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Pharmacy key in vax distribution: SA

COMMUNITY pharmacies in South Australia could be in line to gain access to National Immunisation Program influenza vaccines for patients aged 65 years and older, following a review of the state's vaccination strategy.

Responding to a question from Advance SA MLC, John Darley, in the Legislative Council earlier this week, SA Health Minister, Stephen Wade, noted the state's immunisation program "has had a positive impact on influenza".

"In relation to partnerships with immunisation providers, we certainly regard community pharmacy as a key partner in the distribution of vaccines and in that context, I think it was earlier this year but certainly within the term of this Government, we expanded the [age range of] young people

who can get immunisations through pharmacists," Wade said.

"Certainly, we will continue to look at opportunities to maximise the impact of the National Immunisation Program, including the suggestions the honourable member has made.

"There is currently a review underway of the influenza immunisation program this year, which is, to be frank, an annual review, but I am particularly keen that we learn the lessons from the COVID experience to learn what we can to strengthen the influenza program for next year."

Wade added that as of 26 Sep there had been 1,556 confirmed flu cases in SA in 2020, compared with close to 25,000 at the same point last year, as a result of efforts to maximise the state's immunisation



program, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am not expecting that this pandemic will be over before we start to face the next wave of influenza," he said

"The fact that we are likely to continue to have international travel restrictions will significantly reduce the risk of an outbreak the size we have seen in recent years."

Today's issue of *PD*

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

Ready to run

COMPRESSION therapy solutions provider Essity is offering pharmacies a 15% discount on orders of eight pairs of its Jobst Sport compression socks.

The socks have been designed to boost circulation, support tendons and improve calf muscles.

The offer is available until 31 Dec, or while stocks last.

See **page four** for more information, or contact Essity customer service on 1300 998 810.

EBOS acquires Cryomed Aesthetics

SYMBION owner, EBOS Group Limited, is expanding its medical devices business, acquiring Cryomed Aesthetics.

EBOS CEO, John Cullity, confirmed the deal at the group's AGM in Christchurch, New Zealand, yesterday.

"Cryomed is the leading independent distributor of aesthetic devices and consumable products in Australia and it is a market that is benefitting from high growth rates," he said.



"We are very confident of building our devices business into a market leader in the years to come and this acquisition continues the development of this significant platform to our healthcare portfolio."

YongGang tablets safety warning

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a warning, urging patients not to take YongGang tablets after testing found undeclared sildenafil.

The TGA said consumers should take any remaining tablets to their local pharmacy for safe disposal.

In a statement the TGA said it was working with the Australian Border Force (ABF) to help stop future shipments of YongGang tablets from entering the country.



"If these tablets are found at the border by the ABF they will be seized and destroyed," the TGA said.



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TWC takes Academy Live online

PHARMACY assistants from across the TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) network are gathering online for the group's first virtual Academy Live pharmacy assistant training event.

Having launched the Academy Live program last year as a face-to-face event, the COVID-19 pandemic saw TWC shift to a virtual model in 2020, to equip pharmacy assistants with the knowledge and skills to support customers.

Victorian pharmacy assistant, Helen Ghandchi, from TWC Forest Hill, said that in the COVID environment having access to educational programs was critical.

"Whilst I love face to face training it is great that TerryWhite Chemmart has been able to provide 'Academy Live' through an online forum," she said.

"It means I can focus on some new learnings and take the opportunity to reset as we head into the busiest time of year for pharmacy.



"I loved all the sessions, particularly the La Roche Posay one on sunscreen and mask sensitivity.

"In fact, as soon as the session completed, I had the opportunity to engage with customers and sold three of their products.

"The presentation format was also fantastic with key features and benefits clearly outlined."

The TWC Academy Live virtual

program has been supported by the group's supplier partners, Bayer, Nestle, Sukin, La Roche Posay and Care Pharmaceuticals.

Sessions hosted across the three-day event, which ends today, included training on business planning, nutrition during pregnancy and breastfeeding, closing the sale, and dietary management of obesity.



Dispensary Corner

WELL this is awkward.

A new "drop and collect" COVID-19 testing service being offered by the UK's Birmingham City Council has inadvertently seen used coronavirus swabs distributed to some households.

The blunder occurred in the student area of Selly Oak, affecting about 25 samples.

Officials insisted that the kits remained intact, with "no evidence of cross-contamination".

However one of the recipients, a University of Birmingham student, said he and his four housemates had used the tests without realising.

Others who received the used kits said they noticed that test tubes inside the box had already been unsealed, and notified the workers handing out the tests.

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Pharmacy lands Tas SEotY Award

DELORAINÉ Amcal Pharmacy has been named Small Employer of the Year (SEotY) at the 2020 Skills Tasmania, Tasmanian Training Awards.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Tasmanian Branch President, John Dowling, congratulated the pharmacy's owner, Ian Huett on the award, and reiterated the importance of training and skills development in pharmacies.

"It makes sense that we have trained, capable and effective employees to provide the best care in our communities," Dowling said.

Accused pharmacist makes plea offer

A **NSW-BASED** pharmacist who is facing allegations of child sex offences has secured a four-week adjournment to continue negotiations with Crown prosecutors, *The Daily Telegraph* reports.

Luigi Sbirziola, 44, the owner of three pharmacies in Narellan, appeared in Picton Local Court yesterday, having been arrested during a traffic stop in May 2019 by the Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Squad.

Sbirziola was initially charged in relation to an alleged sexual assault on a 14-year-old girl, which was reported to police in Mar 2019.

In Dec 2019 further charges were made against him, including



two counts of paying a child aged between 14 and 18 for sex, and a charge of aggravated sexual intercourse with a child aged 14 to 16.

"The alleged incidents were

reported to have happened between Dec 2018 and Feb 2019."

The Daily Telegraph reported that a plea offer has been made on Sbirziola's behalf and will be considered by the Crown by 10 Nov.

WA Premier presents pharmacy award

WESTERN Australian Premier, Mark McGowan, presented the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's 2020 Excellence in Professional Innovation Award to Wizard Pharmacy Kalgoorlie Central, over the weekend.

The WA pharmacy was named as the winner in the lead up to the COVID-19 affected Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference in Mar (**PD** 17 Mar).

Accepting the award, pharmacy owner, Elise Wheadon, said her team were passionate about servicing

the community and working collaboratively with health professionals to deliver the best outcomes for patients.

"With a forever changing health landscape, it has never been more important for community pharmacy to extend its services and be at the forefront of providing health solutions to patients for the best patient-centric care," she said.

"Our amazing team deserve massive praise for sharing a vision of quality service and providing outstanding patient-centric care."

Win With Blue Jacar

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Blue Jacar are giving away a Blue Jacar Skin Love gift set worth RRP \$44.95

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