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Doctors back prescription e-cigs

PLANS to make vaporised nicotine products Prescription-Only are being welcomed by medical organisations.

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Acting President, Dr Ayman Shenouda, described the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) interim decision as "sound", adding "we need to be

very cautious when it comes to e-cigarettes or vaping".

"Some pro-vaping organisations claim that these products cause less harm and constitute an effective harm reduction approach," he said.

"However, we simply do not know the long-term health effects of using e-cigarettes.

"The question of whether they are an effective smoking cessation tool has also divided public health experts.

"This is not a smoking cessation aid that should be embraced by all smokers in the community.

"We view it as a last resort prescription for people who have tried and tried to quit smoking but nevertheless failed."

Australian Medical Association (AMA) President, Dr Omar Khorshid, also backed the move warning vaping could "glamorise smoking, and lead people who have not smoked before to take up the habit".



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has adopted a cautious approach to the proposal with NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, saying there was a need to weigh up the risks and benefits associated with vaping compared to smoking (**PD 23 Sep**).

Unlock online retail potential

PHARMACIES have had to adjust to a lot of changes in 2020, with the COVID-19 pandemic driving significant changes in consumer behaviour.

To help pharmacists adapt to the rise of online sales, retail e-commerce expert, Storbie is hosting a free webinar on 14 Oct.

See **page four** for more.

UQ COVID vax

THE Australasian College of Pharmacy will host a webinar on Tue 29 Sep, outlining the development of the University of Queensland's potential COVID-19 vaccination.

During the event, project lead, Professor Paul Young, will provide pharmacists with an understanding about the development journey of the vaccine.

See **page five** for more.

PHARMACY LAW EXPERTS

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Our personal approach & intimate knowledge of the pharmacy sector makes us well equipped to assist you with:

- ✓ Applications to the ACPA
- ✓ Establishing or relocating
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- ✓ Advising on PBS approvals
- ✓ Partnership & shareholder disputes
- ✓ Retail leases & disputes
- ✓ Disputes & litigation
- ✓ Insolvency & debt recovery
- ✓ Representations to Government/statutory bodies
- ✓ Business structuring

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages packed with the latest news, plus full pages from:

- Storbie
- Australasian College of Pharmacy

CHP Australia Industry Update

World Pharmacists Day

Pharmacists throughout the pandemic have not wavered in their enduring commitment to the community, keeping their doors open despite the challenges and risks.

Pharmacists play a valuable and indispensable role as facilitators of self-care and engaging individuals in the proactive management of their health. They also have the skills and experience to relieve capacity and budgetary pressures on our healthcare system.

Annually in Australia, it is estimated*, for self-treatable conditions there are between 232,507 - 922,012 unnecessary ED visits, and between 8.8 - 26.6 million unnecessary GP visits, at a cost of between \$511 million - \$1.67 billion.

These unnecessary, costly medical interventions could be managed more efficiently through responsible self-care with sufficient advice and support from a pharmacist.

A comprehensive UTS evaluation* of a common ailments scheme estimated that 7-21.2% of all GP consultations and 2.9-11.5% of all ED services could be safely transferred to a community pharmacy.

Researchers determined there was "good evidence that the clinical advice provided by community pharmacists regarding symptoms of minor illness will result in the same health outcomes as if the patient went to see their GP or attended the emergency department".

[*Read the UTS evaluation here](#)



Please join us for a live webcast with **Joyce McSwan**

CPD points *accreditation pending

STRESS DURING THE COVID-19 ERA: Identifying and managing post-herpetic neuralgia in your pharmacy



Facilitator:
Chris Campbell, B. Pharm, MPS



Wed 7th Oct, 8:00 PM AEDT

Join Joyce McSwan as she examines the development of post-herpetic neuralgia in the context of stress in the COVID-19 environment and the importance of frontline pharmacy in recognising, advising and managing these patients.

Date of preparation: August 2020. SEQ/NVD/0820/0118b.

Register at:

www.stressandnervepain.com.au

Access code: PD0710



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AUSTRALIAN MEDICINES HANDBOOK

Tas honours top pharmacists

THE professionalism and commitment of pharmacists, Dianne Brown and Ilwoo Park have been honoured at the Tasmanian Pharmacy Awards.

