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Chemist2U offers GPs instant dispensing

A NEW “Script Concierge” service offered by fledgling medicines delivery service Chemist2U (*PD* 16 Apr) is promising doctor’s surgeries a simple prescription fulfilment service for telehealth services and script renewals.

Chemist2U launched earlier this year amid the onset of COVID-19 lockdowns, and is the brainchild of media medico Dr Norman Swan and his Tonic Health Media Network business partner Dr Matthew Cullen, the pair behind the TV screens often seen in GP waiting rooms.

In the latest development, the new Concierge service aims to tackle the tricky problem of telehealth where a prescription is needed, either necessitating a patient pick-up or having the doctor email or fax the script to a pharmacy - “time-consuming manual tasks which often come at a hard cost to the practice”.

Chemist2U works via local pharmacy partners, who receive the

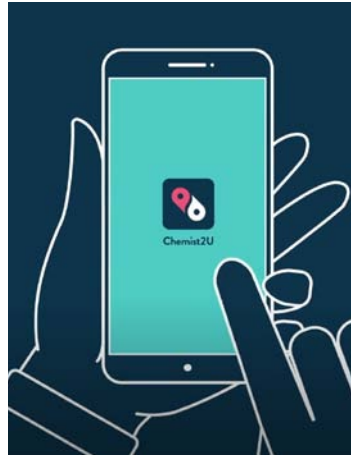
scripts, then dispense and deliver.

“Upload the prescription to Script Concierge and we’ll arrange for fast delivery of the medication from a growing network of over 100 community pharmacies across Australia,” according to a website at scriptconcierge.com.au.

Tonic said sending a script to the platform takes less than 30 seconds, and eliminates the need for doctors to search for pharmacy fax numbers as well as subsequently post scripts to pharmacies.

“While e-prescribing is on the way, it will be some time before all pharmacies can dispense e-scripts,” the company said, noting that new technology platforms were drawing customers away from traditional primary care by providing instant online script renewals and consultations.

“GPs are being displaced by technology...we believe we can help you offer your patients convenient digital solutions at no



costs to your practice,” doctors are promised, with the platform free for prescribers.

If same day delivery is not available from a pharmacy in the patient’s local area, the medication is delivered via Express Post.

Pharmacies wanting to join the program are being invited to sign up and secure exclusivity in their local area at join.chemist2u.com.au.

Today’s issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from Willach.

CWH NZ growth

CHEMIST Warehouse (CWH) expects to open four new stores in New Zealand in the next six weeks or so, with the rapid rollout coinciding with the recent signing of All Black champion Dan Carter as the group’s NZ brand ambassador.

The move will see a total 20 Kiwi Chemist Warehouses, which have been established over the last three years across both the North and South Islands since the first outlet opened (*CW* 09 Nov 2017).

Chemist Warehouse also recently established a beachhead in Ireland (*PD* 27 Oct) and has a store in China, along with more than 470 across Australia.



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Products of the year named

PHARMACY and skincare products have made a strong showing in the annual Product of the Year awards which were unveiled this morning, taking out eight of the 29 categories on offer.

The awards are based on entries lodged each year, with finalist products in each category selected by a panel of industry judges, followed by a survey of more than 9,000 shoppers whose votes are used to pick the winners.

The health and beauty winners this year were all items stocked in supermarkets, including KOi Body Butter, KOi Hand Wash, LPO Foaming Gel Cleanser and LPO Rewind Age Defence Night Cream - all sold through Coles.

Procter & Gamble also won the Male Grooming category for Gillette Skinguard.

Guild urges NAIDOC Week participation

PHARMACIES across the country are being encouraged to take part in NAIDOC Week, with Pharmacy Guild Executive Director Suzanne Greenwood saying the annual celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will be a "bright spot in what has otherwise been a pretty dim year".

Writing in the Guild's *Forefront* newsletter yesterday, Greenwood said the Guild would take the opportunity afforded by NAIDOC Week from 08-15 Nov to highlight the way community pharmacies work with First Nations peoples, particularly in regional, rural and remote communities.

"These pharmacies are going the extra mile in providing services to help address the documented poorer health outcomes experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples," she said, noting that pharmacists are at the forefront of efforts to meet the needs of individual communities.



