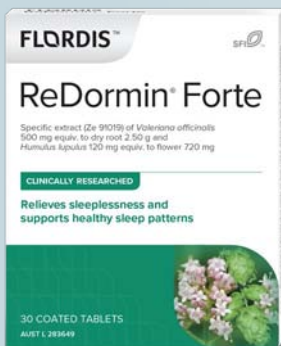
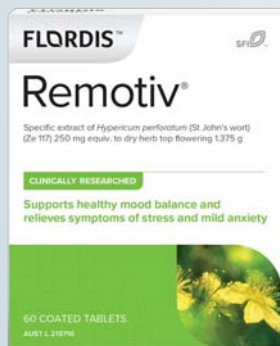


# Are your customers tired, stressed and lacking focus?



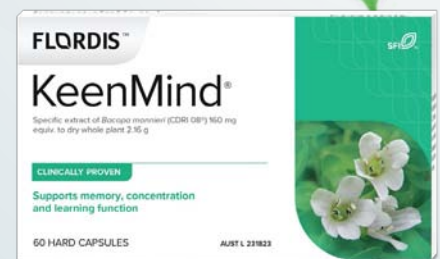
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## Feeling stressed or mildly anxious? Recommend the Remotiv™ difference

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- Clinically researched herbal extract of bacopa (Brahmi) CDRI 08
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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news and a front cover wrap from Flordis.

## SA doc banned

A SOUTH Australian doctor has received one of the longest bans ever issued to a health practitioner after a state Civil and Administrative Tribunal found he had committed multiple breaches of professional boundaries and sexual misconduct.

Mario Athinodorou's medical registration was cancelled with immediate effect yesterday, and he had been barred from seeking to return to the profession for a minimum of 13 years over the incidents.

The presiding member of the Tribunal noted that Athinodorou's behaviour had brought the profession into dispute, and showed an "alarming lack of insight into his conduct and the effect his conduct has had on his young female patients".

The decision has been welcomed by AHPRA.

# CPA fails rural and regional patients

COMMUNITY pharmacy's remuneration model is failing to adequately fund rural and regional pharmacists to deliver services to some of Australia's sickest and highest-need patients, the Small Pharmacies Group (SPG) and Rural Pharmacy Network Australia (RPNA) claim.

In a joint statement the groups called on those involved in negotiations for the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) to develop "a new model of funding for pharmacy services that would focus pharmacists' attention on patients with the greatest need".

"The current pharmacy remuneration system is broken in rural and remote areas and is also failing the sickest and highest needs patients across Australia," the groups said.

"The 6CPA is not adequately recognising the challenges, including the higher per patient workload and associated costs, of delivering pharmaceutical care and services to disadvantaged patients.

"The current 'throughput' model where pharmacists are incentivised to maximise dispensing volume and speed at the expense of pharmaceutical care where it



is needed is no longer serving Australia's best interests, especially the disadvantaged segment of the pharmacy market.

"This segment of the market includes those with more complex healthcare needs, those living in rural and remote locations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, those facing socioeconomic disadvantage, those with poor literacy/non-English speaking background, and those with a disability as opposed to those who are primarily driven by cost and convenience who tend to be younger, higher socio-economic, healthier, and more mobile."

With less than six weeks remaining on the 6CPA and the 7CPA yet to

be finalised, the SPG and RPNA also flagged concerns over the possible introduction of 60-day dispensing, warning "the impact of such measures will be particularly detrimental in rural communities where patients are relying heavily on their local pharmacy for healthcare advice and triaging but the impacts will also be felt in disadvantaged pockets and communities within metropolitan areas".

The groups have called for pharmacists to be financially supported to deliver targeted pharmacist-led interventions based on area demographics and patient need to produce tangible health outcomes and reduce hospitalisations.

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# Revised Medication Management Guidelines



6<sup>th</sup> Community Pharmacy Agreement



## Aged care options needed for COVID

**THERAPEUTIC** substitution and deprescribing could be key tools in mitigating against the spread of COVID-19 in aged care facilities, US researchers believe.

A guide for optimising medication management during the COVID-19 pandemic in aged care facilities, published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, has outlined a series of potential measures that can be taken to protect both staff and patients, by reducing interaction times, as the crisis continues.

