

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of the latest news, plus a full page from **Nova Pharmaceuticals**.

Nova Nov deals

NOVA Pharmaceuticals is offering savings of 30% on orders of its MediChoice Rapid Release Paracetamol 500mg in packs of 20 or 40 tablets.

Pharmacies can also secure two free units of its MediSOL Premium Heel Balm 120ml for every 10 ordered.

See **page four** for more.

CSL starts COVID vax production

AUSTRALIAN vaccine manufacturer, CSL, is set to begin production of the University of Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine candidate today.

Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, told 2GB the vaccination programs could begin in Mar, subject to regulatory approval.

DoH backs eRx re-authorisation

THE Federal Department of Health (DoH) is backing calls for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to re-authorise the inter-operability of the eRx Script Exchange and IP MSD prescription exchange systems (PES) until 2025.

In an email to the ACCC a DoH spokesperson said the inter-operability of the two exchanges "is expected to continue to provide benefits to the public beyond [the 2020-21 financial year]".

"The Department has fast tracked implementation of electronic prescribing with significant uptake as part of this process," the DoH spokesperson said.

"The infrastructure that is supported by the Community Pharmacy Agreement funding provides the fundamental basis for electronic prescribing and inter-operability of the PES is integral to this infrastructure.

"Inter-operability has been included in the technical framework for electronic prescribing and will continue to enable patient choice of clinical provider, especially pharmacies, that is an important part of the policy framework for supply of medicines to the

Australian community."

A submission from "a concerned innovative technology company" called on the ACCC to reject eRx's request for re-authorisation of the inter-operability of the systems.

"As a potential entrant in this market, and in order to give patients a full prescription management experience, we believe that a patient should have the choice to have their prescriptions managed in an alternative system to the two choices and the only way to do this is to allow all systems to compete

against each other, and ensure that the entry points for prescriptions (doctors software) and the landing points (pharmacy software) will start creating new ways for other companies to plug in their different solution," the company said.

"Today - patients have no choice in where their prescriptions go."

However, the DoH rejected suggestions that the current authorisation blocked new entrants to the market, saying "an inter-operable ecosphere is essential to foster this competition".

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Review full PI before recommending or supplying Resolve Plus 1.0. PI available on request from Ego Pharmaceuticals.

References: 1. Resolve Plus Product Information. Date of Most Recent Amendment 26 October 2018. 2. Van Cutsem JM, Thompson D. Miconazole, a broad-spectrum antimycotic agent with antibacterial activity. *Chemotherapy* 1972;17:392-404.

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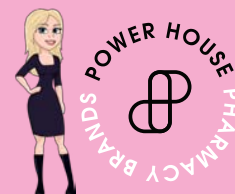
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Brown Bag campaign pushes RUM

PHARMACIES in the NSW Federal electorate of MacKellar are taking part in the Brown Bag Medicine Promotion this month to encourage patients to return unwanted medications (RUM) to be destroyed in an environmentally safe way.

The campaign, launched by the constituency's member, Jason Falinski, and former Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National President, Warwick Plunkett, aims to raise awareness of the national RUM program, which captures 800 tonnes of unwanted medicines each year.

"This still only accounts for about 20% of disposed medicines with the remainder ending up in landfill and our waterways," Plunkett said.

"Much still remains to be done in educating the public on the safe and convenient way to dispose of medicines through their community pharmacy.

"I encourage everyone in the electorate to review their medicine



cupboard and return back to the pharmacy all unwanted medicines for safe disposal along with any current medicines needing more information and advice from the pharmacist.

"Pharmacists are medicines experts and are always available to provide advice on their actions, side effects and optimal use."

The US-based Brown Bag initiative started 40 years ago to raise consumer awareness of the need to dispose of out-of-date

and unwanted medicines from their homes to prevent accidental misadventure.

As part of the campaign pharmacies in MacKellar will provide patients with brown bags to return expired and medications they no longer require to the stores.

The promotion is supported by the RUM Program and the PSA, and has been supported by an environmental grant from the Federal Government.



Dispensary Corner

IT'S been a tough year for pharmacists across the country, and *Pharmacy Daily's* Editor, Nick O'Donoghue (pictured), is potentially making it even harder to stomach with his daily #MoFoe updates.

O'Donoghue and *Australian Journal of Pharmacy* Editor, Chris Brooker, are going mo-to-mo this Nov to raise funds for the Pharmacists' Support Service.

CLICK HERE to donate and show your support by leaving #MoFoePD in the message box.



