

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of pharmacy news.

Vita Gummies safety advisory

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is advising consumers and health professionals that Nature's Way Kids Smart Vita Gummies Omega 3 DHA Fish Oil (AUST L 313445) contain undeclared milk products.

In a safety advisory the TGA noted that the product's current label lists the presence of other allergens, but not milk.

"The TGA became aware of this issue following a report of a serious allergic reaction" the TGA said.

"Following our investigation, the product's sponsor, Pharmicare, immediately introduced an updated label to warn consumers that the product contains milk products."

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Priceline defends Scripts Now service

PRICELINE Pharmacy is rejecting criticism of its Scripts Now telehealth service from claims by Australian Medical Association (AMA) President, Dr Tony Bartone, that it is putting convenience over quality.

Bartone hit out at both Priceline and Chemist Warehouse for their GP consultation services they are offering, in an interview with *The Australian*, noting the Chemist Warehouse Instant Consult model has been marketed as a bulk-billed service.

"Some of these services are simply opportunistic and are clearly seeking to fully exploit the options available in the current legislation to the maximum financial gain," he said.

"These are services focusing totally on convenience and access and putting questions about quality and long-term best interests of the patient as a second or even third distant consideration."

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) President, Dr Harry Nespolon, also expressed concerns over "the inappropriate and unapproved use of patient data, both during and after a consult".

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"The Priceline 'Scripts Now' service is a recipe for disaster," Nespolon said.

"This service, like the corporate telehealth pop-ups, risks jeopardising your medical records and compromising your health in coming months or later in life."

A spokesperson for the Australian Pharmaceutical Industries-owned Priceline group told *Pharmacy Daily* that the Scripts Now service was provided on a fee-for-service basis, without access to Medicare, and was available as a "safe repeat prescription services at times they cannot access their usual GP".

"The types of scripts provided and volume are strictly limited, as is the frequency with which

Scripts Now can be accessed," the spokesperson said.

"The service is provided by Australian registered doctors who review every request before deciding whether or not to issue a prescription.

"We remain confident this is a safe and valuable service for our customers provided by qualified doctors.

"Patient care is always the focus and an online doctor is available for phone or video consultation.

"A consultation can be billed to Medicare, if it meets the Medicare Benefits Schedule criteria.

"To date, the Scripts Now service has not billed any consultations to Medicare."



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e-cigarette import ban pushed back

MOVES to ban the importation of e-cigarettes containing vaporiser nicotine will not come into force until 01 Jan 2021.

Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, announced the decision to delay the import ban, which was originally due to be implemented from 01 Jul (**PD 19 Jun**), after concerns were raised over the impact it could have on patients using e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid.

"Around the world we have seen strong evidence of non-smokers being introduced to nicotine through vaping for the first time," he said.

"Therefore the Government is responding to the advice by ensuring that nicotine based e-cigarettes can only be imported on the basis of a prescription from a doctor.

"This will help prevent the introduction of non-smokers to nicotine via vaping.

"However there is a second group of people who have been using these e-cigarettes with nicotine as a means to ending their cigarette smoking.

"In order to assist this group in continuing to end that addiction we will therefore provide further time for implementation of the change by establishing a streamlined process for patients obtaining prescriptions through their GP.

"For this reason, the implementation timeframe will be extended by six months to 01 Jan 2021.

"People should always be consulting their GP on these health matters and ensuring this is the right product for them."

Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) Vice President, and University of South Australia Pharmacy Lecturer, Dr Jacinta Johnson, was among those to express concerns over the ban, and



called on the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia to investigate the role pharmacists could play in supporting patients to access compounded nicotine liquid as a harm minimisation measure, to prevent patients from returning to cigarette smoking (**PD 24 Jun**).

'Smash and grab' thief arrested

QUEENSLAND police are continuing their investigations into a series of pharmacy break-ins on the Gold Coast.

An 18-year-old man has been charged over two break and enters at pharmacies on Fri morning, however, police are hunting a second man.

The alleged incidents took place between 5am and 6am on 25 Jun, with the two men smashing their way into pharmacies on Slatyer Road, Southport, and Hope Island Road, Helenvale, where they stole a quantity of prescription medicines and fragrances.

The teenage thief was charged with two counts of entering a premises with intent, and a third charge of unlawful use of a motor vehicle.

Nourish your customers with Avene

AVENE has introduced new "Cleanance Comedomed," said to be a revolutionising skincare for oily, acne-prone skin.

The concentrated, fast-acting formula reduces and limits the reappearance of blemishes and blackheads and also targets excess sebum for a matte finish.

The product includes a 25% concentration of Comedoclastin, a plant-based active ingredient made from milk thistle oil.

