

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Essity
- Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Wizard grows

WIZARD Pharmacy has announced a new franchisee has joined the group.

Greg's Discount Chemist in Rockingham, Western Australia, will officially open its doors as a Wizard Pharmacy on 10 Aug.

The WA-based group now has 29 pharmacies throughout the State.

New franchisee, Vincent Wong, said that under the Wizard brand the pharmacy would aim for a consistent retail and professional services experience.

"In a market of downward pressure on profits and increasing costs, I have confidence that the Wizard brand will help us drive customer growth," he said.

Qld legislates to enable e-scripts

PHARMACISTS in Communities of Interest (Colis) in Queensland are now able to dispense electronic prescriptions after State legislation was approved earlier this month.

On Sat, State Health Minister, Steven Miles, announced that the necessary regulatory changes had been approved to bring Queensland into line with other States and Territories.

"This is the next step in better facilitating the flow of prescriptions between doctors and pharmacists," he said.

"Prior to this step, we introduced digital image scripts as an interim measure, which allowed the supply of PBS medicines through a digital copy of a script.

"Although electronic prescriptions are now available, the existing paper-based prescription process will remain for those still wishing to process their prescriptions as they've always done," he said.

Queensland Health Director-General, Dr John Wakefield, certified the approved requirements for electronic prescriptions under the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996*, on 10 Jul.

Under the new regulations



prescribers in Queensland will be able to create e-scripts using prescribing software that meets the Australian Digital Health Agency's conformance criteria.

Bundaberg health clinic, the Grave Family Practice, issued Queensland's first e-script yesterday, *BundabergNow* reported.

The e-script was issued using local technology firm, Best Practice's Best Practice Software.

Best Practice Acting Chief Operations Officer, Lorraine Pyefinch, said the introduction of e-scripts would revolutionise patient care.

"e-scripts will enable seamless, end-to-end telehealth appointments to be completed," she said.

"If a patient is house-bound or isolating because of COVID-19, they can have a teleconference with their usual doctor, receive the e-script token on their phone, then send the token on to the pharmacy of their choice (who are using the appropriate dispensing software).

"The pharmacy can dispense and deliver it to the patient, so no need to leave the house.

"The roll-out of e-scripts will be progressive as surgeries and pharmacies across Australia upgrade their software to activate the new functionality.

"We recommend that patients check with their usual practice and pharmacy to ensure they are e-script ready."

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Nominate a PATY

NOMINATIONS for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Pharmacy Assistant of the Year (PATY) are open.

The 2020 competition will be conducted entirely online as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Third-party nominations will close on 17 Aug, with the national judging workshop due to take place on 30 Oct.

See **page five** for more.

Masks in stock

GLOBAL hygiene and health provider, Essity, is bringing its ProShield range of N95 and Protector masks to Australian pharmacies.

The Swedish-based company's respirator masks are available through leading pharmacy wholesalers and come in medium and small sizes.

See **page four** for more details.

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Fred issues pharmacy cyber warning

PHARMACISTS are being urged to take steps to protect against cyber attacks, as the rollout of electronic prescriptions continues.

Fred IT Group CEO, Paul Naismith, warned pharmacy owners that following the introduction of the Notifiable Data Breach Scheme and mandatory reporting of cyber attacks in 2018, the health sector had been a primary target, with Australian businesses recording a cybercrime every 10 minutes.

“The surge in reported cyber attacks of the last two years is only the tip of the iceberg, as many attempts go unreported,” he said.

“It is important that pharmacies factor cyber security into their planning so that they can focus on business as usual, whilst remaining confident that their pharmacy is protected against the potentially disastrous implications of data loss that can result from a cyber attack.

“Electronic prescriptions will also mean that pharmacies are working

with larger amounts of digital data, and that data will be increasingly important to their business continuity.

“To prepare for this move, we urge pharmacies to pay attention to their cyber security protection.

“Cyber security has become an important area of compliance for pharmacy.

“Our industry faces the same responsibilities to notify of data breaches that other businesses face.

“Quality Care 2020 also requires that pharmacies are taking action in cyber security.

“These changes highlight the importance that pharmacies stay across this increasing area of risk.

“We urge pharmacies to run security audits and to actively think about their processes for protecting against cybercrime.”

Fred IT Group General Manager, Andrew McManus, has described recent cyber attack warnings from



Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, as a wake-up call for pharmacists (*PD* 22 Jun).

McManus said pharmacists should consider using a 24/7 security operating centre, such as Fred Protect, to provide round-the-clock cyber surveillance to protect against data breaches.

Fred Protect includes software and hardware protection, risk assessment, training, and incident response guides.

Hospital pharmacists go into isolation

PHARMACISTS from St Vincent’s Private Hospital in Sydney have been forced to self-isolate after dining at a restaurant at the centre of a COVID-19 outbreak.

Pharmacy services provider, HPS, which signed a five-year contract with the hospital earlier this month, revealed 18 pharmacy staff members have been impacted, after eating at the Thai Rock restaurant in Potts Point on 17 Jul.

“It has since been confirmed that one Thai Rock Potts Point restaurant employee has been diagnosed positive to COVID-19,” a spokesperson for HPS said.

