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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus the latest MIMS update.

## Pharmacy First may overwhelm

PHARMACISTS in Scotland are set to come under increased pressure as the country's Pharmacy First scheme is combined with a minor ailments program, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Scottish Pharmacy Board Chair, Jonathan Burton, warns.

Burton said that while the move to increase pharmacists' scope of practice was positive "there is also a risk that we will be swamped with work".

The careful expansion of our role is to be welcomed, but it's vital our pharmacists are appropriately resourced and supported," he said.

## Hunt releases 300,000 face masks

PHARMACISTS will be among a select group of health professionals to receive fresh Commonwealth Government face masks to provide to staff, patients with potential coronavirus and their families.

Speaking in the House of Representatives yesterday, Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, provided an update of the Government's response to the coronavirus outbreak, and announced the provision of an additional 300,000 masks, to be distributed free of charge, by health professionals.

"We as a country have moved to ensure that we have the strongest containment practices in place," he said.

"Part of that has been what we have done with our border arrangements, and I thank everybody involved for their work on that front—in particular, our medical professionals, who have acted early.

"As part of that, we have made



available today an additional 300,000 surgical masks to GPs, to medical professionals and to chemists, not for sale, but for their use and for the use of any of their customers whom they believe might be at risk."

The Government's decision to distribute the free masks through pharmacies followed allegations that pharmacists have been bumping up their prices as demand for the masks soars.

Responding to allegations of

price gouging, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, noted on Twitter that he had seen examples of "particular suppliers increasing the costs of masks by over 1500% to pharmacies between the first week of Jan and the first week of Feb".

Tassone said that concerns over "unconscionable conduct" by some suppliers had been referred to the Australia Competition and Consumer Commission.

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## Flu vax shows pharmacy's potential

**COMMUNITY** pharmacy's successful role in boosting influenza vaccine uptake highlights the potential benefits of empowering pharmacists to work to their full scope of practice, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Executive Director, Suzanne Greenwood, believes.

Responding to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) *Disparities in potentially preventable hospitalisations across Australia 2012/13 to 2017/18* report released last week, which showed one in 15 hospitalisations could have been prevented if early health interventions had been made, Greenwood said allowing pharmacists to "offer the health services they are trained to provide" could alleviate pressure on the health system.

Writing in the Guild's fortnightly newsletter, she reiterated calls for all State and Territory Governments to provide pharmacists with access to National Immunisation Program

(NIP) funded vaccinations.

"The report found vaccine-preventable pneumonia and influenza, and congestive cardiac failure accounted for the most days of hospital care," she said.

"Pharmacies across Australia can now administer the flu vaccinations and last year more than two million Australians chose their pharmacy to have their vaccination.

"Given the success of community pharmacists in bolstering vaccination rates, the Guild has called for the NIP to be extended to community pharmacies across the country – where free vaccines are funded to those in 'at risk' groups like those over 65 or asthma sufferers.

"And we need to extend vaccinations beyond the flu. Already some jurisdictions allow pharmacists to vaccinate against measles and whooping cough but we need national consistency to ensure community immunity



against these preventable diseases.

"The success of pharmacist vaccinations reinforces the benefits to the health of the community if community pharmacists are allowed to do what they are trained for.

"It is clear that every example of pharmacists being better able to operate to their scope of practice has demonstrable benefits for the health system and the patients of Australia.

"It's time to stop talking about utilising the great opportunities community pharmacists can provide and start acting on it."

## NAPSA, SHPA re-sign MoU

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia aims to improve pathways into the hospital pharmacy workforce, through its renewal of its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA).

SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels, noted NAPSA's National Pharmacy Students Survey 2019 had found 46% of students saw themselves working in a hospital setting within the next five years, but many felt they did not gain enough exposure to the setting during their training programs (PD yesterday).

Michaels called for the Victorian model of intern-hospital preferential matching to be rolled out across the country as part of a centralised approach to training.



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Travel & Cruise Weekly

## Dispensary Corner

**WITH** fears over the spread of coronavirus, many people around the world have been taking precautions to limit their risk of contracting the virus.

However, some pet owners are also going the extra mile to protect their fur-babies, despite assurances from the World Health Organization, that disease cannot be passed on to domesticated animals.

Photos posted on social media platform, Weibo, show dogs wearing home-made face masks constructed using plastic bottles, paper cups and socks, while some more upper-crust pups have been spotted wearing surgical face masks.

The *Daily Mail* reported some animal lovers have been dressed in plastic "hazmat suits" in an effort to protect them from the virus.

The publication reported that one online retailer said sales of special masks for dogs increased tenfold since the outbreak started.



## Guild to digest industry

**THE** Pharmacy Guild is currently collecting data for its annual industry-wide survey, the Guild Digest, which provides an overview of the Australian pharmacy industry for the preceding financial year.

The Guild will use the data in Community Pharmacy Agreement negotiations, with the aim to "properly represent" all of its members at every industry and government level.

