

Testosterone “experiment” leads to ban

A SYDNEY pharmacist has been given a two year ban against working as a pharmacist-in-charge and banned from compounding medications in his pharmacy, as part of a formal reprimand for illegally importing testosterone to make compounded medications.

The NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal issued the ruling last week in the wake of a 2019 conviction over the importation of 7.5kg of testosterone without a permit.

According to evidence tendered during a hearing, the pharmacist had previously told the Pharmacy Council of NSW that “I quite like making things and experimenting and that sort of thing”.

He had planned to compound testosterone products, with the aim of canvassing aged care doctors and cosmetic surgeons about their patients’ needs for low-dose items and an injectable product that would be more effective because it was dissolved in oils.

The pharmacist had also hoped to develop a product which combined a blood pressure medication with a statin and an antidepressant into a single capsule.

An expert witness who testified at the hearing noted the pharmacist

had also admitted to importing testosterone for his own use, while previous proceedings had also seen other conditions imposed on his registration from as early as 2011, including a requirement for random Urine Drug Testing.

However the judgement also noted there was no allegation that the pharmacist was not competent to practise, unsuitable for registration as a pharmacist, or guilty of professional misconduct.

Last week’s formal reprimand included a requirement not to possess, supply, dispense, administer or manufacture any S8, S4B or S4D substance for a period of 24 months, and also undergo mentoring by an experienced pharmacist approved by the Council.

The pharmacist was ordered to apply for Quality Care Pharmacy Program (QCPP) accreditation within four weeks, and obtain QCPP accreditation in the next six months as well as maintain it for a period of at least three years.

No compounding is permitted at any pharmacy in which he has a financial interest, and the manufacturing of any preparation containing testosterone may not take place in his pharmacy, the

Tribunal ordered.

Records of the hearing also raised additional “matters of concern” including dispensing records from the pharmacy in question showing a total of 170 Panadeine Forte tablets dispensed to a patient over a four week period in 2017, as well as a total of 500 dexamphetamine 5mg tablets to another patient and other large quantities of Valium, Normison and Ritalin.

The Tribunal noted these details would be forwarded to the Medical Council of NSW.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from Nova Pharmaceuticals.

Bubs teething gel

BUBS & Co's unique alcohol-free teething gel with choline salicylate is now available to Australian pharmacies through API, Symbion and DHL.

More details on page four of today's Pharmacy Daily.

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References: 1. Resolve Plus Product Information. Date of Most Recent Amendment 26 October 2018. 2. Van Cutsem JM, Thiépoint D. Miconazole, a broad-spectrum antimycotic agent with antibacterial activity. *Chemotherapy* 1972;17:392-404.

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Sigma to launch aged care family portal

SIGMA Healthcare's MPS dose administration aid business is set to launch a newly developed "family portal" which will alert family members of any changes made to medications prescribed to residents of aged care facilities.

The initiative was revealed in an annual review of Sigma's operations released on Fri, which highlighted a range of activities undertaken by the MPS business as it navigated the complexities of COVID-19.

The pandemic saw aged care facilities lock down numerous times and some closures, with resident numbers down across the country, particularly in Victoria.

MPS ensured continuity of supply to its 50,000 clients by investing in extra hygiene activities, increased consumable stock levels, separation of shifts to mitigate risks of cross-contamination, and introduced COVID-Safe plans at all three of its TGA-accredited sites.

The last 12 months also saw the business add about 4,800 new residents in Brisbane from four major Aged Care providers.

"Committed to providing communities and patients with positive health outcomes, MPS spent time connecting with doctors, nurses, facility managers, pharmacists, aged care residents



and their families throughout the year, to better understand their needs and wants," the company said, with the new family portal a key outcome of these discussions.

Also new for MPS is the development of a new software program enabling the company to enter into the electronic National Residential Medications Chart (eNMRC) trial being undertaken by the Australian Government's Digital Health Agency.

The platform assists doctors to move from a paper-based script to an electronic version, which then feeds into the MPS pharmacy software for confirmation by the pharmacist.

This in turn integrates with an

electronic dose software system used by the nurses in each facility.

"The eNMRC replaces a manual paper system that currently exists in managing the residents' medication, and moves the whole medication management to an electronic system, reducing risks and enabling better care outcomes," the company said.

The MPS eNMRC software was approved by the Government in Dec 2020 & will go live this month.

Meanwhile the new "family portal" under development will advise family members when any changes are made "so they will always be kept in the loop about their loved ones' medication management".

Customer raises robbery alarm

POLICE in Christchurch, NZ are seeking a pharmacy thief who held up Burwood Pharmacy on the city's Parnwell St last Fri afternoon.

The alarm was raised by a quick thinking customer who slipped out of the pharmacy when she saw the armed attacker threaten staff.

The offender filled a bag with pharmaceuticals before taking the pharmacist's car keys in order to make his escape.

Despite arriving just moments after the robber left, police have not yet made an arrest.

