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## Continued dispensing here to stay

**EMERGENCY** dispensing measures introduced during the bushfire and COVID-19 crises are set to be extended “for the foreseeable future”, Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, says.

Addressing a meeting of the World Pharmacy Council last week, Hunt praised the efforts of pharmacists across the globe for their efforts to support communities through the COVID crisis, which he described as, “a challenge like no other we have seen”.

“Pharmacists have been truly heroic,” he said.

“We have [seen] an amazing pharmacist network in Australia throughout COVID-19 and this is replicated around the world.

“[In Australia] we have had 5,000-plus community pharmacies that kept their doors open throughout COVID-19 despite the risk of infection and the abuse that some copped in the early days.

“Pharmacists and pharmacies have been an incredible community

support not only in Australia but also around the world.

“In conjunction with pharmacists and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, we have introduced continued dispensing arrangements...and we will be extending this for the foreseeable future.”

Under current measures approval for continued dispensing is set to expire at the end of this month, with Federal, State and Territory governments needing to extend authorities to facilitate ongoing use of the emergency measure.

The commitment to extending continued dispensing follows Hunt’s announcement that the Federal Government has allocated an additional \$2 billion to ensure the continuation of COVID measures including the Home Medicines Service and telehealth consultations (PD 18 Sep).

“This is subsidised by the Federal Government with a payment to pharmacies for each home delivery resulting in over one



million deliveries and 80% of our community pharmacies involved... temporary changes that are far more likely to be permanent changes that modernise our delivery system,” Hunt said.

“Pharmacies have also played a significant and emerging role in the provision of vaccinations and further work is being done to have pharmacy as part of the distribution and recording network for the COVID vaccine when it becomes available.”

## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today has two pages of the latest pharmacy news including a **Weekly Comment** column from SkinB5, plus a full page from the **Australasian College of Pharmacy**.

## 3-PLY FABRIC FACE MASKS FOR KIDS



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## Mask notices

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued non-compliance notices to five sponsors relating to face masks, stemming from a post-market review.

The sponsors are required to make labelling amendments to comply with regulatory labelling requirements or change their Australia Register of Therapeutic Goods entry.

## Do your customers have monthly mood swings?

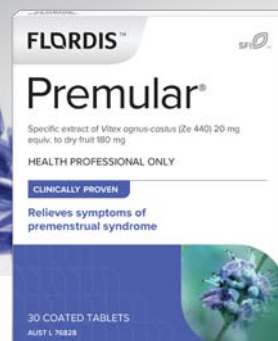
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\*Schellenberg R, et al., BMJ 2001;322:134-137. Berger D, et al., Arch Gynecol Obstet 2000;264:150-153. Schellenberg R, et al., Phytomedicine 2012; 19:1325-1331





## Dispensary Corner

**THE** hotly anticipated winners of this year's Ig Nobel awards have been announced, with the ceremony demonstrating some amazing strides forward in human scientific knowledge.

The awards celebrate Improbable Research, with studies making the grade this year including proof that narcissists prefer bushy eyebrows ("Eyebrows Cue Grandiose Narcissism") as well as a study of a knife made from human feces ("Experimental Replication Shows Knives Manufactured from Frozen Human Feces Do Not Work").

Economic research included a study of osculation across the globe, aiming to quantify the relationship between income inequality and the average amount of mouth-to-mouth kissing in various countries.

An intriguing report in the field of entomology won an Ig Nobel for its finding that people who study insects are actually disproportionately afraid of spiders, while the Ig Nobel for medicine went to the researchers who formally identified the new medical condition called misophonia, which is "distress at hearing other people make chewing sounds".

An Ig Nobel for Medical Education went to the leaders of the USA, UK, Brazil, India, Mexico, Turkey, Russia and Turkmenistan "for using the COVID-19 viral pandemic to teach the world that politicians can have a more immediate effect on life and death than scientists and doctors can".

## Remuneration critical

**GOVERNMENTS** across the globe are being urged to implement sustainable funding models for pharmacist-delivered professional services.

Launching the International Pharmaceutical Federation's (FIP) Sustainability of pharmacists-delivered professional services through viable remuneration models, policy statement, FIP Board of Pharmaceutical Practice Chair (and former Pharmacy Guild of Australia National Vice President) Paul Sinclair, stressed the need for a strong viable pharmacy sector.

"A common concern among pharmacy associations worldwide is the long-term financial viability of professional services delivered by pharmacists," he said.

"These concerns are first and foremost triggered by the impacts of continued price and margin cuts in dispensing of medicines and the non-allocation of funding in many settings for extended professional services and social care.



"A successful remuneration model is one that promotes sustainable delivery of professional services.

"These should be integrated into broader health system strategies and, therefore, funding plans. COVID-19 has proven how important pharmacy is to health care.

"Governments and policymakers must acknowledge that the viability of the pharmacy profession is an issue for the broader health sector and society as a whole."

**CLICK HERE** to read the policy statement in full.

## Pharmacists face 3% rego fee hike

**PROFESSIONAL** registration renewal fees for pharmacists for the 2020/21 year have been increased by 3% to \$420 for general registration.

Announcing the fee hike, Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) CEO, Martin Fletcher, noted health professionals struggling through the COVID-19 pandemic would be offered access to a renewal fee payment plan.

"2020 has shown us all how much we rely on health practitioners to keep us safe," he said.

"Frontline health practitioners are playing a vital role in treating and containing COVID-19 and we are all sincerely grateful for your commitment, professionalism and for the care you provide.

"AHPRA works closely with National Boards to make sure the fees set allow us to carry out our duties to ensure the community has access to a safe health workforce across all registered professions."

General registrants whose principle place of practice is NSW face an additional \$72 surcharge for general registration.



## Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Judy Cheung-Wood, Inventor, Founder, Managing Director, SkinB5**



### Getting your groove back with the B's

We all need to get our groove back - and fast! Spring is here and we want to shake off that 2020 feeling, so I wanted to share what I consider to be critical 3 B's and how they can help you get your mojo back!

- Be active – shed the sluggish feeling
- Be creative – keep your spirit and spark alive
- B vitamins – essential nutrients to feel great

Be active, be creative are really self-explanatory, however B Vitamins are essential nutrients that are often lacking in our diets and misunderstood.

There is a growing body of scientific evidence in recent years, recognising nutritional deficiency as contributing to the underlying causes of mood disturbance. B vitamins play a role in producing the brain chemicals that affect mood and other brain functions. Many people do not realise that low levels of B vitamins, including Vitamin B5 may be linked to increased risk and incidence of depression. The B vitamins, essential for a range of important functions in the body, and are water-soluble vitamins meaning they are not stored in the body, so we need to eat foods that contain them and/or take a nutritional supplement that has good levels of vitamin Bs. [Click here](#) for more.



# YOUR EXCLUSIVE UPDATE ON COVID-19 VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

**from the perspective of the University of Queensland**

This webinar will assist participants in understanding about the development journey of the University of Queensland's COVID-19 vaccination.

**PROFESSOR PAUL YOUNG**



**THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND**  
AUSTRALIA



Professor Young completed his PhD at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and was appointed to a lectureship in the University of London in 1986. He returned to Australia as Senior Research Fellow at the Sir Albert Sakzewski Virus Research Centre in 1989 and joined the University of Queensland as a Senior Lecturer in 1991. Prof. Young is the Chair of the Virology Division of the International Union for Microbiological Societies. He is the past President of both the Australian Society for Microbiology and the Asia Pacific Society for Medical Virology. Prof. Young is currently leading the development of the University of Queensland's COVID-19 vaccine.

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