The event co-hosted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia and the University of Tasmania, saw Brown receive the Lifetime Achievement Award, for her “unconditional devotion to the healthcare of people in the communities she has served” over the course of her 45-year career.

Presenting the Early Career Pharmacists of the Year Award to Park, PSA Tasmanian Branch President, Dr Ella van Tienen, noted she brings “enthusiasm and professionalism to every task”.

Vic now a Community of Interest

VICTORIA is set to be the first State to rollout electronic prescriptions after the Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) announced plans to extend its Communities of Interest test program to include the entire state.

Since the first e-script was dispensed in May more than 100,000 prescriptions have been issued using the token system.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, welcomed the decision to expand the program state-wide following the success of its lockdown rollout in Melbourne last month.

“With more doctors practising telehealth particularly in Victoria during the COVID restrictions – there has been a significant demand on pharmacies to dispense prescriptions from a digital image of a prescription (e.g. fax or email prescription) which has placed a higher administrative burden on

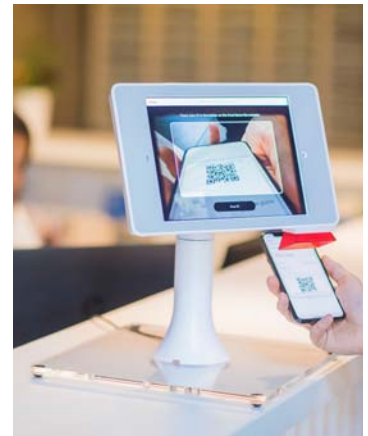
pharmacy staff,” he said.

“Also, under Victorian law a fax or email prescription is not a legal order for supply for all medicines such as Schedule 8s and benzodiazepines where the original prescription is still required.

“E-prescriptions help address this not only during the COVID pandemic, but also have other benefits for patients in the longer term with not having to handle hard copy paper prescriptions.

“Whilst there have been some benefits with the introduction of e-prescription tokens in Melbourne and now across Victoria – the sooner we can introduce the Active Script List form of e-scripts the better as there will be even more potential benefits for a larger group of patients, particularly those who take multiple and long term medications.

“It is essential that local general practices work with their local pharmacy colleagues to ensure



they are enabled and ready to dispense e-prescriptions, and ultimately and most importantly it is still the patient’s choice whether they receive an electronic prescription.

“If pharmacies need assistance in getting enabled and ready to dispense electronic prescription – they should contact their dispensary software provider.”

Court issues final ruling on Maxigesic

THE Federal Court has issued final orders relating to claims that AFT Pharmaceuticals’ Maxigesic is more efficacious than paracetamol or ibuprofen alone.

The orders reflect a judgement made by the Court last month (PD 05 Aug), which ruled AFT had engaged in misleading or deceptive conduct in contravention of Australian Consumer Law.

RB Health, the sponsor of

ibuprofen brand, Nurofen, and ibuprofen and paracetamol combination medication, Nuromol, welcomed the decision.

“With this matter now resolved RB Health looks forward to continuing to work on our objective to make access to the highest quality health and wellness solutions for all Australians a right not a privilege,” a spokesperson said.

The Court awarded costs to RB.

TGA changes sport supplement regs

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced changes to regulations of sports supplements will come into effect from 30 Nov.

The new regulations have been implemented to address safety risks of certain products that have been readily available in Australia as foods.

The changes will affect products that include substances listed on the World Anti-Doping Authority

list of prohibited substances, contain substances that are in a Schedule to the Poisons Standard, or contain ingredients that have been specified as inappropriate for inclusion in sport supplement foods because of the risk they pose to consumers.

From 30 Nov 2023 the regulations will also affect sports supplements in the form of tablets, capsules or pills.

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Female pharmacists face harassment

PHARMACISTS in the US are being urged to take stock of how their actions allow “sexism [to] endure” in the profession.

Responding to an online petition calling on pharmacy organisations to address the challenges preventing female pharmacists from speaking out about sexism and sexual misconduct, the American Pharmacy Association (APhA) said the profession needed to eliminate discrimination in all its forms.

“The petition inspired a wave of women to share their own stories of abuse and harassment based on their gender,” the APhA said.

“The petition also led to discussions about the unfairness of guilty parties receiving tenure-track promotions, positions of power, and professional awards and accolades with no consideration of their unprofessional and destructive

treatment of their female peers.

