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No complacency on meds shortages

CLAIMS pharmacists are being complacent about their stock management have been shot down by Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone (pictured).

Speaking on Melbourne's 3AW yesterday, (Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia (AAA) CEO, Maria Said, suggested pharmacists had not done enough to replenish stocks of EpiPens in recent weeks.

"We have had plentiful supply since late Jan, however, the message for some reason doesn't seem to be coming through to our pharmacies," she said.

"People are going to pharmacy after pharmacy and are still being told there's a shortage, but my understanding is there are thousands in the Australian marketplace."

Responding to Said's comments, Tassone said pharmacies have been

experiencing "an unprecedented level of medicines shortages" and have been working "tirelessly" to ensure patients have access to medicines they need.

"To accuse pharmacies of being 'complacent' is an indication of not having a full appreciation of the breadth of the issue and the many factors beyond pharmacy's control," he said.

"EpiPen(R) products have been facing repeated and long standing supply interruptions from the manufacturer which pharmacies and patients have had to deal with for a while.

"Whilst the TGA medicine shortage initiative website may not list a current shortage or indicate that a shortage has been resolved - there can be a lag time between; stock being available from the manufacturer, the stock being received from wholesalers



who distribute to pharmacies, the wholesalers fulfilling back order or previous order for commitments, and the stock actually reaching the pharmacy.

"It would be nice if the stock could immediately arrive in our dispensaries once a manufacturer had resolved their own supply problems - but sadly in reality that's just not the case."

Tassone said the Guild would welcome the opportunity to work with the AAA to help patients.

Today's issue of PD

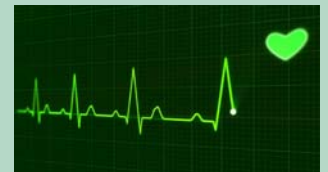
Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news.

PA BP training

GUILD Learning and Development has launched a new online training module, Measuring Blood Pressure, designed for pharmacy assistants (PAs).

The course provides PAs with information on best practice blood pressure monitoring, referral guidelines, as well as advice on maintaining a healthy heart for patients.

CLICK HERE to enrol.



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Delivery drivers to spot loneliness

PHARMACY delivery drivers in Wales are to be trained to identify signs of loneliness and isolation in older patients, when dropping off prescriptions as part of a trial.

The drivers will use a computerised tool to assess patients, and decide if they would benefit from a referral to the National Health Service or social services.

The trial is part of the Welsh Government's loneliness and



social isolation strategy and will be run by the National Pharmacy Association and Hywel Dda University Health Board.

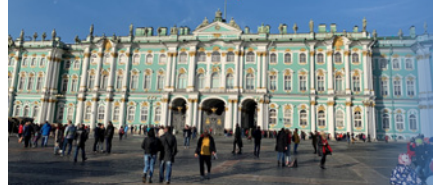


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Sydneysider arrested over script fraud

NSW Police have arrested a 48-year-old woman in Sydney's west in relation to a string of offences including falsifying prescriptions.

The woman has been charged with breaking into a specialist doctor's surgery in Westmead in Apr 2018, when it is alleged she stole medical supplies.

Police executed a search warrant at an apartment complex in Parramatta on Thu 13 Feb, where they discovered prescribed restricted substances, prohibited drugs, electronic devices, alleged falsified prescriptions, personal identification believed to have been stolen, an axe, a knife, a sickle, bicycles and a cash register which are alleged to have been stolen.

The items were seized to undergo forensic examination,



and the accused was arrested and charged with possessing forged prescriptions, goods in personal custody suspected being stolen, two counts of possess prescribed restricted substance, and dealing with proceeds of crime.

Police also alleged the woman had used forged prescriptions to gain access to prescribed substances between May 2019 and Feb 2020.

Study fuels anxiety

BRITISH research linking the use of certain types of antibiotics during pregnancy with an increased risk of birth defects, could "unnecessarily fuel anxiety in pregnant women", and Australian obstetrician and gynaecologist believes.

Commenting on data published in the *BMJ* linking the use of macrolide antibiotics, including erythromycin, clarithromycin, and azithromycin, during pregnancy, with an increased risk of birth Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Queensland, Gino Percoraro, flagged concerns over the findings.

"Data dredging of databases involving large numbers of pregnant women is being used to look for an association between common medical treatments and adverse pregnancy effects," he said.

"These observational type studies are not sufficiently powered to prove causation and can unnecessarily fuel anxiety in pregnant women and sometimes even lead to denial of what can be important treatment options.

"The difficulty separating association from causation is a well-known challenge when undertaking medical research and this research is no different.

"The study [released yesterday], suggests a link between pregnant women having been prescribed a particular class of antibiotics and significant congenital anomalies in their babies.

"It found that first trimester exposure was associated with an



increased risk of cardiovascular anomalies and exposure during the second or third trimester associated with an increased risk of genital anomalies.

