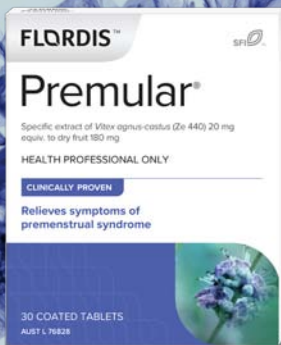
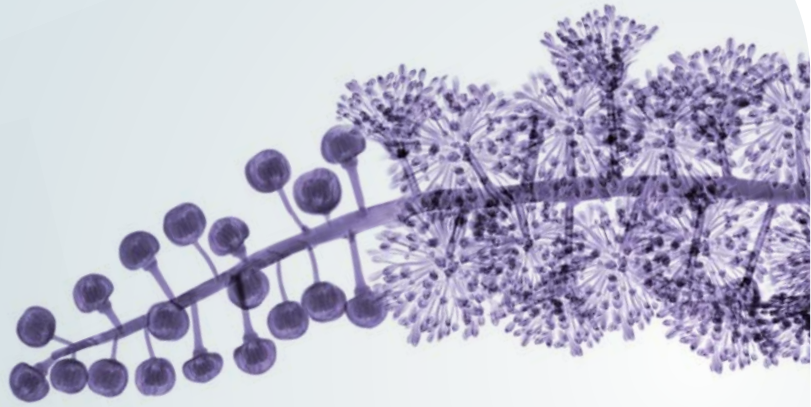
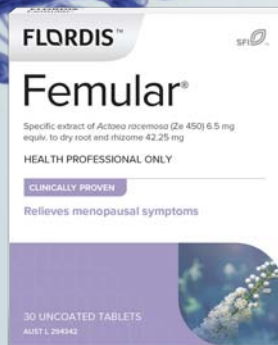


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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus a front cover page from Floridis.

Fenofibrate CPD

GUILD Learning and Development and Mylan Health have developed a new online training module focused on the role of Lipidil (fenofibrate) as part of the management of diabetic retinopathy in type 2 diabetes.

The activity has been accredited for one hour of Group One CPD which can be converted to Group Two on completion of assessments.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Tackling PMS

INTEGRATIVE medicine specialist, Floridis, is offering pharmacists a range of "clinically researched" products to treat the symptoms of PMS and menopause.

See [cover wrap](#) for more.

FIP's pharmacy supply chain solution

GOVERNMENTS around the world are being urged to give pharmacists greater authority to use their expertise to substitute medications when shortages occur.

In a new Statement of Policy on Medicines Shortages, released yesterday, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) called on governments to seek pharmacists' expertise "when developing national drug policy decisions", particularly around cost-containment measures that may affect access to medicines.

Chair of the FIP Medicines Shortages Policy Committee, Lars-Ake Soderlund, said there was evidence that issues around medicines shortages have been worsening in recent years "compromising patient safety".

"Shortages have been reported in countries of all income levels, occurring across all healthcare settings and involving essential life-saving medicines, very commonly used medicines and both high- and low-price medicines," he said.

As part of the new policy statement FIP and its member organisations have committed to "advocating for a regulatory and policy framework that allows



pharmacists in the pharmaceutical chain to exercise their professional competence and responsibility to mitigate shortages and guarantee timely access to medicines for patients".

FIP also noted that medicines shortages have financial and resource impacts on patients associated with increases in out-of-pocket costs, while pharmacy resources are also impacted with staff trying to resolve supply issues.

"Recent data showed that pharmacy staff spend 6.6 hours per week dealing with shortages at [a] European level," FIP said.

"This also means that medicine shortages divert healthcare providers from direct patient care activities.

"In a survey undertaken in Canada in 2018, two thirds of pharmacists (67%) deal with drug shortages daily or several times a day.

"Pharmacists estimate that managing drug shortages can occupy up to 20% of their shift.

"In 2019, European hospital pharmacists stated that the impact that medicines shortages had on patients include delays in care (42%), suboptimal treatment (38%), cancellation of care (27%) and increased length of stay (18%)."

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 Pharmaceutical Society of Australia



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Talking Pain: Opioid options and alternatives

Four new learning modules to support regulatory changes and best practice in pain management.

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Extend continued dispensing: Guild

MEASURES allowing pharmacists to supply emergency quantities of medicines funded under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) need to be extended in line with emergency measures in Victoria, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia believes.

