

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has four pages of the latest news, plus a full page from Willach.

Adrenaline-Link back in stock

SYDNEY-BASED

pharmaceutical business, Link Healthcare, has confirmed its Adrenaline-Link 1:1,000 1mg/1mL adrenaline (epinephrine) acid tartrate injection BP ampoule (x5) is back in stock.

The company noted it may take a few weeks for stock to be visible at wholesalers, but pharmacies can put in a direct ship or back order with their wholesaler.

Alternatively they can place an order with Link directly by contacting its customer service team on 1800 181 060.

Landlord evicts Melbourne pharmacy

PLANS to reopen Melbourne following months of severe COVID-19 restrictions will come too late for pharmacy owner, Anja Faustin, who has been ordered to vacate her CBD store by 5pm today.

Speaking on *Sky News* over the weekend, Faustin, said her landlord issued a breach of lease and gave two weeks' notice to pay the full rent with no reduction, before terminating the agreement last week and sending an email on Thu night asking her to leave the premises by close of business today.

Faustin said she had supported her landlord's application for Land Tax relief, which resulted in a 15% deferral and a 15% waiver on her rent for the month of Apr.

The pharmacy owner said subsequent efforts at mediation proved unsuccessful.

"I'm in absolute shock," she said.

"There's around 50 retail premises in the Melbourne CBD area, which are completely empty and vacated already.

"Some landlords must have come to an agreement with tenants, [because] as far as I know, I'm the only one which has been evicted so far.

"My landlord thinks she's found legal grounds to not have to comply with the COVID legislation, which I find really interesting and I would like to know why."

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, told *Pharmacy Daily* that the State's COVID restrictions have been "extremely difficult on tenants and landlords", and called on lessors to be mindful of the challenges facing pharmacies.

"Whilst as a city we are on the cusp of a re-opening of the economy as part of the Victorian government's 'roadmap to recovery' – the huge challenges faced by small businesses across Melbourne won't be resolved overnight – and we do not want to see the preventable closures of pharmacies and potential interruptions to patient



care," he said.

"We can only hope that the latest matter of Elizabeth Pharmacy reported on *Sky News* is not the 'canary in the coal mine' of other pharmacies having serious disputes with their landlords resulting in eviction."

Tassone added the Guild would continue to call on the Victorian Government to support pharmacies to "see through to the other side of this global pandemic".

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Face mask fine for Sydney pharmacist

A SYDNEY-BASED pharmacist has been issued an infringement notice for \$2,664 relating to the alleged unlawful importation of medical face masks in relation to COVID-19.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said the pharmacist allegedly breached a condition of the Therapeutic Goods (Medical Devices - Face Masks and Other Articles) (COVID-19 Emergency) Exemption 2020, by importing medical face masks that were not, at the time of importation, included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) and were not being imported for supply to the National Medical Stockpile.

"The exemption facilitates the purchase of specified types of medical devices by the Australian Government Department of Health to ensure the National Medical Stockpile has enough personal protective equipment (PPE) to assist in reducing the spread of COVID-19



between individuals and healthcare professionals," the TGA said.

"The pharmacist is not under a contract with the Australian Government Department of Health, or another agency of the Commonwealth acting on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Health, for this purpose.

"Under the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*, therapeutic goods must

be entered in the ARTG before they can be lawfully imported into Australia, unless a specific exemption, approval or authority applies.

"Where therapeutic goods are covered by an exemption, the conditions of the exemption must be complied with. Failure to do so exposes a company or any relevant individual to criminal prosecution or civil penalty proceedings."

Livingstone fined

HEALTHCARE consumable distributor, Livingstone International, has been fined \$13,320 in relation to alleged unlawful importation of infrared thermometers.

In a statement the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said the non-contact thermometers were not included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods and were neither exempt nor excluded from the operation of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

"Demand for thermometers has increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic," the TGA said.

"Breaches of the Act are of significant concern to the TGA given the current pandemic.

"The TGA's highest priority is to protect the health and safety...through regulation of therapeutic goods."

