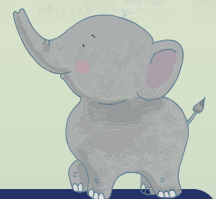
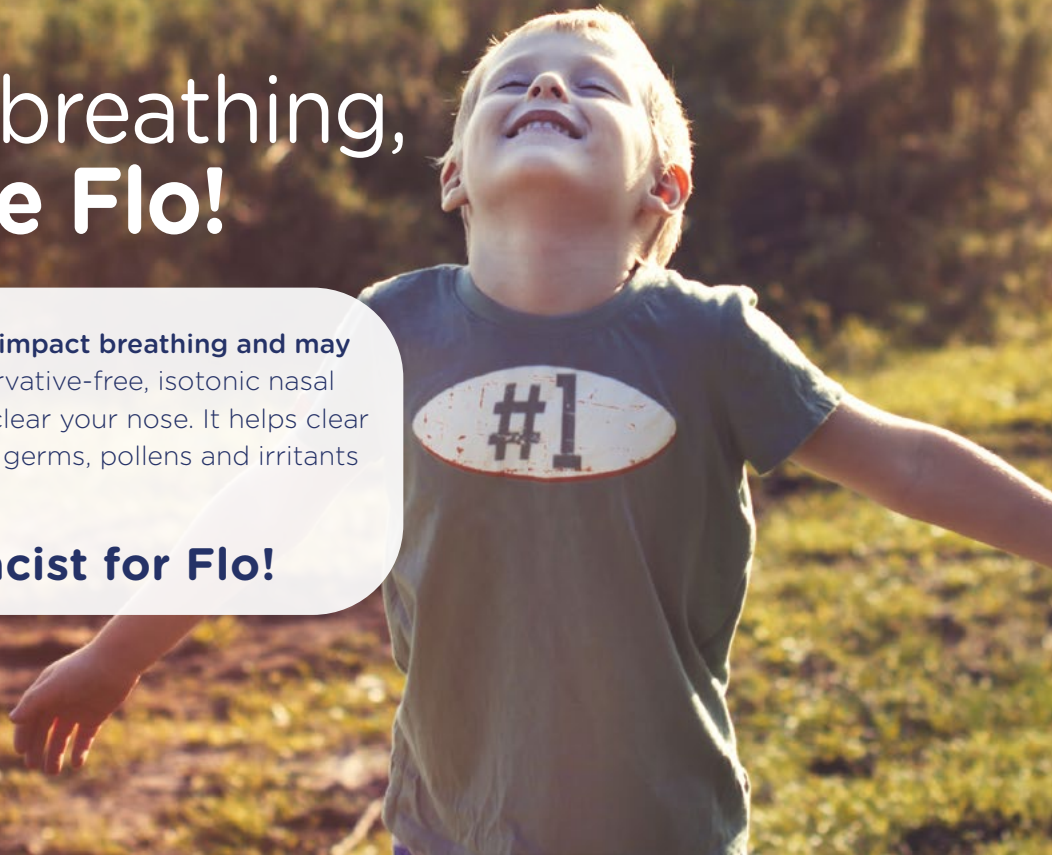
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