



Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today has four pages of news plus a full page from WholeLife Pharmacy & Healthfoods.

AHPRA update

HEALTHCARE professionals are being reminded that new mandatory notification requirements came into effect on 01 Mar. with the Australian **Health Practitioner Regulation** Agency (AHPRA) saying patient safety was paramount.

NSW lowers pharmacist flu jab age

PHARMACISTS in NSW will be allowed to administer influenza vaccines to patients aged 10 years and older from the middle of this month, as the State braces for the annual flu season and the threat of the novel coronavirus

NSW Health Minister, Brad Hazzard, announced the decision to drop age restrictions on pharmacist administered flu vaccinations from 16 years to 10, yesterday.

The decision puts NSW in line with Tasmania, Western Australia, Victoria, and Queensland - where

the age limit was lowered last week (PD 25 Feb).

"Last year was the longest flu season on record and in 2017 more than 650 people in NSW died from flu-related conditions, and now we have COVID-19." he said.

"While the flu vaccine won't combat COVID-19, it will help reduce the severity and spread of flu, which can lower a person's immunity and make them susceptible to other illnesses

"By allowing pharmacists to administer privately purchased flu vaccines to people aged 10 years and over, families now have more choice when booking-in for a flu jab".

Both the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), have welcomed the move, with PSA NSW Branch President, Peter Carroll, noting the decision could boost immunisation rates.

"Allowing pharmacists to vaccinate makes it more convenient for families, providing greater access to the influenza vaccine and improving rates of immunisation," he said.

"Already, this year there has been 4.725 confirmed cases of influenza in NSW and with the



likely convergence of a COVID-19 pandemic with winter influenza, this move will help to bolster immunity in NSW.

"Boosting vaccination rates and preventing influenza outbreaks can ease pressure on our GP surgeries and hospital emergency departments."

Guild NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, thanked the State Government for extending pharmacist vaccination services, but stresses pharmacists were ready and able to do more.

"We also continue to urge the inclusion of community pharmacies in the distribution of the National Immunisation Program (NIP) vaccines for at-risk patients," he said.

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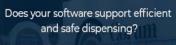
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Pharmacy vax fears misguided: PDL

WARNINGS from medical groups that the expansion of pharmacist administered vaccination services will put patient safety at risk are not concerning professional indemnity insurer, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL).

Responding to concerns about the Queensland State Government's decision to lower the minimum age of patients who pharmacists can provide influenza vaccinations to from 16 to 10 years (*PD* 25 Feb), raised by the Australian Medical Association (AMA) Queensland, PDL Professional Officer, Gary West, said there had been very few incidents reported relating to pharmacist vaccinations services.

"PDL is proud to support pharmacist vaccination as a recognised element of a pharmacist's scope of practice," he said.

"The range and number of vaccines administered by pharmacists has increased in recent years and PDL's national



reporting statistics indicate that pharmacist vaccination has an extremely low rate of incidents relative to the numbers vaccinated.

"The administration of certain vaccines to children is currently available in several States and data from PDL incident reports indicates this subset of clients also have an extremely low rate of incident reporting.

"PDL is always willing to support the profession to ensure any

extension in the scope of practice or range of therapies is supported by appropriate risk management strategies.

"PDL encourages all pharmacists to ensure they have appropriate qualifications for any professional activity via recognised education and assessment programs."

Despite PDL's comments, former pharmacist and AMA Queensland GP spokesperson, Dr Nick Yim, said the move was "fraught with danger".

Qld extends emergency

QUEENSLAND'S State Government has declared public health emergency measures tied to the novel coronavirus outbreak will remain in place until midnight on 19 May.

In an announcement yesterday State Primer, Annastacia Palaszczuk, announced a number of steps that Queensland Health have taken to prepare for the potential impact of the virus, including a tripling of emergency department capacity, the purchase of an additional 110 ventilators, and the decision to move forward the purchase of \$25 million worth of medicines, gloves and masks.

Health Minister, Steven Miles, also called on the Federal Government to implement nationally consistent measures.



PBS Information: This product is not listed on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) or the PBS.

Before dispensing, please review the Approved Product Information. Product Information is available here.

References: 1. Influvac Tetra Approved Product Information (last revised 28 November 2019). 2. Therapeutic Goods Administration. AIVC recommendations for the composition of influenza vaccine for Australia in 2020. https://www.tga.gov.au/aivc-recommendations-composition-influenza-vaccine-australia-2020. Copyright © 2020 Mylan N.V. All rights reserved. Alphapharm Pty Ltd (trading as Mylan Australia) ABN 93 002 359 739. Level 1, 30-34 Hickson Road, Millers Point NSW 2000. Tel: 1800 274 276. www.mylan.com.au. DH MYL-001130-00. INF-2020-0024. Date of preparation: February 2020.