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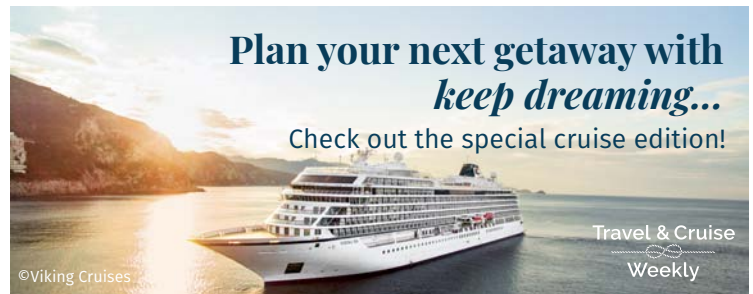


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Violence in pharmacies continues

PHARMACY staff across the country are continuing to face violent and aggressive behaviour, with a disgruntled patient smashing a window between the dispensary and a consulting room in a Victorian store in the latest incident.

Chemist Discount Centre Moe, owner, Rania Hanoun, reported patient verbally abused staff before punching through the glass on Thu.

In an email to staff, Hanoun said it had been "an overwhelming week".

"Last Thursday a patient smashed glass window between the consulting room and the dispensary as I was talking to him.

"As he punched the glass the first time, I knew he was not going to stop at that, I took few steps backward away from the window, he kept going at it until he smashed the whole window and the metal frame.

"It was frightening as customers ran to one side of the shop while

others ran to check on their children in their cars as he walked out.

"Thankfully no one was hurt."

Advantage Pharmacy Group CEO, Steven Kastrinakis, who is Hanoun's business partner, said the attack had "rattled" staff and customers.

"Frontline health workers should not be subjected to this aggravated violence," he said.

"Moe Police were called and made an arrest.

"The police were surprised nobody was injured by shards of glass that were sprayed into the dispensary."

Following a similar incident at a pharmacy in Auburn, NSW, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, George Tambassis, said he was very disturbed by the latest report of violent behaviour.

"Pharmacists and pharmacy staff should not be expected to endure aggression and threatening



abuse from a tiny minority of Australians who are engaging in this behaviour," he said.

"The safety and wellbeing of our staff and other patients is paramount."

Pharmacy staff who have been impacted by incidents of violent and aggressive behaviour are urged to contact the Pharmacists Support Service on 1300 244 910.

Dispensary Corner

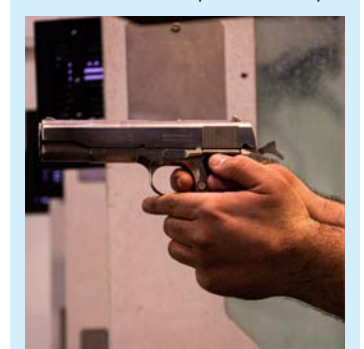
WHILE Dispensary Corner does not advocate for pharmacists to be armed, we appreciate it when robbers are forced to backpedal on their plans.

When 19-year-old Devon Gaza-Harris Nelson decided to hit up an Ann Arbor, Michigan, pharmacy for the second time in a matter of months, armed with a crowbar last Tue (20 Oct), and demanded access to the dispensary, a pharmacist who recognised him from his first robbery in Jun, pulled a handgun, prompting a significant rethink.

The would-be bandit fled the scene only to be spotted by police a short distance from the pharmacy and arrested.

Local news website, *mlive.com*, reported that Nelson has been the subject of a number of ongoing criminal cases including three charges relating to obtaining a controlled substance by fraud, and another armed robbery at the University of Michigan on 19 Jan.

Nelson is set to appear before the Ann Arbor 15th District Court on 29 Oct, in relation to last week's attempted robbery.



WHO sings for solidarity #WeAreFamily

WORLD Health Organization (WHO) chiefs are hoping a cover of Sister Sledge's hit 'We Are Family', can help inspire people to unite to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

The WHO launched its #WeAreFamily campaign on Sat with a video featuring the organisation's Director General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, his WHO colleagues and other health workers singing along to the 1979 hit.

"We Are Family' is more than a song," Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

"It is a call to action for collaboration and kindness, and a



reminder of the strength of family and the importance of coming together to help others in times of need."

Health workers are being encouraged to join the campaign by recording themselves singing 'We Are Family', either alone with family or friends (while maintaining social distance), and uploading it to www.unitystrong.com by 30 Nov.

e-Cig clarification

PHARMACY Daily would like to clarify an error in Fri's edition relating to the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) update on nicotine scheduling and proposed restriction on importation of nicotine for use in e-cigarettes (*PD* 23 Oct).