“This is a very real threat to pharmacy and the patients we serve.

“When women are sexually harassed, and when their achievements are subjugated and disregarded, we are deprived of valuable perspectives, ideas, and innovations that could propel us forward.

“Every one of us, especially men, needs to take an honest inventory of how we think and act, and how we play a role in letting sexism endure. APhA members and staff must do so as well, not only as individuals but as an organisation.”

The APhA said that prior to the launch of the petition, the organisation had convened a joint taskforce with the Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science, and the American



Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, aimed at ensuring gender equity in careers in the sciences.

The organisation added the petition had “motivated pharmacy groups, APhA and others, to reevaluate their actions to support women in the profession and recommit to living their principles, and it has amplified a conversation that must be ongoing”.

Dispensary Corner

HAND hygiene has been front and centre of the battle to minimise the spread of COVID-19, however, it appears other aspects of personal grooming have taken a backseat in recent months.

PZ Cussons, the manufacturer of Imperial Leather soap and Carex hand-sanitiser has reported a sharp decline in sales of shower gels during the pandemic.

The company’s CEO, Jonathan Myers, noted that “some of the personal categories that would be very much used when you’re going to work are being less used”, including cosmetics, deodorant and shaving products.

The decline in personal hygiene sales has not been restricted to Britain, with Australian retailers also reporting an 8.7% dip in sales of men’s deodorant since Apr.

With office workers less concerned with their scent while working from home during the crisis, PZ Cussons has reported that sales of fake tan has rebounded, with many clearly wanting to maintain an oompa loompa glow for Zoom meetings and conference calls.



Next stop pharmacy for bus driver

FORMER London bus driver, Israel Marfo (41), is living his dream doing his preregistration training to become a pharmacist after a decade of full-time study.

Marfo, originally from Ghana, had left school with a passion for chemistry, but no formal qualifications.

After deciding to pursue a career in pharmacy, he secured Applied Science and Biomedical Science qualifications before completing a three-year Access to Higher Education course to pave his way to the University of Wolverhampton’s MPharm course, which he has recently finished.

“Everyone thought I was stupid to give up my job as a bus driver



in London,” he said.

“But now that I’m training to be a pharmacist and have almost achieved my goal I am proud that I have made a better life for myself.

“It’s an amazing achievement.”

While studying full-time Marfo has also volunteered at local pharmacies and worked part-time in a warehouse and in security roles.

iHealth, API deal

PROPELL, the Australian distributor of iHealth medical devices has reached an agreement with wholesaler, Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API) to boost access to health monitors.

iHealth’s presence in the pharmacy sector has been growing in recent months, with the COVID-19 pandemic accelerating the acceptance of the brand’s devices, which can be linked to smart phones to allow patients track and share data regarding their vital signs with health professionals.

Propell CEO, Craig Simmonds, said the deal with API would ensure more patients would be able to access devices.



FREE WEBINAR

UNLOCKING THE CHALLENGE OF ONLINE RETAIL

Tuesday 13th October 2020

 **STORBIE**

Let's be honest, we know you're doing it tough. 2020 is a year that will remain etched in our memories for the rest of our lives. Amongst the many lessons thrust upon us this year, the reality of this new, more remote, more connected and more digital world is front and centre.

If you're looking at the high-end brands and big discount pharmacies who are doing amazing things to adapt to online channels then you might be feeling a little discouraged.

The good news is, you're not alone and it's not your fault. In fact, there are factors at play which are having more of an impact on your ability to adapt to online channels than you might think.

In our experience, this can be measured with two key variables: the availability of resources and the

complexity of the industry supply chain. Where your business sits on these key variables has a massive impact on the way you need to approach your digital strategy.

At Storbie, we're big on supporting the independent pharmacies and we've got two great offers for you!

First, we're hosting a FREE WEBINAR on Unlocking the Challenge of Online Retail. We'll give you the tools to assess where your pharmacy is now and make a path forward to digital success!

Second, in the spirit of supporting local, we're offering a prize pack of goodies from local, independent retailers valued at over \$250! Register now to go in the draw - the winner will be announced during the webinar on October 13.

[Register for Webinar](#)

DON'T MISS OUT!

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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