



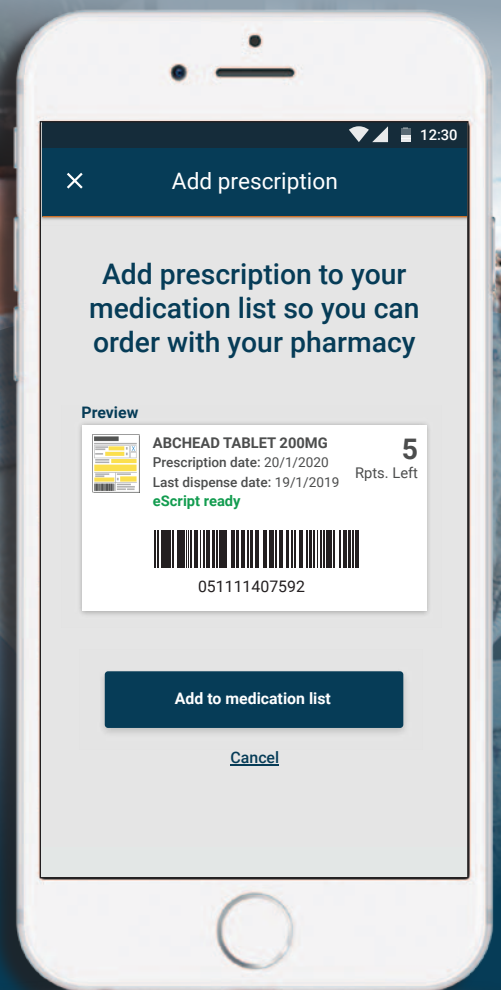
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Guild issues plea for calm to protect supply chain

PHARMACY Guild of Australia National President, George Tambassis, is calling on the public to respect pharmacists and not to make unreasonable requests for multiple repeat prescriptions.

Speaking on ABC Radio Sydney this morning, Tambassis stressed pharmacists' professional legal obligations would prevent them from providing multiple repeats, as patients seek to stockpile medicines due to concerns the country may go into lockdown as the Federal, State and Territory Governments seek to

control the spread of COVID-19.

"If any medication is out of stock it's only temporary," he said.

"Sometimes if there's heightened anxiety out there, give it a day or so and it's going to be back in stock.

"In cases where there's an urgent need for a prescription to be filled, community pharmacists will work closely with that particular patient to find that remaining stock...but panic buying of medication is just unnecessary.

"Pharmacists have responsibilities under our professional legal

obligations when we can only give you what's required and what we think is safe, please don't ask your local pharmacist for multiple repeats - it's just not going to happen, we can't do it and you'll put the supply chain under pressure if you do."

He added there had been a number of reports from Guild members of violence towards pharmacy staff from angry and frustrated patients.

"I cannot condone that," he said.

"I need all staff members in pharmacies to remain safe and to

feel safe, because we're frontline - people can walk into pharmacies without an appointment, ask us questions about COVID-19, we're happy to help, but our staff need to feel safe."

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has four pages of news, a front cover wrap from MedAdvisor plus full pages from:

- Direct Chemist Outlet
- Keyromar

When your customers reach out to you for a stronger eczema treatment, reach for Kloxema.

- ▶ Contains clobetasone butyrate 0.05% w/w, a moderate potency topical corticosteroid¹
- ▶ Provides relief of inflammation and itch.²
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- ▶ Suitable for first line use on the limbs and trunk.¹
- ▶ Contains moisturising base² and free from chlorocresol.

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Before recommending, please review the full Product Information, which is available on request from Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd. Short term (up to 7 days) treatment of milder forms of eczema, dermatitis and other steroid responsive skin conditions. **Dosage:** For 12 years and over. Apply a thin film and gently rub in, using only enough to cover the affected area twice daily for up to 7 days. **Contraindications:** Kloxema cream should not be used in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to clobetasone butyrate or to any of the excipients in the product. Rosacea, acne, pruritis without rash, perioral dermatitis; Untreated bacterial infections such as cellulitis, folliculitis, furunculosis or impetigo; Fungal infections such as those associated with tinea (eg athlete's foot, jock itch); Viral infections including cold sores (herpes simplex), chicken pox or shingles (Varicella zoster) or vaccinia; Parasitic infestations such as scabies. Do not use on broken or infected skin or on inflamed skin near chronic ulcers.

References: 1. Dermatology Expert Group. Therapeutic Guidelines: Dermatology, version 4.1. Topical corticosteroid preparations (Appendix 4.1). Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd [Internet]. 2019 [cited 2019 June 28]. Available from: https://nljtkcdo.tg.org.au/viewTopic?topicId=1-topical_corticosteroid_preparations
2. Kloxema Cream Approved Product Information, 12 September 2017.