The guide recommends “reducing the use of medication which are often unnecessary or inappropriate”, including “certain vitamins and herbal medications which are commonly used but rarely have a compelling indication, as well as medications inappropriate for a person’s circumstances such as long-term preventative medications of a person with limited life expectancy”.



“Because of the imperative to reduce resident-staff contact in high-risk situations of potential infection transmission, it may also be advisable to temporarily discontinue medications such as bisphosphonates and vitamin B12,” the authors said.

“These medications often have appropriate therapeutic uses, but may be able to be held for a period of weeks to a few months without compromising goals of care.”

The authors noted that “very

frequent monitoring related to medications is often unnecessary, burdensome to residents and staff, and associated with more harm than good”, adding that “major gains may also be achieved by reducing the number of medication passes required per resident”, through therapeutic substitution.

The authors recommended that changes to medication management should be implemented in stages, and should be reviewed by an interdisciplinary care team.

### Brand Solutions EllaOne stockist

**SALES** and marketing firm, Brand Solutions Australia, is now supplying Pharmacist Only, emergency contraceptive, EllaOne (ulipristal acetate).

For more information contact your Brand Solutions Australia representative or email [support@bsaus.com.au](mailto:support@bsaus.com.au) or call 1800 978 628.

### Monash Uni awarded \$47m by NHMRC

**RESEARCHERS** from Monash University have secured a total of \$47 million to fund studies into the development of new treatments for a range of conditions.

Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, announced the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding allocation, which will support a total of 30 projects being conducted by the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Among the projects funded




by the NHMRC will be research into the development of novel therapies to treat obesity-related metabolic diseases, led by Monash’s Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences’ Professor Mark Febbraio.

### Symbion marks 175th birthday

**PHARMACEUTICAL** wholesaler, Symbion, is celebrating 175 years in business this month.

The company, now owned by EBOS, has one of the longest continuing histories in Australian business, starting from Francis Hardy Faulding’s Rundle Mall pharmacy in Adelaide, importing products from the UK, to become one of the country’s largest wholesalers and provider of end-to-end solutions for pharmacy and institutional healthcare customers.

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## Dispensary Corner

**SHOPLIFTING** a problem? Keep an eye out for customers wearing fruit on their heads. Police in the US state of Virginia have arrested two men who used watermelons as masks when the allegedly stole from a grocery store. The hollowed-out melons were captured on CCTV (pictured) as the pair stole undisclosed items from a Sheetz grocery store.



## Govts urged to protect pharmacists

**PHARMACY** workers are putting their lives at risk to deliver vital health services throughout the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, and need access to testing and personal protective equipment, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) believes. Speaking at the 73rd World Health Assembly on Mon, FIP Lead for Policy, Practice and Compliance, Zuzana Kusynova, called for greater governmental support for the pharmacy sector during the crisis, including the expansion of pharmacists' scope of practice. "Since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, we have seen an even greater reliance on pharmacists in supporting communities and contributing to the resilience of health systems," she said. "We pharmacists continue to

ensure that people get their treatments and professional advice as part of primary health care. "Pharmacists continue to ensure an effective and safe pharmaceutical supply chain by identifying medical products at risk of shortage and implementing mitigation plans, such as by compounding hand sanitisers, and combating substandard and falsified medical products. "FIP calls on governments to authorise expansion of pharmacists' scope of practice, and fully include pharmacists and their teams in emergency protocols. "Pharmacy teams are risking their lives to continue providing health care to their communities during this pandemic, and several have died. "FIP, together with four other



healthcare professions, urge governments to ensure that all frontline health workers can be tested for COVID-19, and have access to appropriate protective equipment, to be able to carry on in what could be a long-lasting global crisis."

**LLAMA** antibodies have been touted as a possible protection from coronavirus. A study published in the journal *Cell* last week described a particular type of camelid antibody which is able to "sneak into spaces on viral proteins" that are too tiny for human antibodies, according to the *New York Times*. The researchers have worked with a particular Belgian llama named Winter, whose antibodies have already been shown to be effective against SARS and MERS. In a recent update the same antibodies have been found to neutralise the virus that causes COVID-19 infections. Study author, Dr Xavier Saelens from Ghent University, said "if it works, llama Winter deserves a statue".

## NEW PRODUCTS

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

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