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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus full pages from:

- Razor
- Nova Pharmaceuticals

## MedAdvisor telehealth move

DIGITAL medication management company, MedAdvisor, has announced it will launch a new telehealth service to enable patients to contact healthcare providers from their homes, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing measures.

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange the company said the service would complete its "medication management loop" allowing patients to conduct every part of the process remotely.

## Health workers urged to take care

PHARMACISTS are being urged to ensure they look after their personal mental and physical health as they support their communities through the COVID-19 crisis.

Speaking on a webinar hosted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) last week, Royal Australia College of General Practitioners (RACGP) chair, Dr Charlotte Hespe, stressed the need for frontline health workers to focus on their health and wellbeing at this strenuous time.

"This is such a key thing," she said.

"We've been having conversations for some time about making sure that wellness is at the forefront of all healthcare workers' [minds], because we don't have a terribly good record of looking after ourselves."

While acknowledging that social distancing restrictions and the temporary closure of facilities mean people are not living life as usual,



Hespe said the need to exercise and eat well was no different to any other time.

"You've got to make sure you eat well, that you sleep well, that you exercise and that you stay socially connected," she said.

"I've had all my weekends freed up - all of the conferences and meetings that I had to go to have all been taken out of my diary, and all of a sudden I have an opportunity to take some space."

"I know I can't go too far from my home, but I can schedule things in."

"We still need to go for a walk or a run, make sure that you schedule in some socially connected time, make sure that you and your partner - if you live together - actually have the ability to connect with each other, but also to have time away."

The PSA is hosting another COVID-19-focused webinar on Wed.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

## Locums exempt from travel restrictions

LOCUM pharmacists who are travelling interstate to provide healthcare support will retain freedom of movement, despite border closures.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National President, Dr Chris Freeman, told a webinar on Wed night that essential health workers would not be affected by the border shutdowns.

"At this point pharmacists



are considered critical health professionals," he said.

"So if you're required to go interstate to perform some work, then that will be possible at this point in time."

## RACGP supports early flu jab in 2020

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is urging patients to access the influenza vaccination "as soon as possible" in a bid to ease pressure on the health system.

The advice breaks from the approach taken by the group last year, when they suggested the rollout of pharmacist-administered vaccines in Apr was too early in the season.

RACGP President, Dr Harry Nespolon, said the push for early vaccination uptake was motivated by concerns that the flu season could coincide with the peak of the COVID-19 crisis.

"The last thing we want to see is patients infected with both influenza and COVID-19," he said.

Nespolon advised patients to contact their GP to discuss the right vaccination for them.

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## Dispensary Corner

**PERHAPS** after COVID-19, society will end up with some long-running health benefits.

After all, we have all now learnt how to wash our hands properly, sneeze into our elbows and ensure we don't spread infections.

But an even bigger benefit for heart health may be a decision by fast food giant KFC to suspend its "finger-lickin' good" advertising slogan.

The *New York Post* yesterday confirmed the move, suggesting die-hard fried chicken lovers may like to consider switching to a knife and fork.

**A POLICEMAN** in India has taken to wearing a custom-designed helmet as a reminder to citizens about the dangers of spreading coronavirus.

The entire country has taken drastic measures, with a 21 day national shutdown meaning law enforcement is busy pulling over motorists and telling them to stay inside.

Officer Rajesh Babu (pictured) said the technique was particularly effective for young children, who "react strongly after seeing this and want to be taken home".



## Mental health support

**PHARMACISTS** hit by the twin crises of the bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic can now apply for one of 20 \$500 grants to support their mental health.

Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS) President, John Coppock, announced that \$10,000 had been provided for the organisation to distribute to pharmacists and their colleagues, by an anonymous donor to support the mental health and wellbeing activities for those working in the pharmacy sector who have been impacted by the bushfires.

"We are very aware that pharmacists and staff in bushfire-affected pharmacies are still in the early recovery stage after the bushfires around Australia, which commenced in Nov and continue in a variety of locations through to Feb," he said.

"Now these pharmacists and pharmacy staff are facing the stress of dealing with COVID-19.

"This new stress may be a tipping point for some and we are keen to support their mental health and wellbeing."

In a statement the PSS said the grants could be used to assist with the following issues:



- Out of pocket expenses associated with professional counselling in relation to stress and trauma associated with the bushfires (above any Medicare rebate if eligible).
- Provision of an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) by a pharmacy to enable all staff to access counselling in a confidential manner.
- Locum cover for a sole pharmacist to enable them to attend to their health and wellbeing or personal affairs.

Enquires should be sent by **EMAIL** to Kay Dunkley and titled, Bushfire Mental Health Support.

Pharmacists in need of support can all the PPS on 1300 244 910 every day between 8am and 11pm.

## Sigma CFO appt

**SIGMA** Healthcare has announced the appointment of former Symbion Health finance officer, Wayne Johnston, as its interim Chief Financial Officer.

## Guild Update

### Medicine home delivery demand to soar

**THE** announcement this week by Australia Post that they will be offering pharmacies and patients a medicine delivery service which complies with the Government's new subsidy scheme has been welcomed by the Guild.

George Tambassis, National President of the Guild, said this important service will add to the options available for the many community members who rely on medication to maintain their health and wellbeing.

Pharmacies provide critical services to members of the community who require medicines and health advice, with many Australians reliant on continuity of medication to support their long-term health.

We support this Australia Post scheme because it adds to the possible solutions for pharmacies - some of which have their own independent long-standing delivery arrangements, but some of which will appreciate having the Australia Post option.

## Our team are here to help you.

[Click here to contact us.](#)



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