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REFERENCES: 1. Koetter U, et al. A randomized, double blind, placebo-controlled, prospective clinical study to demonstrate clinical efficacy of a fixed valerian hops extract combination (Ze 91019) in patients suffering from non-organic sleep disorder. *Phytother Res* 2007;21(9):847-51. 2. Füssel A, et al. Effect of a fixed valerian-hop extract combination (Ze 91019) on sleep polygraphy in patients with non-organic insomnia: a pilot study. *Eur J Med Res.* 2000;5:385-90. 3. Notter D, et al. Efficacy and safety of a valerian-hops combination-preparation in different sleep disorders, a therapy observation. *Phytotherapy.* 2003;3:9-13. 4. Brattstrom A. Long-term effects of St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) treatment. *Phytomedicine* 2009;16:277-83. 5. Schrader E. Equivalence of St John's wort extract (Ze 117) and fluoxetine. *Int Clin Psychopharmacol.* 2000;15:61-8. 6. Schrader E, et al. *Hypericum* treatment in a placebo-controlled study. A prospective, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, multicentre study. *Hum Psychopharmacol* 1998; 13(3):163-9.



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Sleep easy

WHEN life gets stressful it can be difficult to unwind and find sleep.

However, natural supplement brand, Floridis's Remotiv and ReDormin Forte products aim to help patients combat stress and anxiety, and to find sleep a little easier.

The products include "clinically researched herbal extracts" that aim to support patients' wellbeing.

See today's cover page for more information.

Pharmacy primed for reserve role

AUSTRALIA'S community pharmacy network has the capacity to play a greater role in the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines if needed, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey (pictured), believes.

Speaking during the Guild's COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) update webinar, National COVAX Taskforce Coordinator, Lieutenant General John Ferwen, said he wanted to create a "commander's reserve" workforce that could be mobilised quickly to boost

immunisation efforts in hotspot areas.

Twomey told the General to "view the community pharmacy network as your reserve workforce."

"We can flex up, and we can flex down," he said.

"The network does that very well, if we look at our peak two months - generally Jul and Dec - they're often double what we would do in Feb.

"The community pharmacy network has that built-in agility to be able to bring workforce on and flex up to do things if needed. "We don't need to have a big government solution to have agility to flex up and down as you need, we can use the private sector to do that and partner with you."

Twomey noted the Guild was working to ensure pharmacists are permitted to administer COVAX shots outside of the pharmacy setting, and to secure funding to



enable them to act as a reserve workforce in areas of need.

Meanwhile, Twomey told the webinar that Primary Health Networks had "picked up their game" when it came to delivering personal protective equipment (PPE) from the National Medical Stockpile, following initial delays in supplying it to community pharmacies in Sydney.

"They are doing a better job, and we appreciate that," he said.

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Advise prescriber of tocilizumab sub

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) has confirmed that section 90 pharmacies can supply approved substitute benefits under the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA's) Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument (SSSI) for tocilizumab.

However, pharmacists dispensing the medication will be required to record the information justifying the supply

of the substitute under the SSSI in writing.

Pharmacists will also be required to inform the prescriber in writing that the substitute benefit was made within 72 hours of supply to the patient

Additionally, pharmacists will also be required to identify and dispense against the item code for the substitute benefit.

CLICK HERE for more details

Breathe better

PHARMACISTS can order Snoreben devices that can reduce nasal congestion, airway obstruction, snoring and dry mouth from wholesalers Symbion and API. See **page three** for more.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a front cover page from **Floridis** and full pages from:

- Snoreben
- Pack-a-Pill



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APC urges boost in cultural capability

AUSTRALIAN pharmacy education programs could be enhanced with more “cultural capability” as a key way of reducing health disparities and improving the wellbeing of Indigenous communities, according to a new report from the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC).

The accreditation agency has conducted a literature review to compile recommendations, collated in the report titled *Approaches to implementation of cultural safety in the training of education of health professionals*.

As well as Australia, the report looks at practices in Canada, New Zealand and the USA, “with the objective of identifying approaches to enhancing the cultural capability education of Australian pharmacy students so that on graduation they are both committed to improvement of the health and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples, and capable of practising in ways that are culturally safe, sensitive and responsive”.

Substantial differences in the health of Indigenous peoples are described in the research



australian pharmacy council
Approaches to implementation of cultural safety in the training and education of health professionals
 in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America
 Literature Review

literature, encompassing higher rates of disease, co-morbidities, hospitalisation and mortality.

“Given the robust evidence that Indigenous peoples have demonstrated very long histories of good health and resilience prior to Western settlement, the current situation can be primarily attributed to historical, political, cultural and social determinants which have impacted negatively on the ability of Indigenous peoples to practise their culture,” the report’s executive

summary notes.

Moreover “Indigenous ways of knowing and being have often been devalued and disregarded as inferior to Western approaches, which has engendered understandable distrust and reluctance to engage.”

Creating culturally safe spaces for healthcare provision is seen as central to efforts to improve the health of Indigenous individuals and communities, with the report making a range of key recommendations including ensuring students are “sensitised to their responsibilities as both advocates and agents of change”.

Learning should be seen as a means of promoting individual and collective transformation, while curricula and learning environments should be “decolonised and Indigenous”.

The APC is considering adapting the Committee of Deans of Australian Medical Schools (CDAMS) Indigenous Health Curriculum Framework for the education of pharmacists, with the review one of the phases leading to possible implementation - apc.edu.au.

Dispensary Corner

BRITISH authorities have charged a man who made over 1,200 nuisance calls to the National Health Service (NHS) 111 emergency hotline, with police alleging he did so to indulge a “sexual foot fetish”.

45-year-old Richard William Cove from West Sussex apparently pretended to be an elderly woman in the calls, and would ask operators about their feet, according to court documents tendered by Sussex Police.

Cove was arrested as the culmination of an investigation which began in 2019, after members of the public said they had been contacted about NHS 111 calls they had not made, reports the BBC.

Officers said 1,263 nuisance calls were made over a two year period, all linked to an individual using “false personal details, false telephone numbers and false ailments,” with some of the calls resulting in ambulances being dispatched to fake addresses.

PC David Quayle said Cove had now admitted to making the calls “for his own enjoyment and personal benefit...he said he had a sexual foot fetish which he indulged during most of the calls”.

The offender has admitted to one count of making malicious communications, and now faces a sentencing hearing in Worthing Magistrates Court next month.

It’s estimated that the prank calls cost the NHS more than £21,000.

Irbesartan recall

BRITAIN’S Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has initiated a pharmacy-level recall of 25 batches of Irbesartan-containing medicines due to contamination with an impurity that could potentially increase the risk of cancer.

Patients are being told to speak to doctors or pharmacists before stopping any treatment, with impacted batches listed at www.gov.uk.

TGA starts CPAP post-market review

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has launched a post-market review of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP), Bi-Level PAP devices and ventilators on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

The review followed the announcement of a recall of ventilators, CPAP and BiPAP devices supplied by Philips Electronics Australia (PD 06 Jul), after risks were identified relating

to a polyester-base polyurethane foam used as soundproofing material.

As part of the review the regulator is asking sponsors of all ventilators, CPAP and BiPAP devices listed on the ARTG for more information about the type of soundproofing material used, the manufacturer’s risk assessment, and whether the devices pose any unnecessary risk to the user’s health during normal use.



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