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¹ Due to corticosteroid responsive skin conditions

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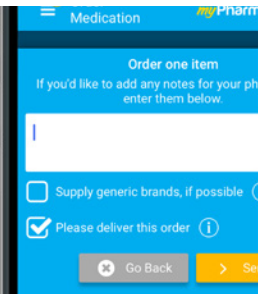
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Intern Experience Survey released

MORE than 90% of intern pharmacists believe that their period of supervised practice enabled them to gain the skills and knowledge to practise as a pharmacist independently, according to a new report from the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

The Board has published the final report of its Pharmacy Internship Experience Survey, a large-scale poll of “recent” pharmacy interns and preceptors across the country.

An overwhelming majority of preceptors surveyed also agreed that the internship period gave their interns the necessary skills.

The Board said it undertook the survey about the intern year in response to “anecdotal feedback which had suggested there were some concerns with aspects of the internship experience”.

In particular the Board cited alleged inconsistencies in the quality of the training and supervision experience.

A total of 413 surveys were completed, after input was sought from about 1,156 recent pharmacy interns and 955 preceptors identified from the period between 01 Nov 2016 and 28 Feb 2017.

Of the total, about 240 surveys



were completed by current interns at the time, or those who had been interns within the previous year, while around 150 identified themselves as a “preceptor” or “delegated pharmacist”.

Although almost all of the interns and preceptors who responded to the survey agreed that the experience had helped new pharmacists gain the required skills and experience, a number of issues were highlighted for further consideration, the Board said.

These included time management and stress on interns, and their orientation to the workplace setting.

Qualitative responses from interns showed concerns about balancing full-time work and full-time study or “work-life balance,” an executive summary noted.

The report also suggested work could be done to address support for preceptors, and their teaching skill and ability to provide feedback.

Time spent with interns, the knowledge of preceptors about the Intern Training Program requirements and the purpose of the supervised period were also raised as possible areas for improvement - along with “preceptors’ rapport, interest and enthusiasm for teaching”.

The Pharmacy Board said now the report was published, it would explore possible actions to help improve the quality of the supervised practice experience for both interns and preceptors.

This may include development of new content for the Board’s *Intern pharmacist and preceptor guide* and “engaging with stakeholders to identify how best to provide additional support to interns and preceptors to facilitate good learning outcomes across all internships” - see the full report at www.ahpra.gov.au.

Pfizer COVID vax

PFIZER has signed a letter of intent with German firm BioNTech to collaborate on the co-development of a potential first-in-class COVID-19 vaccine.

The deal aims to accelerate development of BioNTech’s mRNA-based vaccine candidate BNT162, with multiple R&D sites from both companies in the US and Germany set to commence work immediately on the project.

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PATY nominations

NOMINATIONS for the 2020 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY) have officially opened today.

The award is the “premier opportunity to recognise the outstanding contribution that pharmacy assistants make to the community pharmacy industry,” said Guild President, George Tambassis.

See pharmacyassistants.com.



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Kids probiotic

ACTIVATED Probiotics has launched a new Biome Daily Kids Probiotic into the Australian pharmacy sector. The company said the product was formulated based on a "mounting body of research" supporting the use of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus GG* to significantly reduce the risk of upper respiratory tract infections in children - info at activatedprobiotics.com.au.

APP Online kicks off today

THE unprecedented cancellation of this year's Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Exhibition due to the COVID-19 escalation (**PD** 13 Mar) has seen the Guild pull out all stops to launch a "digital" version of the event which commenced this morning.

Conference convenor, Kos Slavos, said the program would feature more than 28 hours of content across 44 sessions, with APP Online running through until Sat.

"Many of the speakers scheduled for APP2020 have maintained their commitment, and will travel to the Gold Coast to present live-streamed and recorded sessions.

"Because of gathering restrictions placed by Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments, speakers will be recording their sessions to an empty auditorium," Slavos said.

Despite the pivot, the program

will continue to cover key issues including a stronger emphasis on notable topics in pharmacy right now, including COVID-19, the 7th Community Pharmacy Agreement, ePrescriptions as well as business, leadership and employment.

Speakers who are continuing to take part include Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty; business communications expert Chris Helder; and researcher and social demographer, Mark McCrindle.

The program will also feature "numerous reputable pharmacy presenters" including Joyce McSwan, Paul Naismith and Lucy Walker, Slavos added.

He said the program offered up to 27 Group 2 CPD credits, with login details and information on how to record the CPD to be provided to delegates separately.

The full program for APP Online is live at appconference.com.

Don't stockpile

MEDICINES Australia (MA) CEO Elizabeth de Somer has echoed calls from the Prime Minister and senior health stakeholders, for Australians to stop stockpiling medicines during the COVID-19 crisis.

She said MA was working with the TGA and Health Department to ensure supply of essential medicines was maintained.

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#GPY2020 winner announcement delayed

THE hotly anticipated announcement of the winners of the Pharmacy of the Year Awards this year has been delayed, with the Guild citing the "unprecedented demand on community pharmacies across Australia as a result of the COVID-19 crisis".

