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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a full page from Rehydraid.

## GP slams CWH

TASMANIAN GP, Dr Donald Rose, is refusing to deliver hard copies of patients' prescriptions issued during telehealth consultations to Chemist Warehouse (CWH) pharmacies.

The move came after staff from his surgery were presented with flyers urging patients to use Instant Consult, a telehealth provider that is partnering with CWH, instead of their normal GP.

## Taste test trial

REHYDRAID is giving pharmacists the opportunity to "try before you buy", offering sample packs containing six 100ml pouches of its oral electrolyte solution.

Pharmacies can also secure a 30% discount on orders made this year.

See page three for more.

# 7CPA delivers certainty to change

PHARMACY owners need to embrace the certainty provided by the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) to prepare for the post-COVID-19 business environment, Medici Capital Managing Director, Frank Sirianni, believes.

Speaking on the latest *Sirianni Market Update* yesterday, the pharmacy valuations expert hailed the 7CPA as "absolutely fantastic".

"You have to look at the 7CPA in the context of a) the current economic environment, including COVID-19, and b) the overall circumstances across the whole health spectrum," he said.

"With this pandemic it is obvious that the Government has a number of issues that it's dealing with, and it's fantastic that the Pharmacy Guild of Australia was able to get the Government to sign-off on this.

"In broad terms the number one thing is that we have certainty, and number two is that there is inherent growth in the 7CPA in terms of indexation of fees, the dispensary fees and generally speaking this is an extraordinary outcome in the context of declining markets and the economic



conditions we're in."

While the 7CPA provides much needed certainty of the community pharmacy sector, Sirianni urged owners to "recognise there's a limited budget" and "develop strategies which are not contingent upon the Government's purse".

"If you can directly engage with the patient... have a relationship which is meaningful and valuable to the consumer then you will be better off," he said.

"Use this five-year period to think about how you can reduce your emphasis and reliance on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme."

Sirianni also warned pharmacy owners that they can no longer

expect customers to revert to pre-COVID shopping patterns.

"You've got to now start to recognise that we've got a 'new normal'," he said.

"You've got to react to that, we just can't assume that everything is going to go back to what it was.

"People are working from home, there's massive unemployment... now pharmacy does very well in these times, but you've got to pivot to be able to service those patients, because they're no necessarily going to come into your pharmacy.

"They're going to look to other means whether that's delivery services, fulfilment services or telepharmacy."

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Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

Pharmacist Shared Medicine List

# Improving Medicine Safety

New CPD Module

## Dispensary Corner

**HERE'S** an item that every pharmacy should be stocking to help customers survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

There's been a huge surge in demand for "disposable urinals" in the US, as people attempt to avoid using public restrooms.

E-commerce analytics firm Profitero says online searches for "Travel John disposable urinal bags" (pictured) jumped more than fivefold during May.

The bags are leak-proof, discreet and compact, with chemicals that convert urine into an odourless solid which can be put into the rubbish.



**EVERY** death is tragic, but one family in India is particularly grief-stricken after inadvertently accelerating the demise of a possible COVID-19 victim.

The 40-year-old man was last week admitted to intensive care at the Maharao Bhimsingh hospital in Kota, Rajasthan with respiratory symptoms.

The ward was very warm, so when his relatives came to visit they unfortunately unplugged his ventilator to power up a portable air conditioner.

The ventilator kept working for about 30 minutes, but when the battery went flat the patient went into cardiac arrest & died.

## Nicotine strategy needed

**PHARMACY** bodies should consider the role pharmacies can play in supplying compounded nicotine to minimise the risk of vapers turning to potentially dangerous black market sources, following the Federal Government's decision to ban the importation of e-cigarettes containing vaporiser nicotine from 01 Jul.

Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) Vice President, and University of South Australia Pharmacy Lecturer, Dr Jacinta Johnson, expressed concerns about the decision in a series of Twitter posts yesterday, after a friend told her he was fearful the ban would see him "go back to smoking" after more than five years of being "smoke-free".

"[It's] completely unethical to deny him access to a safer option while allowing cigarette sales on every corner," she said.

Johnson noted that the Federal Department of Health said pharmacists may dispense or compound nicotine liquid if the patient has a prescription.

However, she said pharmacies cannot obtain or use nicotine liquid without approval of State Health

Departments.

She called on the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia to investigate the role pharmacists can play in supporting patients in accessing nicotine liquid as a harm minimisation measure.

"I would encourage them to consider the role of pharmacies in specifically supplying compounded nicotine liquid," she said.

"At this point I think the focus should be on finding a way to provide access to nicotine liquid through pharmacies as a harm minimisation strategy, to prevent people turning to black market nicotine.

"Pharmacists don't need to endorse vaping or sell devices to play an important role in public safety through facilitating access to high quality nicotine liquid.

"Looking at it through a harm minimisation lens - pharmacies already sell injecting supplies, that doesn't mean we endorse injecting illicit drugs, we just recognise that these things are happening out there and we have an obligation to do what we can to reduce any associated risks for our community."

## Online cannabis marketplace launched

**A NEW** online medical cannabis marketplace designed to save time and simplify the process of ordering products in Australia has been launched.

CanView General Manager, Rachael Cooney, said the marketplace would help improve access to cannabis products.

"By working closely with our national network of pharmacies, we've been able to design and build CanView to solve each one

of those concerns," she said.

"There is too much confusing and contradictory information for pharmacists, different dosing guidelines, different ways of presenting product information and various interpretations of the rules.

"We aim to cut through all of the misinformation to provide a clear understanding of the access pathways and costs associated for all people."

## Pharmacist jailed

**DISGRACED** former pharmacist, Curtis James McGarvey, has been sentenced to 22 years behind bars in the US for stalking, harassing and sexually exploiting a minor, including video recording the girl to create pornography.

The 52-year-old pleaded guilty to cyber-stalking the teenage girl between Sep 2016 and Jan 2017, and again between Jan 2018 and Apr 2018.

## Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away a set of their NS 21 products worth over RRP \$45

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