Like other Avene products it is formulated with Thermal Spring Water which has been used since 1743 at the Avene Hydrotherapy Centre in France to treat severely sensitive and irritated skin.

Other Avene products include



XeraCalm A.D. Lipid Replenishing Cleansing Oil, Replenishing Cream, Cicalfate Restorative Skin Cream and Cicalfate Hand Repair Barrier Cream - avene.com.au.

Pandemic no time for pregnancy

AN ASPIRING British mother-to-be has hit out at a local pharmacy assistant for telling her she should not be trying to conceive during the COVID-19 crisis.

In a post on parenting website Mumsnet, the could-be-mum reported that she went to a pharmacy and was waiting outside the store to be triaged by a pharmacy assistant.

Having explained she was visiting the pharmacy to purchase a home pregnancy test, the patient claimed the pharmacy assistant told her, "that is not an essential item - you can pick up a prescription or medication only".



When the woman asked if she could speak to a pharmacist, she said that the pharmacy assistant told her "no - you shouldn't be trying to conceive at a time like this anyway".

The author of the post reported that she had since ordered a pregnancy test through online retailer, Amazon.



Dispensary Corner

GROWING numbers of Kenyan men are seeking pharmaceutical support in the bedroom, with sales of "sex enhancing drugs" outperforming Panadol in the East African nation.

Authors of a recently released study involving 71 patients who had bought the products through pharmacies found 55% of participants were aged between 30 and 49 years, with 95% reporting a "genuine need" for some bedroom backup.

Alcohol consumption, which as Shakespeare's Porter noted in 'the Scottish play', "provokes the desire, but it takes away the performance", was identified as a contributing factor behind the rising number of men seeking treatment for erectile dysfunction.

Worryingly for lycra-clad weekend warriors and those seeking an environmentally friendly commute to work, cycling was also highlighted as a potential cause of impotence.

Meanwhile, a separate study in Northern Kenya found men with multiple wives were less likely to feel the need to seek medical assistance to boost their libido, than their monogamous neighbours.



Final CI claim deadline

PHARMACY owners and managers have until 14 Jul to lodge their final claims for Clinical Interventions (CI) funded under the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA).

The program, which was originally launched under the 5CPA, will cease from 01 Jul, with no funding assigned to it under the recently signed 7CPA, the Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) said.

"Claiming for the Apr-Jun 2020 quarter will proceed as normal," PPA said.

"However, all claims must be lodged within the two week claiming period of 01 to 14 Jul, and there will be no ability to lodge any exceptional circumstance requests beyond 31 Jul.

"The Department recognises that, even though funding has ceased for documenting services, pharmacies should have processes in place to continue to undertake these



important interventions where there is a clinical need.

"However, the documentation is left to the discretion of the pharmacies and data will no longer need to be provided to the administrator.

"Pharmacies and pharmacists are thanked for their involvement in this program over the last nine years."

RPS COVID-19 survey findings 'shocking'

RESULTS from a survey showing less than a third of black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) pharmacies in the UK have been approached by their employer to have a workplace risk assessment during the COVID-19 pandemic, are "shocking" according to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS).

The low levels of risk assessments for BAME pharmacy staff follows data from Public Health England and the British Office of National Statistics, showing people from ethnic minority backgrounds have a disproportionately higher risk of dying from COVID-19.

RPS President, Sandra Gidley,

said it was essential that pharmacists are properly risk assessed.

"Those at high risk can be supported to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, while still providing a vital service to the NHS and the public," she said.

"Lessons are to be learned from this pandemic, especially with the risk of a second wave, and we now need action so our workforce is protected."

The survey conducted by the RPS and the UK Black Pharmacists' Association also found 78% of black pharmacists and pharmacy students believed they were at risk and wanted changes to be made to the way they work.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Rachelle Frain, General Manager, myPak Solutions.**



7CPA certainty

WITH the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) now signed, there is greater certainty for community pharmacy.

A key outcome of the 7CPA is the commitment to ongoing support for Dose Administration Aids (DAA). With the doubling of the cap on DAA's, pharmacies can focus more confidently on delivering adherence to medication regimes and support for patients whilst growing this area of professional services. Through providing medication packs, pharmacies can secure patient loyalty for the longer term and meet their overall health needs. It is a tool in assisting customer loyalty and seeing regular repeat visits to pharmacy, and so there are benefits to investing the time to engage with new patients and support them with medication packs.

Growth in medication management programs, will strengthen growth in dispensary operations. Now is the time to review your DAA operations and processes. The myPak DAA software solution, various blister pack options, and automation solution can assist you to grow your business with ease.

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