Sigma pay policy

SIGMA Healthcare has changed the Remuneration Framework for its senior executives, which saw CEO Mark Hooper receive a one-off cash bonus of \$661,000 for successfully undertaking the company's Project Pivot Business Transformation program.

Hooper's total remuneration for the year was \$3.89 million, but the company has revamped the framework following a "first strike" vote against the policy at last year's Sigma Annual General Meeting.

Changes include increases to financial Key Performance Indicators, and the introduction of a 12-month deferral of 25% of short-term incentives.

The Sigma Board noted the previous pay policy had reflected unique circumstances including the API takeover bid and the non-renewal of the Chemist Warehouse supply pact.

Take Home naloxone price changes

NEW amounts payable for injectable forms of naloxone (Prenoxad, Naloxone Juno, Naloxone hydrochloride (DBL) and Junalox) became effective under the 2021 April Cycle of the Price Disclosure Reductions for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

The Pharmacy Programs Administrator has confirmed that

accordingly any claims under the Take Home Naloxone Pilot program lodged with a date of supply on or after 01 Apr will be paid according to the newly advised amounts.

As per existing guidelines, Authorised Alternative Suppliers do not receive payment for supply of naloxone products under the pilot - more info [HERE](#).

NZ considers J&J

NEW Zealand's Medsafe regulator will tomorrow consider an application for approval of the Johnson & Johnson single-shot COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen 5 x 1010 virus particles is being considered for provisional consent, subject to a range of proposed conditions.



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Dispensary Corner

AUSTRALIA'S vaccination disarray is now a stark contrast to some other nations, including the USA where the relatively smooth rollout is seeing activist groups jump on the bandwagon to incentivise immunisations.

One unusual example is an organisation called DC Marijuana Justice, which has announced a free cannabis giveaway for those who get a COVID-19 vaccination.

The initiative, dubbed Joints for Jabs, aims to highlight the need for further cannabis policy reform, and will see "dozens of home cannabis cultivators" hand out free bags of weed outside mass vaccination centres which are expected to open in the US capital shortly.

"We are looking for ways to safely celebrate the end of the pandemic, and we know nothing brings people together like cannabis," said the group's co-founder Nikolas Schiller.

He said the pandemic had made it incredibly difficult for many people to share their home-grown marijuana.

P&G buys Voost Vitamins

THE Procter & Gamble Company (P&G) has purchased Australian effervescent vitamin brand Voost Vitamins, saying the move sees the company "strengthen its personal healthcare footprint in Australia".

P&G already owns Vicks and Metamucil, and said the Voost deal adds "a broad range of consumer-preferred vitamins, minerals and supplements (VMS) that will complement our current offerings".

P&G Personal Health Care President, Paul Gama, said "VMS is one of the largest and fastest-growing categories in the over-the-counter health care industry and remains and important segment for P&G...we are pleased to continue investing in our business and advancing our VMS offerings by adding another superior brand to our strong healthcare portfolio".

Melbourne-based Voost was launched in 2013 "with a mission to disrupt the effervescent category and provide millennial consumers with the highest quality effervescent vitamins and minerals which are affordable yet don't compromise on quality or taste," according to Voost Vitamins co-founder and MD, Thomas Siebel.

"With a focus on premium ingredients, great taste and a

beautiful contemporary design, we have developed one of the largest selections of effervescent formulations in the world and are now the leading effervescent supplement brand in Australia with a strong customer base across both domestic and international markets," Siebel said.

"I am incredibly proud of what my dedicated team has been able to achieve over the past seven years, and I have no doubt that the strength and global leadership of P&G will elevate the brand to a new level and enable Voost to reach further markets and experience strong, sustained growth in the years to come," he added.

P&G Senior VP for Australia and New Zealand, Kumar Venkatasubramanian, said the company would aim to accelerate Voost's strong growth momentum in Australia, with the products distributed locally across grocery and pharmacy outlets as well as having an international presence via distributors in Hong Kong, Singapore and the UK.

Other P&G brands include Pantene, Gillette, Oral-B, Head & Shoulders, Tampax, Old Spice, Olay, Aussie Hair Care, Clearblue and Febreze.

Endone theft

AN ENROLLED nurse who worked in the emergency department of a Queensland hospital has been formally reprimanded after a 2018 guilty plea for stealing Endone.

The theft was discovered during a reconciliation of medication logbooks and patient records, revealing that the nurse had stolen the pain killer on 18 occasions over a six month period from Oct 2017.

She was found to have made fake entries in Schedule Medicine Registers, and in Dec 2019 pleaded guilty in the Bundaberg Magistrates Court and was sentenced to a 15 month probation order.

The nurse surrendered her registration in Nov 2018, with a recent hearing in the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal deeming the behaviour as professional misconduct but accepting her two year non-practice period as a "de facto" suspension.

The hearing noted the nurse had suffered a 2013 work injury leading to chronic pain and prescriptions for Endone, Tramadol and Panadeine Forte.

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