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily*, Guild Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, said the current rules empowering pharmacists to supply PBS medicines under continued dispensing are set to expire on 30 Sep.

“With the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services extending the public health emergency order that allows for continued dispensing of prescription only medicines where obtaining a prescription is not practical for the patient, it is imperative that the Federal government extend their expanded continued dispensing arrangements to recognise PBS subsidies to apply to eligible patients,” he said.

“The Victorian public health emergency order has been extended by six months and will now expire in Mar 2021 (unless revoked earlier).

“The Federal expanded continued



dispensing arrangements are due to expire 30 Sep.

“The Guild’s position is that these arrangements at both a State and Federal level should be ongoing whether we are in a state of disaster, emergency or a pandemic.

“Patients have benefited from these measures to ensure continuity of care and not add unnecessary strain on our health system.

“This is of particular importance in Victoria with metropolitan Melbourne still in Stage 4 lockdown and regional Victoria still in some form of COVID restrictions.

“The Guild has made representations direct to Minister

for Health, Greg Hunt, on the need for the expanded continued dispensing arrangements to be extended at a federal level and we await their response.”

MEANWHILE, Tassone confirmed that three of 12 Guild Victorian Branch Committee districts will be contested in the upcoming elections (*PD* 11 Sep).

The Australian Electoral Commission has yet to publish a full list of candidates running for positions on the State and Territory branches.

However, it is understood that 31 candidates are set to contest the NSW Branch elections, with all 12 districts being contested.

MedAdvisor gets e-Script approval

MEDADVISOR is set to rollout its electronic prescribing functionality to GPs, pharmacists and patients across Australia, after receiving approval from the Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA).

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX), CEO, Robert Read, said the company was the first in the Australian market with a digital app solution that helps patients keep track and organise all their e-scripts.

“The national rollout of e-prescribing provides patients with convenience, access and choice,” Read said.

“Recent studies in nations that already use e-prescribing show that more than 80% of patients prefer e-scripts to paper.

“By providing continued excellence in customer service, combined with hyper-convenient patient experiences, local pharmacists can strengthen their loyal customer base and better compete with online pharmacies.”

Fred IT to host MySL e-script webinar

PHARMACY software provider, Fred IT Group, will host a free webinar focused on the rollout of the Active Script List (ASL) electronic prescription model on 14 Oct.

The company will demonstrate its MySL ASL system, which will enable pharmacists and prescribers to gain access to a consolidated view of both electronic and paper

prescriptions issues on the eRx and Medisecure prescription exchanges, with patient consent.

The session will be hosted by Fred IT CEO, Paul Naismith, with Australian Digital Health Agency’s Director of Medicines Safety Program, Andrew Matthews, listed as a guest speaker.

The ASL model has yet to be rolled out across the communities of interest test sites.

Tuesday 29 September 2020 at 7pm (AEST)

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COVID-19 VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

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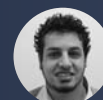


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New digital claims option

PHARMACISTS will be able to submit health insurance claims for Medibank members for private scripts using a new digital solution developed by LanternPay.

The digital payments company had partnered with Medibank and Civica Health Solutions to give a new channel to submit claims, rather than doing it manually.

Victorian pharmacy owner, Andrew Robinson, became the first pharmacist to submit a claim using the system.

“Finally, with LanternPay there is a claiming platform that allows pharmacists to deliver a better customer experience by allowing pharmacies to submit claims to private health insurers on behalf of their customers, saving our clients time and money,” he said.

No time to waste on pharmacist vax

URGENT steps need to be taken to extend pharmacist vaccination services around the globe to boost access to immunisations, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) says.

Speaking at the FIP Virtual 2020 web-conference this week, FIP CEO, Dr Catherine Duggan, said “there is no time to waste to ensure equitable access to vaccines and vaccination services to all people across the world”.

Duggan told delegates it is “an ethical and public health imperative” to diversify vaccination pathways to boost uptake.

“FIP calls on governments to recognise and fully harness the full potential of community pharmacies in public health, primary healthcare and disease prevention strategies, including vaccination,” she said.

“[And] to invest in prevention strategies, including vaccination services by all providers, including pharmacists to be truly integrated as part of the healthcare team



and to ensure equity of access to vaccinations and sustainability of the service.”