The Guild says the publication is an important tool for its members, allowing them to refer to the latest information when making business decisions and plans.

The information will also be used by community pharmacy owners, managers and financial advisers as a "financial benchmarking tool",

as well as by banks and pharmacy brokers to assist with pharmacy valuations.

Guild members can expect to receive an email today inviting them to participate in the 15-minute survey, along with the option of providing additional financial information.

The deadline to complete the survey is 03 April, however members are encouraged to complete the survey "as soon as possible" before the cut-off.

Any members who don't receive the email can contact [Guild.Nat@guild.org.au](mailto:Guild.Nat@guild.org.au).

Members can take a look at the 2019 Guild Digest for financial year 2017-18, **HERE** - it is also available for non-members to purchase.



## 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 *Travel & Cruise Weekly*.

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### G Adventures offer

**TRAVELLERS** can get 30% off G Adventures' 14-day Amazon Riverboat and Machu Picchu Adventure, which is priced from \$3,597 per person, down from \$5,139, for the 29 Jun departure for bookings made by 29 Feb.

Highlights of the adventure include visits to The Lost City of the Incas and Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, free time in Cusco, and a guided tour of Sacred Valley - **CLICK HERE**.

G Adventures is also offering 20% savings on its nine-day Northern India by Rail journey, which starts and ends in Delhi and priced from \$863pp for the 08 May departure - **CLICK HERE**.

## Win with freezeframe

This week Pharmacy Daily and freezeframe are giving readers the chance to win NEW WRINKLE BLOCK valued at \$69.

WRINKLE BLOCK blocks visible expression wrinkles up to 78% in 30 minutes without paralysing muscles. This fast-acting anti-ager delivers a near 40% wrinkle and 76% eye bag reduction in just 7 days. 2 powerful peptides simultaneously slow down expressions whilst charging skin with the energy to bounce back. Visit [freeze-frame.com.au](http://freeze-frame.com.au) for more.

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Travel & Cruise Weekly



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## New Products

- **Abemaciclib (Verzenio)** is an inhibitor of cyclin D-dependent kinase 4 and 6 (CDK4 and CDK6), with most activity against cyclin D1/CDK4. It prevents retinoblastoma protein phosphorylation, blocking progression from G1 into S phase of the cell cycle, leading to suppression of tumour growth in breast cancer. Verzenio is indicated for the treatment of hormone receptor positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) negative, locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer, in combination with an aromatase inhibitor or fulvestrant, as initial endocrine-based therapy, or following prior endocrine therapy. In pre- or perimenopausal women, the endocrine therapy should be combined with a luteinising hormone-releasing hormone agonist. Verzenio tablets contain 50 mg, 100 mg or 150 mg abemaciclib and are available in a pack size of 56.
- **Isavuconazole (sulfate) (Cresemba)** inhibits the synthesis of ergosterol, a key component of the fungal cell membrane, through the inhibition of cytochrome P450 dependent enzyme lanosterol 14-alpha-demethylase, the enzyme responsible for the conversion of lanosterol to ergosterol. Cresemba is indicated in adults for the treatment of invasive aspergillosis; and mucormycosis in patients for whom amphotericin B is inappropriate. Cresemba is contraindicated in combination with ketoconazole, high dose ritonavir (> 200 mg every 12 hours), strong CYP3A4/5 inducers (e.g. rifampicin, rifabutin, carbamazepine, long-acting barbiturates (incl phenobarbital), phenytoin and St John's wort) or with moderate CYP3A4/5 inducers (e.g. efavirenz, nafcillin and etravirine); and in familial short QT syndrome. Cresemba is available as a powder for injection containing 200 mg/vial isavuconazole (available in packs of 1) and as capsules containing 100 mg isavuconazole (available in packs of 14).
- **Sodium glycerophosphate (Glycophos)** is a metabolic intermediate in fat metabolism. Glycophos is indicated in adults and children as a supplement to parenteral nutrition to meet the daily requirements of phosphate. Glycophos should not be given to patients in a state of dehydration or with hypernatraemia, hyperphosphataemia, severe renal insufficiency or shock. Glycophos concentrated solution for infusion contains 4.32 g/20 mL sodium glycerophosphate and is available in pack size of 20 ampoules.

## New Indications

- **Glecaprevir/pibrentasvir (Maviret)** is now indicated for the treatment of adolescent patients 12 years and older with chronic hepatitis C virus genotype 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 infection with or without compensated cirrhosis.
- **Trifluridine/tipiracil hydrochloride (Lonsurf)** is now indicated for the treatment of adults with metastatic gastric or gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma previously treated with at least two prior lines of chemotherapy that included a fluoropyrimidine, a platinum, either a taxane or irinotecan, and if appropriate, HER2/neu-targeted therapy.

## New Contraindications

- **Oxycodone hydrochloride/naloxone hydrochloride (Targin)** is now contraindicated in severe respiratory depression with hypoxia and/or hypercapnia.

*This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.*