The TGA has deferred the decision to amend the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 to restrict the importation of nicotine for use in e-cigarettes and, separately e-cigarette devices.

The update did not refer to the decision to amend the current Poisons Standard in relation to nicotine as reported.

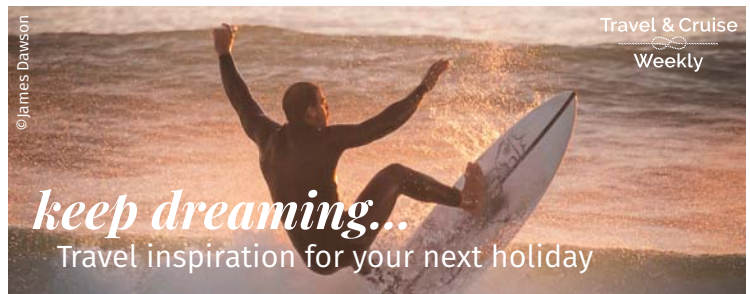


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UK pharmacy closures hit patients

COVID-19-INDUCED closures are creating service gaps across the UK, with elderly and vulnerable patients among the worst affected, *The Pharmaceutical Journal* reports.

In the first eight months of 2020, more than 150 community pharmacies shut their doors due to the soaring costs of staying open during lockdowns.

Pharmacy owner, Stuart Gale told the publication that he had been forced to close one of his stores, despite processing an average of 5,000 items a month, due to the spiralling costs of staff, medicines and security.

"It's just not sustainable, the pharmacy service will crumble," he said.

"We do more and more for less and less, so I really think patients will see a shrinking of service.

"Pharmacies are keeping all those people in their homes and they're not paid for it, and we'll only notice when it's gone [and] it feels like that day is getting closer."



Thames Valley Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) CEO, David Dean, told *The Pharmaceutical Journal* that seven pharmacies had closed in Oxfordshire in the last six months, with more likely to follow suit as financial pressures mount.

While the closures have yet to see an area without a pharmacy, Dean warned that was likely to change as stores go out of business,

adding that at some stage rural villages could be left without a local pharmacy.

"For many, pharmacy offers the only opportunity to obtain face-to-face advice about their medicine regime and minor ailments," he said.

"Some prescriptions can be delivered by online companies, but for many of the elderly and most vulnerable this remains inaccessible."

Bell named as CPA patron

COMMONWEALTH

Pharmacists' Association (CPA) President, John Bell, has been named as organisation's newest patron.

In a post on Twitter announcing his appointment, the Sydney-based pharmacist said he was "honoured to work with a dedicated and committed team of health professionals to contribute to the important work of CPA, enhancing the capacity and skills of pharmacists in their important public health role".

Blackmores confirms board renewal

FORMER Blackmores Executive Chairman, Marcus Blackmore, has stepped down from the company's board as part of a renewal process.

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange, outgoing Chair, Brent Wallace, thanked Blackmore "for his many years of passionate commitment to building the company's leading global reputation in complementary and naturopathic principles".

While stepping away from the board, Blackmore said he intends to remain a "significant shareholder."



Wallace also welcomed the appointment of Non-Executive Director, Anne Templeton-Jones, as his successor as Chair from 28 Oct.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Gerard Stevens, Managing Director, Webstercare**



The power of the patient photo

THE use of a patient photo in dose administration aids (DAAs) was among several measures that Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL) has encouraged pharmacists to adopt in a recent communique to members.

PDL's message was prompted because of reports of DAAs being provided to the wrong person. It reinforces the view that using a photo with your DAA service is among a number of best practice measures that will minimise the risk of identity error.

A high quality patient photo has always been employed within all Webstercare medication management systems like the Webster-pak®. It joins numerous 'fail-safes' built into our systems, including the new QACheck™ software that can cut checking time by half with improved accuracy and reduced risk to the patient.

Webstercare fully endorses PDL's assertion that "consistently accurate packing and checking is imperative" to ensure patients benefit from their medications.

Pharmacists are well-trained to follow systems. But sometimes work pressures encourage the practice of 'work-arounds'.

This can be risky when it comes to the systems we employ for DAAs, whether for community or residential settings. Do you have the QACheck system?



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