“In accordance with a NSW Health directive anyone who visited the restaurant for more than two hours between 15 and 25 Jul [has] to be tested and self-isolate for 14 days, the pharmacy staff who dined at the restaurant are currently in self isolation awaiting the results of COVID-19 tests.

“St Vincent’s Private Hospital and the pharmacy have arrangements in place to continue pharmacy operations with patient and staff welfare the priority.”

Authorities have issued alerts for patrons of a number of restaurants linked to COVID cases.

Meds shortages

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has extended the Serious Shortage Substitution Notice for metformin modified-release 500mg tablets until 31 Dec.

Under the notice pharmacists will continue to be able to substitute the product for a selected alternative without the need for prescriber approval, however the TGA said they should notify the prescriber as soon as possible.

The TGA may adjust the notice period should it become evident that supply has returned to a level that would meet expected demand.

Zafe Zone breach

ITALIAN Princess Coffee Brands, trading as Zafe Zone, has been handed three infringement notices totalling \$39,960, relating to advertising breaches.

The business allegedly promoted its disinfectant as effective against COVID-19 without having the necessary approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

CLICK HERE for more.



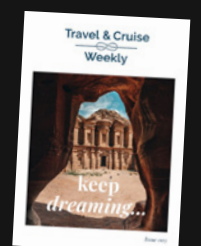
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Dispensary Corner

DISCOUNT pharmacies are synonymous with cut price scripts and low-cost cosmetics. Having built a strong reputation in the South African community pharmacy sector for its low prices, it appears discounter, Dis-Chem, decided to change tack whacking up the price of face masks by up to 261% in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Africa's Competition Tribunal issued the discounter with a fine of \$102,200 for charging "exorbitant prices" for masks as the country grappled with the global health crisis.

"Dis-Chem's conduct was not only exploitative to the detriment of consumers but also reprehensible in the context of COVID-19, and requires serious sanction," the tribunal ruled.

However, the group has claimed the tribunal's findings were unfair and contained "errors of fact and law".

Dis-Chem also argued that the case failed to consider issues surrounding local suppliers, saying it had to pay high prices to import masks.



Vale Dr Harry Nespolon



AUSTRALIA'S leading pharmacy organisations have paid tribute to the dedication of the late Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) President, Dr Harry Nespolon (pictured), who passed away after a nine-month battle with pancreatic cancer.

Both Pharmacy Guild of Australian National President, George Tambassis and Pharmaceutical Society of Australia National President, Dr Chris Freeman, acknowledged Nespolon's dedication to general practice and the healthcare of Australians, despite his concerns over moves to expand pharmacists' scope of practice.

"While we didn't see eye to eye on all things, I respected Harry and admired his honesty, dedication and his quick wit," Freeman said in a post on Twitter.

"Harry was a pragmatic man, focused on patient care and he will be sorely missed by his patients, colleagues and healthcare in general.

"Harry was a strong advocate for GPs and their profession and despite battling deteriorating health in recent months he was still able to provide strong leadership and achieve a great deal during the

COVID-19 pandemic and will no doubt leave an enduring legacy. "On behalf of the PSA I would like to pass on my deepest condolences to his family, friends and many colleagues."

Tambassis expressed his sorrow at Nespolon's passing, noting he was "unflinching in his determination to get the best outcome for members of his organisation, and through them the best possible results for patients".

"He would not take a backward step when prosecuting a position that he felt was in the best interests of all Australians and the general practitioners he represented, but he did so with courtesy and respect," he said.

"He made a huge contribution to the medical and healthcare sector in this country and he will be sadly missed."

Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) President, Peter Fowler, also offered his condolences, saying he was "shocked and saddened" to hear of Nespolon's passing.

"He was a giant of General Practice, a strong advocate for the profession and will leave a lasting legacy on the organisation he has shaped in recent years," Fowler said.

Guild Update

Electronic prescription panel discussion

THE Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) will host a webinar on electronic prescriptions, featuring a panel discussion with participating healthcare providers on Wednesday, 12 August 2020, from 6.30 to 7.30pm.

Electronic prescriptions offer new prescription format options, potentially providing convenience for patients and healthcare providers, provided the transition is handled effectively.

The implementation of electronic prescriptions is underway, with several software providers validating the technical and workflow aspects in several electronic prescribing Communities of Interest (COI).

The panel discussion will include general practitioners, pharmacists and practice managers already taking part in a COI.

Topics will include...

- What worked well for us – preparing the practice/ pharmacy and team for electronic prescriptions
- Overcoming workflow challenges – incorporating electronic and paper prescriptions into the daily routine
- Best responses – answering patients' questions on electronic prescriptions
- Technical requirements and staff communications – getting ready for electronic prescriptions

Register [here](#) to secure your place.

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- Fluid resistance
- Comfort



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Ref-no.	Description	Items per unit	SIGMA	SYMBION	API
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72509-26	ProShield® N-95 Medium	bx/30	899724	557889	325732
72509-24	ProShield® Protector Masks	bx/50	899708	473391	325716

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Contact your local Essity Representative or pharmacy.anz@essity.com

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