Forester named PSA SA/NT PotY

NORTHERN Territory pharmacist, Shelley Forester, has been named Pharmaceutical Society Association (PSA) South Australia and Northern Territory Branch Pharmacist of the Year at the annual Celebration of Excellence in Pharmacy in Adelaide on Fri

PSA SA/NT President Robyn Johns congratulated Ms Forester and commended her significant contribution in the establishment and operation of the Maningrida Pharmacy service with Mala'la Health Service in 2014.

"This service was a pioneer of how a community pharmacy and an ACCHO can collaborate to improve the access to a pharmacist for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," Johns said.

"Shelley has been a longtime supporter of the NT Pharmacy Program and is a critical supporter of local PSA initiatives including the



Early Career Pharmacist and My Health Record.

"Not only is Shelley a terrific mentor for early career pharmacists but she has also shown a commitment in hiring NT interns and is a worthy recipient for the SA/NT Pharmacist of the Year award in recognition of her tireless dedication to NT Pharmacy."

President elect of the Young

Pharmacists' Group FIP Dr Renly Lim received the SA/NT Early Career Pharmacist Development Award, while Raymond Truong won the PSA Gold Medal.

Pictured, SA/NT President PSA, Robyn Johns; Raymond Truong, Gold Medal winner; Shelley Forester, Pharmacist of the Year; Dr Renly Lim, ECP of the Year, and Helen Stone, State & Territory Manager SA/NT PSA.

Truckie tackles pharmacy thief St

BRISBANE-BASED truck-driver, Turawaho Hemopo, put his body on the line to tackle a thief who had smashed his way into a pharmacy in Yarrabilla.

The truckie stopped the wouldbe crook in his tracks after a woman alerted Hemopo that two men had broken into the pharmacy, after he delivered newspapers to a nearby Coles store.

"I just tackled that fella down. He was struggling at first and



I said to him, 'mate, you are wasting your breath, you are just going to make yourself tired'.

After a little while he sort of just gave up," he told Nine's *Today*.

Stop panic buying masks

"SERIOUSLY people - stop buying masks" is the message the US Surgeon General is sending to the public, as concerns over the spread of the novel coronavirus grow.

"They are not effective in preventing general public from catching coronavirus, but if healthcare providers can't get them to care for sick patients, it puts them and our communities at risk," he said.

COVID-19 update

THE Federal Government has issued an update the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) following the confirmation of a case in Tasmania, yesterday.

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Dispensary Corner

RUSSIAN pharmacist turned Instagram blogger, Ekaterina Didenko, has garnered a little more attention for herself than she may have anticipated when her birthday celebrations turned fatal.

The 29-year-old was partying at an indoor swimming pool with friends on Fri when her husband, Valentin, decided to demonstrate his chemical expertise by dumping more than 25kg of dry ice into water to create a "mist effect".

Sporting faux-protective clothing the guests jumped into the pool, with Valentin plunging under the surface, only to suffocate, as he strived to create the truly memorable

A video of the tragedy, which claimed three lives, has gone viral with viewers criticising the couple's stupidity.

Russia's English language broadcaster, RT, said it was unclear how the late Valentin managed to obtain such a large quantity of dry ice, with Instagram posts by Ekaterina suggesting he may have cooked



Priceline fights ageism

PRICELINE is aiming to celebrate women of all ages and combat ageism as part of its Festival of You

The program aims to encourage a more accurate representation of women with Priceline Pharmacy Ambassadors, Ita Buttrose (pictured), Chrissie Swan, Tanya Hennessy, Sarah Jane Adams and Olivia Rogers leading the push.

As part of the Festival of You, Priceline will host a Beauty Runway for charity featuring a sisterhood of inspirational women to raise funds for the Priceline Sisterhood mFoundation at the Virgin Australia Fashion Festival.

The pharmacy group noted that market research had found just 12% of Australian women aged over 40 years felt they were accurately and adequately portrayed in the media and society today.

The data also found that older women felt like they were treated differently from their younger counterparts, with 75% saying they have experienced this in their daily lives.

Priceline Pharmacy Head of Marketing, Sophie Smith, said Priceline wanted to show that when it comes to health, beauty



and wellness, it's not one size fits

"Priceline wants to celebrate the uniqueness of all women, regardless of age or any other marker which is used to measure self-worth and value," she said.

"When you walk into any one of our stores, we focus on being inclusive and welcoming.

"We have tens of thousands of products and a team of experienced pharmacists and beauty advisors you can turn to when you're looking for a solution that is right for you."



AICD COURSE FOR SMALL BUSINESS

THE Australian Institute of Company Directors has developed a new program specifically designed for business directors of small-to-medium-sized private companies, ideal for pharmacy owners.

The AICD course is structured to fit with busy business owner/director schedules and offers tailored content to support business growth and sustainability.

The SME Governance Program is designed to help business owners step away from the day-to-day and focus on their role and responsibilities as a director of their business.

Through four interactive workshops, participants learn about relevant governance practices and how they can be applied to their business.

Participants complete the program with a cohort of fellow business owners and the facilitator-led workshops provide the opportunity for attendees to connect, share knowledge, and learn from each other.

Register here or call 1300 739 119.



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