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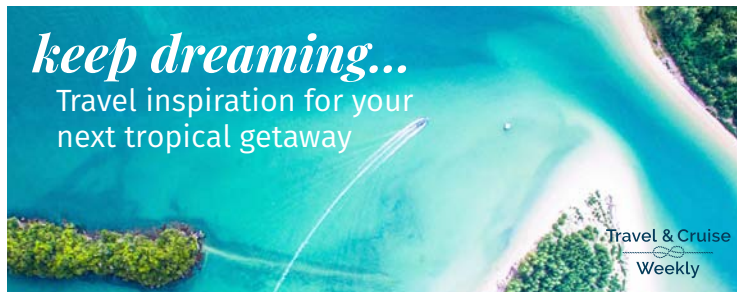
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PharmaPrograms new platform

PHARMAPROGRAMS is launching a new platform, myPharmaPrograms, to help pharmacies to build patient loyalty, as the introduction of electronic prescriptions gives patients greater choice.

The new platform will allow pharmacists to submit claims for the delivery of professional services, track their performance, view program information and ask questions, PharmaPrograms Systems Architect, Kos Sclavos, said.

"Post this e-prescriptions period, where patients will have greater mobility and choice with their prescriptions, building patient loyalty and 'stickiness' through PharmaPrograms Initiatives will be key," he said.

Churchill thanks pharmacy staff

BRITISH Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care, Jo Churchill, has released an open letter thanking pharmacists and their teams for their work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

"You have done an incredible job on the medicine's delivery service for shielded patients and you are central to the delivery of this year's expanded flu vaccination programme," she said.

"We all rely on and trust community pharmacy...I know that you will rise to the challenge."

Guild RAP to close gap

CELEBRATING NAIDOC Week, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch is sharing stories from members about closing the gap in their areas on its Facebook page.

Following the launch of the Branch's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) late last year, President, Trent Twomey, said pharmacies in the State have been working to improve primary health outcomes for Indigenous patients.

"In the past year the Guild Queensland Branch, has also been implementing our RAP, which provides a pathway to improve the ways in which we connect, recognise and contribute to positive health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People," he said.

"We hope the RAP will provide positive healthcare outcomes and help close the gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through Queensland's network of almost 1,200 community pharmacies.

"Our RAP will support the wider community, by developing closer relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations.

"Where possible we're working to assist in the delivery of better primary healthcare outcomes, by investigating opportunities to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or organisations to improve the community pharmacy services we provide.

"We are only at the beginning of our reconciliation journey and continue to implement our RAP.

"The COVID-19 pandemic slowed our implementation, but we're still working through the plan.

"Community pharmacies are a vital part of our primary healthcare system with the potential to make an even bigger contribution to the health of all Queenslanders and their families."

The Branch is set to unveil a painting called Wurarr-Wurarr later this week to mark NAIDOC week.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Rimmel Ram, Pharmacist Manager at TerryWhite Chemmart Plumpston, NSW.**



Advancing digitally

WITHOUT a doubt, COVID-19 has changed the way our customers shop with us...but also the way they address their health care needs. No longer does managing one's health need to be a burden.

The recent introduction of eScripts coupled with telehealth consulting and the increase in delivery service capabilities means my customers can now access health advice and medication without needing to leave their homes. And when you combine this with other tools like the TWC health App, customers are only one click away from communicating directly with my pharmacy about their health care needs.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 my pharmacy team has signed up more than 650 new users to the health app who are now embracing features such as tap to refill, click-and-collect and pay-in-advance. Our diabetes patients are finding the NDSS ordering feature useful too while the new snap-n-send feature is receiving great feedback. Not only has the health app dramatically increased our customer loyalty but it has also improved our dispensary workflow and set the tone for the introduction of eScripts.

Advancing your digital capabilities is critical for the future of healthcare and in addressing the growing needs of our customers to have a convenient and easier way to keep healthy.

To find out more about how TWC can help you be a health leader, click [here](#).

Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away both a NS 8 Heel Balm 250ml and NS 8 Deo Foot and Shoe Spray 100ml worth RRP\$37.90

Get your feet summer-ready!

Give your feet some love with soft, smooth heels and odour-free feet and footwear. NS 8 Heel Balm is not greasy, so you don't need socks and natural exfoliants gradually remove dry, thickened skin, so you don't need foot files. Deo Foot and Shoe Spray is a natural treatment with a light, fresh fragrance. Recommended by podiatrists and diabetes friendly. Australian owned and made.



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