"As the most accessible health professionals, they have a unique role to play in addressing gaps and providing targeted services to improve the health outcomes of these Australians," Greenwood said.

She also noted that in more than 300 remote towns there is only one pharmacy, while in many cases the pharmacist is the only health professional in town.

"In these situations pharmacies are often the local hub for community healthcare services

and general support for the local population, particularly for the elderly and unwell."

The Guild has also highlighted the experiences of two Indigenous pharmacy students, brother and sister Lillian and Louis Emery who have "found their culture and heritage to be major factors underpinning their enjoyment and success in their pharmacy careers".

See their stories at guild.org.au, and for more on how to celebrate NAIDOC Week see naidoc.org.au.

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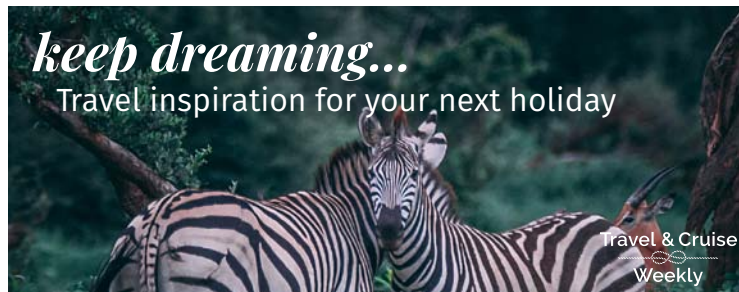
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Dispensary Corner

FORGET nasal swabs - scientists in the USA have developed a new algorithm which claims to be able to detect COVID-19 by the sound of a patient's cough.

Details of the breakthrough were published in the *IEEE Journal of Engineering in Medicine and Biology* last week, with MIT researchers describing their artificial intelligence

platform was able to successfully confirm COVID-19 diagnoses in 98.5% of cases.

Apparently an asymptomatic coronavirus cough has a slightly different sound to other coughs because of the COVID-19 impact on the respiratory system, but the human ear is unable to pick up the difference.

The algorithm was tested on about 70,000 audio samples of coughs, of which 2,500 were from people with confirmed cases of coronavirus.

The MIT boffins said the system could be used to screen students, workers or the public on a daily basis, or to quickly alert of outbreaks within groups.

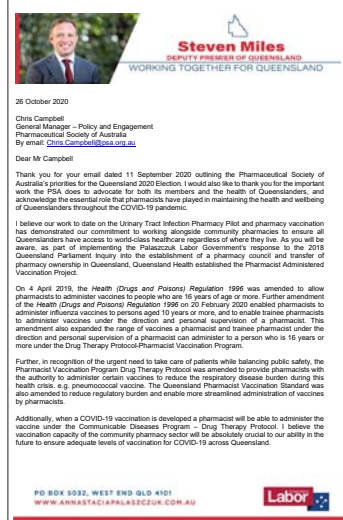
PSA debunks Guild claim

THE war of words between the Queensland branches of the Pharmacy Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) continued yesterday, with the PSA resolutely standing by its comments in a media release about the intentions of the newly elected Queensland Government to work with PSA on the design and implementation of a trial of pharmacists working to their full scope in North Queensland.

The PSA was responding to allegations by the Pharmacy Guild that the Society was falsely claiming credit for the project (PD yesterday), with Guild Qld Branch Director Gerard Benedet accusing the Society of "falling well short of the professional standards that community pharmacists practice on a daily basis".

Benedet challenged the PSA to prove they were actually involved by producing a pre-election letter to the Queensland Government about the "trial that they supposedly proposed", insisting that "sadly no such letter exists".

In response, the Society yesterday sent *Pharmacy Daily* a copy of a letter from Qld Deputy Premier, Steven Miles prior to the election (pictured) that "highlights their



commitment to work with PSA on this matter" and noted the Society's ongoing lobbying work relating to permitting pharmacists to work to their full scope.

"As stated, PSA has long advocated that current regulatory barriers prevent pharmacists from providing the full range of care that is within their professional scope of practice, skills and training," a PSA spokesperson told *Pharmacy Daily*.

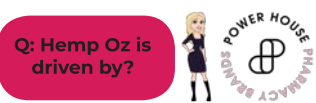
"We are pleased that other organisations have been working towards the same outcome," the Society added.

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