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Consistency in a crisis

AUSTRALIAN State, Territory and Federal Governments are being urged to take a uniform approach to implement emergency dispensing measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following the announcements that pharmacies in Victoria and Western Australia now have authority to dispense full Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) quantities of medicines without a prescription (PD breaking news), Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, George Tambassis, called on Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, to ensure measures were “nationally consistent”.

“We are living through a crisis and our patients’ needs come first,” he said.

“Working together with the Government to give them access to their medication, through the PBS, without a prescription would help community pharmacists to assist their patients.

“Australians are doing it tough at the moment, so making emergency supply measures permanent and nationally consistent, would make life that much easier.

“It would mean our patients don’t have an additional, unnecessary

cost or have to wait for action each time a crisis arises.”

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) WA Branch President, Dr Fei Sim, and PSA Victorian Branch President, John Jackson, both described the decisions as “sensible”.

“This change allows pharmacists to dispense prescription medications, subject to meeting certain conditions,” Sim said.


“The medicine must have been previously prescribed and be for the continuation of current essential treatment where it is impractical to obtain a prescription.

“In light of the developing COVID-19 pandemic, this change will enable pharmacists to best service their patients.”

Following the announcements from State Governments this week, emergency dispensing authorities will expire on 31 May for pharmacists in WA, 27 Sep in Victoria and 30 Sep in NSW.

Today's issue of PD

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



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Travel & Cruise Weekly

Dispensary Corner

AMERICA'S National Cathedral - the site of many famous ceremonies, not to mention mysterious treasure hunts - has discovered some very useful artefacts this week.

Apparently during a previous health scare about a decade ago - think SARS, MERS, swine flu, bird flu - officials stocked up on more than 5,000 face masks, which were then forgotten about in the ensuing years.

The respirator masks, found during a clean-up of the cathedral's crypt, have now been donated to two Washington DC hospitals to help during the COVID-19 crisis, after confirmation with the manufacturer and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that they were still OK to use.

A handful were saved for clergy to use while visiting the ill.

WELL this is somewhat ironic, in view of US President Trump's repeated attempts to build a wall between America and its southern neighbour.

A group of protestors in the Mexican state of Sonora have been carrying out demonstrations in an attempt to watch Americans crossing the border from nearby Arizona.

The face mask wearing activists, carrying signs telling US citizens to "stay at home," are calling for medical testing to be done on anyone who crosses from America, which currently has more than 65,000 cases of coronavirus illness.

Mexico has less than 500.

Pharmacy home delivery

DIGITAL medication management company, MedAdvisor, will fast-track the rollout of its delivery service to support pharmacists in meeting the needs of patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MedAdvisor also announced that its software would facilitate pharmacies in claiming funding, of \$5 per delivery, through the Federal Government's \$25 million Home Medicines Service (**PD 12 Mar**).

"All (prescription, OTC, front of shop, NDSS) products can be ordered for delivery, with pharmacies having discretion over certain medications which they may deem unsuitable for delivery," the company said.

"Temporary measures are in place to provide no-contact delivery to avoid unnecessary contact with vulnerable patients.

"Pay in Advance, which is the ability for patients to pay for their order in the App, is the precursor to home delivery and serves as a leading indicator.


"Over the past two weeks MedAdvisor has seen about 2,000 Pharmacies activate the Pay-in-Advance functionality.

"By fast-tracking the launch of the delivery service, MedAdvisor




is helping to relieve pressure on pharmacists who are struggling at the front line of this crisis, further protecting patients from unnecessary exposure, and providing ongoing access to critical medications."

While many pharmacies offer delivery services to their communities using staff members as delivery drivers, MedAdvisor's partnership with courier service, Kings Transport, will allow stores to offer same-day delivery in metropolitan areas from the middle of Apr, without impacting on in-store staffing levels.



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...see more info

Unite against COVID-19: PPA

UNION group, Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA), is calling on pharmacists to support each other in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We encourage workplace teams to talk to each other and to help each other minimise the inherent risks with being a frontline health service," a PPA statement said.

Win with Munch Mitt

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and the Dale Group are giving away a 3 piece Malarkey Munch Mitt kit valued at RRP \$57.

The **Malarkey Munch Mitt** is the world's first silicone wearable teething mitten, made of 100 per cent food-grade silicone and BPA, latex and phthalate-free and offers three-way sensory stimulation. It's also machine washable. Malarkey Kids are leaders in fun and functional kids products.

Stockist Enquires:
helen@powerhousepharmacy-brands.com.au
or orders@dalegroup.com.au

Submit your answers to
comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



Congratulations to yesterday's winner Kaye Hazel

Question 5:
What pain does the Munch Mitt soothe?

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To discuss how Razor could help you and your business, call Susan Thompson on 0439 923 132