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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from **Sigma Healthcare**.

Psychotropics in aged care event

ACCREDITED pharmacist, Nicole Dilworth, will discuss the use of psychotropics in aged care during a webinar hosted by the Australasian College of Pharmacy on Tue 04 May at 7pm AEST.

The webinar will provide a practical overview of the use of antipsychotics and medicines that may be misused as chemical restraints in the elderly, and focus on the role of pharmacists in addressing this issue, highlighted by the Royal Commission on Aged Care.

CLICK HERE to register for the webinar.

Pharmacy values set to rise in 2021

CLOSE to 40% of pharmacists expect the value of community pharmacies in Australia to rise in the next 12 months, the University of Technology Sydney, Pharmacy Barometer reveals.

The results of the 2020 Barometer reading, released earlier this week, revealed the proportion of pharmacy owners and managers who reported that sale prices of pharmacies in 2021 will increase, jumped to 37.1%, from 25.2% in 2019, while 40.5% anticipate values to rise in the next three years.

Of those who anticipate values to go up over the next 12 months, the average forecast increase was 14.7%.

"Pharmacists' sense of confidence in the medium-term future based on projected value changes appears to be stronger over three-year projections when compared with 12 months ago," the report said.

"With the Seventh Community



Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) providing a guaranteed level of income through dispensing remuneration, a growing sense of confidence in the economic stability of the profession has emerged, with 68% of pharmacists believing their value will increase or remain the same over the next three years.

"Pharmacists appear to have taken the challenges of COVID-19 and the

introduction of the 7CPA in their stride and emerged more confident.

"Having accustomed themselves with the strategic changes of the 6CPA, they have embraced the potential stability the 7CPA provides for the future viability of pharmacy and are more confident in the potential growth opportunities it provides over the medium-term future than that of the 6CPA."

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APOTEX CONSUMER PRODUCTS



Guild demands vax claim apology

SUGGESTIONS that community pharmacists are administering “weaker” flu vaccines to elderly patients, aired on *Channel Seven Perth* on Tue, should be retracted and clarified immediately, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia believes.

The Guild’s WA Branch President, Andrew Ngeow, has called on the broadcaster to correct the error made in a report relating to claims made by a South Australian GP (PD 28 Apr).

Ngeow said the broadcaster had a responsibility to clarify community pharmacy’s participation in the WA National Immunisation Program (NIP).

He added that the WA Department of Health advised that “all available quadrivalent influenza vaccines (QIVs) can be used for individuals aged 65 and older through the NIP”.

“However, the specially formulated adjuvanted QIV, Flud Quad, is preferentially



recommended over standard QIVs,” he said.

“Quite simply, there is no weaker vaccine, only approved vaccines.

“We were dismayed that inaccuracies in the *Channel Seven Perth* report may have caused confusion to our vulnerable elderly population, resulting in their delaying receiving an influenza vaccine through the NIP.

“At the time of a global pandemic, the importance of increasing access to vaccines has never been greater and we demand *Channel Seven Perth* address their error.”

MEANWHILE, the Guild’s National President, Trent Twomey, has called on all State and Territory Governments to embrace a harmonised policy on pharmacist access to the NIP.

CWH pulls Bondi Protein Co bar

CHEMIST Warehouse (CWH) has been forced to withdraw Bondi Protein Co’s chocolate and salted caramel vegan protein bars from its stores over concerns they contain undeclared allergens, *news.com.au* reports.

Announcing the recall, Food Standards Australia and New Zealand warned that consumers who have peanut allergies or intolerances may have a reaction if the product is consumed.

The recall is being conducted by Yours Truly Chocolates, and customers are advised to contact CWH’s customer service team if they require more information.

The affected batches of the chocolate bars have best before dates of 04 Feb 2022 and 14 Mar 2022, while the salted caramel bars have an expiry date of 29 Jan 2022.

PSA welcomes Tassie NIP support

COMMITMENTS from both the Liberal and Labor parties to extend the role of pharmacists in Tasmania, including giving the profession access to National Immunisation Program (NIP) vaccines, is being welcomed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

Tasmanian PSA Branch President, Dr Ella van Tienen, said such measures would boost

vaccine uptake across the State and bring it into line with Victoria, the ACT, NSW and Western Australia.

“Enabling pharmacists to administer all vaccines will reduce the burden of vaccine preventable disease,” she said.

Van Tienen called on both parties to commit to back a collaborative pharmacist-prescribing pilot in aged care.



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Hunt on for pharmacy robber

POLICE on the Gold Coast are investigating an armed robbery at a Southport pharmacy on Mon night.

The bandit entered the Nerang Street store at 9.50pm dressed in black, brandishing a gun and demanded money and prescription medications.

The man walked behind the dispensary counter and pointed the weapon at the pharmacist, before saying "open the till, open the till".

After handing over money from the cash register the robber then asked the pharmacist to hand over medication, sparking a stand-off with the pharmacist who was seen on CCTV to be holding a metal bar.

The thief then fled on foot.

Police reported that no one was injured during the robbery.



Trust in pharmacists falls

HEALTH professionals remain Australia's most highly regarded workers, but consumers' trust in pharmacists, doctors and nurses has waned during the COVID-19 pandemic research reveals.

Data from the *Roy Morgan Image of Professions Survey 2021*, reported that pharmacists were the third-ranked profession when it came to ethics and honesty, with 76% of respondents giving them a "high" or "very high" rating, down from 84% in 2017, when the last poll was taken.

Roy Morgan CEO, Michele Levine, noted that the nursing profession topped the poll for the 24th successive survey, with 88% of respondents backing the honesty of nurses (down from 94% in 2017), followed by doctors (82%) who saw consumers' faith in them fall by 7%.

"Nurses have been front and centre around the world during the last year as we've dealt with the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic," she said.

"Luckily for local nurses, Australia has dealt exceptionally well with the pandemic and we have largely avoided an out-of-control situation, although many Victorians would fairly argue we came close during



the middle of 2020.

"Once again other professions entrusted with looking after our health are close behind with doctors on 82% and pharmacists on 76% filling out the second and third spots overall – although all three leaders have declined from four years ago."

Pharmacists' 76% rating saw confidence in the profession dip to its lowest level since Australia's last recession in 1991.

While the majority of professions saw public confidence in them dip, union leaders saw a 2% increase in consumers' faith in their ethics and honesty, up to 19%, with public servants, Federal and State politicians' rating fell to 7%.



Dispensary Corner

COVID-19-INDUCED lockdowns are not only knocking public morale, they also seem to be killing romance, research from The Kinsey Institute reveals.

While the US-based organisation found that couples embraced the early days of restrictions as an opportunity to rekindle their lusty desires, the novelty wore off as the health crisis wore on.

Social psychologist from The Kinsey Institute, Justin Lehmiller, attributed the slump in desire to people being "just too stressed out".

Lehmiller also suggested the drop off in couples engaging intimate moments may also have been fuelled by the "overexposure effect", with lovers spending close to every minute of every day together for extended periods killing the sense of mystery he said was key to maintaining desire in a long-term relationship.

While Lehmiller noted that some couples tried new positions, indulged in fantasies or gave each other massages in an effort to spice things up in the bedroom, he added that despite restrictions on movements, some people turned to cheating on their partners for the first time.



Pill consultation

PROPOSALS to reschedule a number of oral contraceptives as Schedule 3 Appendix M will be discussed at the next Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling meeting.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration is inviting stakeholders to make submissions about the proposals by 27 May.

CLICK HERE for more details.

SAY HI

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