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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news.

Flu threat exists

AUSTRALIANS are being warned not to take influenza lightly this year, as COVID-19 restrictions are being eased.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, George Tambassis, warned the virus can be "life-threatening" and urged patients to get vaccinated.

"By being vaccinated, you not only protect yourself, but also those around you who are unable to be vaccinated, or who are at a higher risk of complications if they catch the flu, such as the elderly, babies and young children," he said.

"I urge everyone to ask their community pharmacy about getting the flu vax as soon as possible."

Corum considers BMM options

PLANS for pharmacy software developer Corum Group Limited to issue shares to a company linked to Pharmacy4Less owners, Feras and Assad Karem, are on hold.

In an announcement to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX), the listed tech company revealed that "the first milestone associated with its Subscription Deed with BMM Group Administration Pty Ltd, to develop a cloud-based head office solution, has not been met".

The deal had been set to see Corum build on the know-how developed around its popular RPM Head Office application to create its first major SaaS (Software as a Service) platform, to be marketed as Corum Clear Head Office.

Under the terms of the deal, which was approved by Corum shareholders last Nov, an initial tranche of 31.8 million units had been due to be issued to BMM on 30 Jun, with a second allocation of



the same amount due to be issued on 31 Jan 2021.

The shares had been due to be issued at "nil cash consideration" and deemed to be worth 3.6c each.

"Since the first milestone has not been met, the first tranche of shares will not be issued to BMM under the current shareholder approval," Corum Chair, Nick England said.

"The Board of Corum is evaluating

the company's options and will update shareholders when appropriate."

As well as the share placement, Corum had also granted a contractual right to BMM to participate in future placements.

Factors related to the failure to meet the initial milestone associated with the agreement have not been revealed.

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Dispensary Corner

AUSTRALIAN pharmacy students may one day earn the title 'Doctor' under plans revealed in the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (PD 23 Jun).

But for the time being they will continue to endure slights and barbs suggesting they are in some way failed medical students, rather than highly skilled health professionals.

Somewhat disillusioned by such comments, downtrodden British pharmacist, Laura Buckley, took to Twitter to pose the question:

"How can I expect the general public to have respect for pharmacy as a profession when my own mother introduces me to people with the line, 'she could have been a doctor but chose pharmacy instead'?"

Responses varied, with International Pharmaceutical Federation Vice President, Ash Soni, suggesting Buckley should finish her mother's sentence by adding, "because it's a better choice".

However, the most compelling response came from a Dutch pharmacist with the Twitter handle, @Pharmacor, who said, "Remember, doctors are former pharmacy students that failed their first year at university".



Hunt extends Continued Dispensing

EMERGENCY dispensing measures initially implemented during Jan's bushfire crisis will remain in force until at least 30 Sep due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Announcing the extension of the Continued Dispensing measures, which were due to expire on 30 Jun, Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, revealed more than 75,000 Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) subsidised medications were dispensed under the program in Apr and May.

State and Territory governments are expected to implement necessary legislation to enable pharmacists to continue to provide emergency supplies of essential medicines to patients without a prescription in cases where they have been unable to access their GP and there is a clinical need.

Welcoming the announcement, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National President, Dr Chris Freeman, called on the Federal Government to make the arrangements permanent.

"This is a commonsense decision by the Federal Government with COVID-19 still posing a considerable risk in many parts of Australia," he said.

"While the extension of the continued dispensing emergency arrangements is pleasing, PSA will continue to call for emergency supply provisions of this nature to be made standard practice.

"It is important that patients requiring chronic therapy are supported in emergency situations and can continue to receive their medication.

"All Australians for that matter



need to be confident they can access vital medicines when faced with an emergency or disaster."

Freeman added the PSA would continue to work with Federal, State and Territory governments to ensure patients can retain access to medicines throughout the ongoing COVID crisis.

"As front line health professionals, it is important that pharmacists have the necessary tools to ensure they can meet the health care needs of their patients and the community in a timely manner," he said.

NEW PRODUCTS

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