Duggan added that governments needed to act now to implement legislation to ensure that all available immunisers are eligible to administer vaccinations for COVID-19 or any future pandemic as soon as they become available, to ensure “no one is left behind”

and to relieve the burden of vaccine preventable diseases.

“Pharmacists can play an even greater part in the fight against COVID-19 and future pandemics, and even just within the societies in which we live,” she said.

The FIP CEO also issued a call for governments around the world to integrate pharmacists in emergency preparedness and response plans.

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PPA flags COVID-19 testing concerns

PHARMACY-BASED COVID-19 testing pilots in Queensland and South Australia fall short of the program they are based on, Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA), reports.

In a statement issued on its website, PPA, said officials from both Queensland and South Australia had said the trials were being based on a similar scheme in Alberta, Canada.

“The Queensland Minister for Health, Dr Steven Miles said the government wanted to trial COVID-19 testing in pharmacies to increase testing capability in Queensland,” PPA said.

“This would involve approaching people in store who were showing COVID-19 symptoms or purchasing cold and flu type products and asking them if they would like to be tested for COVID-19 by the pharmacist.

“This is how it is being trialled in South Australia.

“The Queensland proposal includes plans to move from

‘opportunistic’ testing to the use of pharmacies as testing centres in regions where there is widespread active community transmission.”

Under the Canadian province’s model patients are required to phone the pharmacy to make an appointment and are screened at that point.

“If a patient screens as being symptomatic, high-risk for previous exposure to COVID-19, or has been in close contact with a COVID-19 patient, they are referred to a government health service phone number to arrange testing at a designated testing centre, not a pharmacy,” PPA said.

“The schemes being trialled in South Australia and proposed in Queensland are very different to the scheme operating in Alberta, which government officials have cited as the reason to introduce it.

“Pharmacy patients are some of the most vulnerable people in our community – people with complex medication needs, people with multiple health issues, and the



elderly who rely on medication for chronic illness and conditions.

“Pharmacies are primarily retail and health spaces that are not designed to be communicable disease testing centres.

“We do not want people who are showing COVID-19 symptoms to present to pharmacies mixing with vulnerable members of the public.”

An online petition being conducted by PPA calling on the Queensland Government to scrap its plan for pharmacy-based COVID testing has received close to 500 signatures.

Dispensary Corner

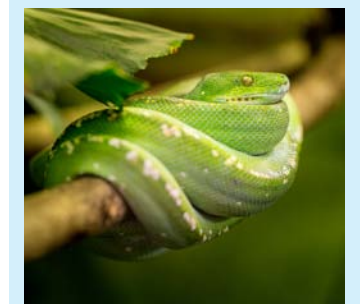
NOT merely an item of personal protective equipment, face masks have become fashion accessories in recent months.

Throughout the US Open Tennis Championships, World No 3, Naomi Osaka, sported masks acknowledging the victims of US police brutality, and US pharmacist, Caroline Dees has been producing masks inspired by celebrities (PD 27 Jul).

However, the most intriguing face covering the Dispensary Corner team have stumbled across since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic was sported by a gentleman spotted on a bus in Manchester, UK recently.

Far from the traditional multi-layered piece of cloth stitched together this commuter had opted to sport a live snake - potentially ensuring fellow passengers are not tempted to break social distancing requirements.

Despite the waterproof qualities of snakeskin, health officials have insisted that a live snake is not a suitable alternative to a mask, suggesting a scarf or bandanna would be more effective.



VIC COVID cases

THE number of Victorian pharmacists who have recorded positive tests for COVID-19 reached 67 last week, new data reveals.

The Victoria Department of Health and Human Services weekly update reported 100 health workers were infected last week, including one pharmacist.

Aged care and disability workers continued have the highest number of positive cases, followed by nurses and medical practitioners.

Win With John Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and John Plunkett's are giving away a SuperBright Exfoliating Skin Brightener Serum worth RRP \$29.95



Overnight micro-cellular exfoliation containing salon strength glycolic acid (25%) in a buffered solution for easy at-home treatment. Reduces fine lines and surface discolouration, revealing brighter, clearer new skin without visible peeling. Lactokine protects against potential inflammation and Aloe Vera soothes and hydrates. For more information click [HERE](#).

Q: What are 2 other ingredients in Exfoliating Skin Brightener Serum?

To win be the first to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au