



ePrescription ready with MedView Flow

MedView Powered by Rx script exchange **SEE HOW**  **Flow**

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from **Sigma**.

New PSA NSW Branch President

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced the election of Newcastle-based community pharmacist Chelsea Felkai as its new NSW Branch President.

Felkai is an early career pharmacist who works as a locum and is currently undertaking a PhD and teaching at the University of Newcastle, as well as being a representative on the NSW Poisons Advisory Committee.

She's the first female to be elected as PSA NSW Branch President since 1995.

Outgoing President Professor Peter Carroll, who steps down effective from 01 Jul after three years in the role, has been elected as the NSW Board Appointed PSA Director.

He also remains as Vice President of the NSW Branch alongside Krysti-Lee Rigby.

Pharmacists prefer PPA

A NEW survey conducted by the Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) has found that almost 90% of those using the platform are "more satisfied than one year ago" when the programs were run by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Australian Healthcare Associates (AHA) won the contract to administer the 23 Community Pharmacy Programs funded under the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (PD 30 Oct 2018), taking over from the Pharmacy Guild from 01 Feb last year after a competitive tender process conducted by the Health Department.

The company subsequently established the new Pharmacy Programs Administrator operation including a new website and support centre to assist pharmacists to claim reimbursements under the 6CPA.

The newly released "Annual Satisfaction Survey" collates the responses from more than 500 users of the platform, with 94.3% either "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with PPA's administration of the programs.

Respondents cited payment speed as one of the key improvements, along with ease of



use, communication and real-time validation of claims.

Things users thought the PPA could do better included reducing repeat data entry for claim forms, providing greater detail on remittance advices and increasing integrations with software vendors.

PPA flagged a number of enhancements including new reports to assist with tax returns, and improved pre-fill functionality. AHA also currently administers the Community Service Obligation funding pool and the Chemotherapy Compounding Payment Scheme on behalf of the Health Department.

The full satisfaction survey is at ppaonline.com.au.

Arthrem script-only in NZ

THE New Zealand Ministry of Health has confirmed the reclassification of artemisia annua (sweet wormwood) extract as a prescription-only medicine.

The new classification means the product, which was previously sold under a number of brand names including Promisia's Arthrem, will no longer be able to be sold in pharmacies or online, according to NZ medicines regulator Medsafe.

The classification only affects the artemisia annua extract, not the plant itself.

The move follows a series of safety alerts about adverse reactions to the product, with Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration confirming it was monitoring the safety of the supplement which is marketed for maintaining and supporting joint health and mobility (PD 20 Mar 2018).

In Jul 2019 Medsafe made an application to have artemisia annua classified as a prescription only medicine at any dose, with NZ-listed Promisia, along with other companies using the ingredient, making strenuous objections to the move which were unsuccessful.

The reclassification has now been finalised, with Promisia confirming in Feb that it would cease sales of Arthrem, after pulling out of Australia in Sep.

Since then the company has announced it would cease operating in the natural products market and has instead acquired three aged care facilities.

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Labelling update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has established a temporary process for sponsors of listed, registered complementary and OTC medicines to request consent to supply products that do not supply with new labelling rules coming into force on 01 Sep.

Suppliers impacted by COVID-19 can delay compliance with TGO 92 until 06 Mar 2021 - tga.gov.au.

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PSA5703



Dispensary Corner

WITH life beginning to slowly edge back to a semblance of normality, public health officials are urging modern-day Casanovas to give monogamy a chance, to minimise the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Addressing a daily press briefing on Tue, Ireland's Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tony Holohan, backed advice coming from Dutch experts that people should limit their intimate engagements to a single partner, as the crisis continues.

"We know that is a challenge for people," he said, but stressed the need for people to maintain social distancing - making intimate moments all the more difficult.

Holohan's support for the Dutch "sex buddy" policy, whereby singletons have been advised to find a solitary partner to while away some amorous minutes of "lockdown" time, have not gone down well with some.

"We have to stop this guy," one Twitter-user said, adding: "Power has gotten to his head".

Meanwhile another said, "Ah Jeepers, Tony! Quarantine has been a nightmare for lovers anyway, and now you want monogamy!"



VPA caution over alterations

THE Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) has formally cautioned a pharmacist who had altered his premises without seeking approval.

According to the VPA's latest circular, eight panel hearings were held between Mar and Apr 2020, into allegations that licensees had failed to meet their responsibilities to comply with the Pharmacy Regulation Act and/or good pharmacy practice at registered premises within the state.

In one case relating to alterations, a compounding room had been established outside the dispensary, along with the relocation of a staff room and changes to an area dedicated to the filling of dose administration aids (DAAs).

"There were numerous other failures to comply with legislation, practice standards and guidelines for good pharmacy practice," the circular noted, with the Panel also requesting written procedures for the management of Schedule 8 poisons, drug refrigerator temperature monitoring and complex compounding at the pharmacy.

Another case resulted in a formal reprimand, with the packing of hazardous medicines into DAAs

in an unsuitable environment, non-adherence to cleaning and maintenance protocols in an automated dose packing system, and no records being made of the pharmacist who checked the DAAs.

Again the premises had also been significantly altered without requesting and obtaining the approval of the Authority.

MEANWHILE the VPA also highlighted a number of recent cases involving significant numbers of fraudulent prescriptions, including computer-generated and handwritten scripts for five, 10 or 15 fentanyl patches which were presented at 60 different pharmacies.

Fewer than half of those pharmacies chose not to dispense the prescriptions, even though all of the fake scripts were purportedly issued by NSW medical practitioners meaning it was highly unlikely the pharmacists would have any familiarity with the handwriting of the doctors.

Oxycontin 40mg tablets were also dispensed on about 90 fraudulent computer-generated prescriptions at 20 different pharmacies, seven of which dispensed the fake scripts on between 7 and 15 occasions.

CHP awards rego

CONSUMER Healthcare Products (CHP) Australia has opened registrations for this year's Diamond Awards, which for the first time are open to both members and non-members of the organisation.

Categories include Best Launch of a Consumer Healthcare Product, as well as Best PR Campaign, Best Data Strategy and Best Marketing Campaign and more.

The same campaigns can be nominated for consideration in multiple categories if eligible, and companies are also able to submit multiple campaigns across the various awards.

Registrations are due by Wed 15 Jul, followed by the full entries by 20 Aug and the Diamond Award Winners will be announced in Nov.

CHP Director of Business Development, Brenda Davy, said the judging panel "particularly look to reward leading-edge creative work that use insights-based strategy and results oriented executions to create health solutions for consumers".

Enter at chpaustralia.com.au.

NT vax age lower

PHARMACISTS in the Northern Territory can now provide influenza vaccinations to children aged 10 years and up, under regulations approved last week by the NT Chief Medical Officer.

Pharmacists must complete a further training unit to vaccinate children aged 10 to 15, while all other approved pharmacist vaccinations remain at 16 years and over.

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960 567	9311171012428	3PLY LEVEL 2 - SURGICAL MASK WITH EAR LOOPS CTN50 Complies with AS4381 TGA Registration Number: 332292
961151	9311171000012	NO GLOVES™ VINYL SML 10PK
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961177	9311171000036	NO GLOVES™ VINYL LGE 10PK

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