"The macrolide class of antibiotics is important because they frequently used to treat women who are allergic to penicillin and sometimes the only class of drugs that particular bacteria are sensitive to or that are recommended by professional bodies.

"Until further research clarifies this question, women and doctors should observe what has always been best practice when it comes to the prescription of medication including antibiotics, during pregnancy.

"The benefits of using a drug should be weighed against the risks to the mother and developing baby of not providing treatment and where a safer and available alternative exists, that drug should be preferred."



PHARMACIST

The Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA/Authority) is responsible for the regulation of pharmacy businesses, pharmacy departments and pharmacy depots in Victoria and is currently seeking registered pharmacists.

There are two permanent, part-time positions available:

1. Pharmacist (community) – minimum 4 days / 30 hours per week (negotiable).
2. Pharmacist (hospital) – minimum 6 days per month (days/hours flexible).


Applicants must be registered as a pharmacist with AHPRA, have relevant experience in community practice (Position 1) or hospital practice (Position 2) and have a good working knowledge of pharmacy legislation, guidelines and practice standards. A current Victorian driver's licence and own vehicle is essential.

If you feel that your previous experience along with your skills and knowledge align with our requirements for one of these very exciting and important roles, please submit your application to the Registrar, Victorian Pharmacy Authority, Level 2, 15-31 Pelham Street, Carlton 3053 by email enquiries@pharmacy.vic.gov.au no later than 13 March 2020.

Applications should include:


- a 1-page Cover Letter clearly indicating which position is being applied for and addressing the Qualifications and Key Selection Criteria in the Position Description
- a Resume, no longer than 5 typed pages

For a copy of the Position Description and further information contact Helen Newett on (03) 9653 1700 or by email enquiries@pharmacy.vic.gov.au.



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Dispensary Corner

NO, it wasn't a chocolate Moove.



A breastfeeding British mum has regretted fake-tanning every part of her body after her infant son ended up with a five-o'clock shadow.

20-year-old Keziah Jozefiak said she was getting ready to go out when the baby woke up ravenous "mid-tan".

She went into autopilot and started feeding him, only to suddenly realise he was starting to look somewhat like a baby Homer Simpson, according to the UK *Metro* newspaper.

"It took me a good solid hour to get the tan off his face properly, but he found the whole thing hilarious.

"I used baby oil and babywipes and he looked shiny and clean after...fortunately Bondi Sands tan is really good for your skin."

The keen self-tanner usually applies the product once a week, but always in the evening before washing it off before bed so it never comes into contact with her baby.

Riverton magic Wizard



WIZARD Pharmacy Riverton has been crowned the Wizard Pharmacy group's Pharmacy of the Year, seeing off stiff competition from rivals within the group, including 2020 Pharmacy Guild of Australia Pharmacy of the Year Finalist, Wizard Pharmacy Kalgoorlie.

Store owner, Nadia Dyson, said the title was recognition for the team's achievements over the past 12 months, adding she hoped to be in the running for next year's title.

"We always go above and beyond to assist customers by having

multilingual staff on each day and promoting the benefits of Wizard's loyalty program and our RAC partnership to ensure we're offering them maximum value and savings," she said.

Wizard Pharmacy Chief Operating Officer, Sally Parker, praised the Riverton team for the way they constantly looked for ways to have a positive impact on their community.

Pictured, Wizard Pharmacy Riverton's Susanna Chua, Clover Quek, Nadia Dyson, Breannah Broad-Smith and Rachel Reed.

Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away the pictured prize pack valued at over \$60.

Aloe Barbadensis 'Natures medicine plant' is renowned for its soothing, cooling and hydrating properties. Plunkett's Aloe Vera is fragrance and colour free and contains pure certified organic Aloe Vera extracted from Aloe Barbadensis Leaf - rich in vitamins, minerals, amino acids and anti-oxidants to restore dry and damaged skin all year round. Visit: www.Plunketts.com.au for more.

To win, be the first from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Does Plunkett's Aloe Vera contain any fragrance?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner
Anna Phan



Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

06 - 08 Mar: NSW/ACT Annual Therapeutic Update 2020; Crowne Plaza Terrigal; Save the date - registrations open 2 Dec: www.psa.org.au

19 - 22 Mar: APP 2020; Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre; www.appconference.com

04 - 05 Apr: VIC/TAS Annual Therapeutic Update, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville, Melbourne; for more information visit: www.psa.org.au

18 - 19 Apr: Pharmeducation Clinical Update; Holiday Inn, Potts Point, Sydney: register at www.pharmeducation.com.au

06 May: APC & ANMAC Interprofessional Colloquium 2020; QT Hotel, Canberra; for more info visit: www.ipecolloquium.com/

18 - 19 Jul: Pharmeducation Clinical Update 2020; Brisbane Airport Conference Centre; www.pharmeducation.com.au

31 Jul - 02 Aug - PSA National Conference; Sydney Hyatt Regency; for more visit: www.psa20.com.au