Usually announced during the opening session of APP, the Guild says the delay will enable pharmacists to concentrate on meeting patient needs and ensuring they are receiving the best possible health advice and care in this emergency.

Sponsored by Care Pharmaceuticals and QCPP, see videos of the category winners by clicking on the images at right.



Capital Chemist, Chisholm ACT - Business Management.



Wheatbelt Pharmacy Northam WA - Community Engagement



Wizard Pharmacy Kalgoorlie WA - Professional Innovation

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Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily & Plunkett's** are giving away a prize pack including:

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For more info see www.superfade.com.au/accelerator/
To win, be the first person from South Australia or the Northern Territory to send the answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

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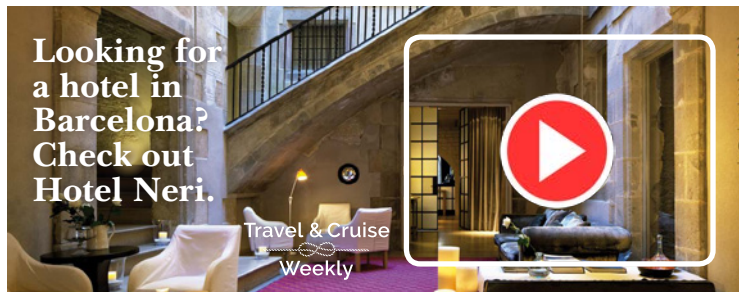


Education



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Dispensary Corner

A BULGARIAN company called Angel Baby is spreading some colour and cheer amid all the COVID-19 doom and gloom, by making protective masks printed with owls, dinosaurs, llamas and monkeys.

Angel Baby ventured into the mask sector by chance after friends made the request - the company normally produces sleeping bags for infants and is known for its social responsibility campaigns.

"We stopped our usual production of baby sleeping bags for a week and we hope to be able to make about 3,000 masks to send to hospitals and police stations around the country," said co-owner Desislava Yankova.

The masks have not been medically certified so will need to be washed daily, and are intended for use by those who deal with large numbers of people on a daily basis, not for those in direct contact with patients infected by the virus.



HMS claiming now open

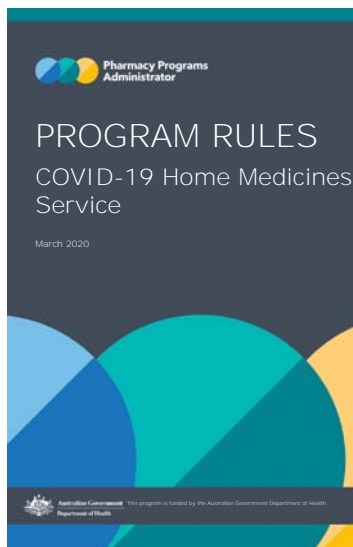
PHARMACIES are now able to receive payments under the new Home Medicines Service (HMS) which was announced last week as part of government measures to help deal with the COVID-19 outbreak across the country.

The Service is a temporary program which aims to support and protect the most vulnerable members of the community from potential exposure to the virus, by subsidising home delivery of PBS and RPBS medications, meaning patients do not need to visit a pharmacy to receive their scripts.

The program is available for vulnerable people as well as those in home isolation, with a document detailing the applicable rules now available through the Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) portal at ppaonline.com.au.

Section 90 pharmacies are eligible to become a Service Provider under the temporary program, if they agree to ensure any person delivering medications abides by the current sanitary and isolation protocols in place in each State and Territory, are able to support home delivery services, and register via the PPA portal.

Home Medicines Services must be conducted in accordance with relevant standards and guidelines, including the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Professional Practice Standards and the Dispensing Practice Guidelines



relating to Indirect dispensing.

Eligible patients include those aged over 70, people self-isolating on the advice of a medical practitioner for confirmed COVID-19 cases or meeting the current national triage protocol criteria for suspected infection.

Patients with chronic health conditions, those with new babies, pregnant women, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders over 50, and immunocompromised people are also eligible.

Deliveries claimed through the program cannot be made to individual patients more than once a month, and patients must consent to receiving the service.

Claiming via the PPA portal will be available from 01 Apr.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Travel & Cruise Weekly*.

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A spicy retreat for two

SPICERS Retreat is offering guests a two-night Henschke Wine Escape package at Spicers Peak Lodge on Queensland's Scenic Rim.

Priced from \$2,398 for two, it includes two nights' stay, a gourmet picnic, 60-minute Mountain Escape Treatment and Chef's tasting menu.

The offer applies to travel before May 29 - **CLICK HERE**.

Fourth for free offer

THIS Apr and May, guests at Cable Beach Club Resort and Spa in Broome, Western Australia, can pay for three nights and get the fourth for free - see your travel agent or **CLICK HERE**.



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