

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from **eze allergy**.

TGA approves cell-based fluvax

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has granted approval for Seqirus's cell-based Flucelvax Quad influenza vaccine for the 2021 flu season.

Seqirus said the cell-based vaccine would provide greater certainty of matching the virus strains selected by the World Health Organization compared to egg-based vaccines.

The vaccine has been registered for patients aged nine years and older.

CWH raises \$615k for Gotcha4Life

DISCOUNT pharmacy group, Chemist Warehouse (CWH) has raised more than \$615,000 for mental health charity, Gotcha4Life.

The funds were raised through in-store donations and support from a range of health and beauty brands who donated a percentage of sales on selected products at CWH.

The not-for-profit foundation is dedicated to taking action to promote prevention through connection and the concept of building mental fitness in

SA Health plans testing of RTPM

SOUTH Australian pharmacists and GPs are being invited to take part in a small-scale testing program of the State's Real Time Prescription Monitoring (RTPM) system, ScriptCheckSA, which is due to start in Nov.

SA Health announced the RTPM Election Commitment Board has been established to oversee the development and implementation of ScriptCheckSA, and is seeking expressions of interest from Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), registered pharmacists and pharmacists to participate in the small-scale testing of the system.

"The small-scale testing programme will start in Nov and will consist of a series of workshops over a period of four months (until Feb 2021)," a statement from SA Health said.



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"The number, duration and frequency of the workshops will be decided following discussion with interested participants and the RTPM Project Team."

The main objectives of the test program are to assess the user experience - including look, feel and layout - functionality of the ScriptCheck SA system, and training and education materials for the RTPM.

"Feedback from participating health practitioners will be used to refine and improve both the ScriptCheckSA system and the training and education materials before a state-wide release in Mar



2021," SA Health said.

Pharmacists can register their interest in participating in the testing by emailing their name, AHPRA number and contact details to the RTPM Project Team by 12pm on Fri 11 Sep to Health.RTPM@sa.gov.au.

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*Lopatka L et al., J fur Menopause 2007;2:3-7. Schellenberg et al., Evid Based Complement Alternat Med 2012. Drewe J et al., Phytomedicine 2013;15(20):659-666.





Dispensary Corner

OFTEN the forgotten man of family band, The Corrs, guitarist, Jim Corr, is doing his best to step out of his sisters' shadows, by embracing a wide range of conspiracy theories.

The quiet man of the group, has become a vocal proponent of claims that the COVID-19 pandemic is a "hoax", promoting conspiracy video series *Plandemic*, and suggesting restrictions were "forms of tyranny".

"I'm no stranger to controversy," he told the *Irish Sun*.

"I speak my mind when I see fit, I call BS when I feel it's important to do so.

"I have always had the best of intentions at heart and wish for all people to be happy, healthy and free of any and all forms of tyranny."

Corr has also voiced his opposition to vaccinations and the use of face masks during the ongoing health crisis, while saying "I believe most of those lives lost could have been saved had doctors and nurses been allowed to administer hydroxychloroquine and zinc, which thousands of doctors across the world are having success with".

The 56-year-old's stance on the merits of COVID-19 controls has drawn the ire of one-time Irish Eurovision entrants, Jedward, a mop-haired duo that somehow soared to fame in the UK and Ireland during the 2007 X Factor series, who suggested he should "just go and 'Runaway'", adding "your sisters never needed you".

SHPA backs 24-hour pharmacy service

PHARMACISTS should play a greater role in general medical units, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) believes.

In its latest Standard of practice in general medicine for pharmacy services, published in the *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*, the SHPA highlighted the case for broader pharmacist roles to improve medicines-related outcomes through the provision of comprehensive care.

SHPA General Medicine Chair, Dr Erica Tong, said the clinical pharmacist's role in the general medicine unit was both critical and unique.

"Patients admitted to general medical units are often complex with multiple comorbidities, polypharmacy and at risk for drug-related problems associated with increased morbidity and mortality," she said.

"For decades clinical pharmacists have routinely contributed to the care of these patients and we know that their presence on daily medical ward rounds, embedded in a multidisciplinary team, is proven to reduce patients' exposure to preventable adverse drug events.



"While their positive impact is generally accepted, clinical pharmacists' role in general medical units has remained limited.

"In Australia however, we are seeing emerging support for extending the scope for general medicine pharmacists, with clinical pharmacists often recognised members of general medicine multidisciplinary teams.

"As detailed in the Standard, there should also be consideration of extended hours of pharmacy service to accommodate the high patient turnover frequently encountered in general medicine units.

"As part of a broader clinical service, a 24-hour pharmacy service to optimise the care of patients

outside of traditional business hours would be ideal."

SHPA President, Peter Fowler, said there was significant evidence to support an extended scope for pharmacists in general medicine.

"The evidence shows that inpatient medication errors among short-stay patients with complex medication regimens or polypharmacy are significantly reduced when pharmacists partner with medical staff to jointly chart initial medications on admission," he said.

"SHPA will continue to advocate for the proven impact of hospital pharmacists in all care settings, toward the clear goal of optimal patient care."

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Disinfectant fine

YARRA Valley Cleaning Co has been fined \$39,960 for unlawful advertising of a disinfectant product in relation to COVID-19.

The company is alleged to have claimed that its disinfectant, Sanitise IT, was 99.9999% effective against viruses, including COVID-19, in breach of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

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