

With **MedView Patient Connect** your patients can submit ePrescriptions for dispensing from anywhere, at anytime directly into your pharmacy queue



MedView | Powered by Rx script exchange

Get Connected today!
medview.com.au/flow

Booster pay bump on the cards: PM

INCREASING remuneration for community pharmacies participating in the COVID-19 booster vaccination campaign is one of the levers the Federal Government is considering to bolster its campaign.

Speaking with *Nine's Today* show this morning ahead of today's National Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, said immunisers in the primary care sector would play a vital role as access points for booster shots.

When asked if it was possible that remuneration rates for pharmacists could rise, Morrison said, "of course it is".

"It's one of the issues we've been working with them on over the last week or so," he said.

"These are the issues we're working through... we're going to be asking pharmacists and GPs along with those working in state hubs to be responding to ensure we can get these booster rates up where they need to be."

The Prime Minister added that reopening state-run vaccination hubs was also on the agenda for the National Cabinet meeting.

Morrison's comments came after Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, told *ABC Radio National* that less than half of the community pharmacy network was participating in the booster campaign, due to the reduction in remuneration for the top-up dose.

"What we've seen is these small general practices, these small pharmacies that were doing the right thing, putting on the extra staff [to administer vaccines] now have to scale back... they can't afford to put on the extra staff and the extra resources to be able to run the program in addition to doing what they normally do," he said.

Twomey said the Guild and the Australian Medical Association had raised the issue with the Department of Health (DoH), noting they were "empathetic" to the



challenges facing the primary health sector.

"They've [DoH staff] briefed up to Cabinet," he said.

"But for some reason Cabinet is just not listening."

Commenting on calls for eligibility for booster shots to be brought forward from five to four months after receiving the second primary dose, Twomey warned "there's just no way you can reduce that interval... unless we can increase the number of GPs and pharmacies participating in the program".

"It's just not logistically possible," he said.

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from TerryWhite Chemmart.

Fighting MND

DISCOUNT pharmacy group, Chemist Warehouse, rounded out its 2021 fundraising efforts for motor neurone disease (MND) charity FightMND, with nine team members taking part in the Melbourne Marathon Festival last weekend.

Between in-store efforts and the gut-busting efforts of the runners over the half-marathon course, the group has raised \$386,000 for the cause this year.

Chemist Warehouse Director, Mario Tascone, said the group was "proud to raise funds and awareness for the vital work conducted by FightMND" to support patients.

Pharmacy Daily

Wishing all our readers...

A VERY MERRY

Christmas

AND A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE NEW YEAR

We look forward to bringing you all the news that matters from Tuesday Jan 4, 2022



AMH 2022 pre-pub Promotion

HURRY! Last days to enter

Pre-purchase the 2022 AMH or any current resource before Dec 31st 2021 to enter the draw to win some great rewards. These include attending a conference related to your profession, new laptop computers and future editions of AMH resources. For all competition details and T&C's please click on the link.



[Click here for more info](#)

Dispensary Corner

THROUGHOUT 2021 pharmacists around the globe have faced attempted bribery, and been abused for not adhering to demands for falsified COVID-19 vaccination certificates.

In the face of this growing pressure it's important to stick to the guidelines and stay true to professional ethics.

In other words, don't be lured into doing something that could put your career at risk, like a pharmacist in Crete did.

The unnamed pharmacist was convicted of providing falsified COVID-19 rapid antigen tests, which has led regulators to cancel his professional registration for six months, while he has also been ordered to pay \$1,500 to the University General Hospital of Heraklion.

However, his worries do not end there, with 27 months behind bars, three years' probation and fines of up to \$4,700, all possible punishments when his case moves to sentencing.

ACCC monitors Woolies' API bid

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has announced it is monitoring supermarket giant, Woolworths Group's takeover bid for pharmacy wholesaler, Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API) (PD 02 Dec).

The competition watchdog said it would commence a public review of the deal "when it receives a submission".

TGA's Pill decision 'regrettable' - Guild

MAINTAINING restrictive scheduling of oral contraceptives reinforces a gender bias that does not match modern Australian culture and values Pharmacy Guild of Australia National Councillor, Natalie Willis, believes.

Criticising the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA's) move to confirm its interim decision not to down-schedule the Pill (PD 21 Dec), Willis said it was regrettable and blocked pharmacists from helping to cut GPs' workloads, while offering great access to oral contraceptives to women.

"The point must be made again: Allowing pharmacies to sell the pill in certain situations would take pressure off GPs and increase its accessibility for women," she said.

"Pharmacists are highly trained and skilled.

"They deal with a huge range of enquiries about health and are well equipped to help deliver strong and positive health outcomes for patients.

"Indeed, pharmacists have the clinical skills to assist GPs to manage community health."

Willis added that re-scheduling oral contraceptives as Pharmacist-Only was an issue of great significance for Australian women's health.

"Unplanned pregnancies represent a significant ongoing health risk to Australian women," she said.

"A wait of maybe three weeks to see a GP doesn't help such a situation.

"This is a time to step forward.

"Unfortunately this step has not been taken."

In its decision, the Delegation of the Secretary of the Department of Health said that maintaining the current scheduling for oral contraceptives would not impact patients' access.

"I have carefully considered the public health issues raised by professional peak bodies involved in women's health and I agree with their view that the benefits of oral contraceptives were not fully characterised in the interim decision," the Delegate said.

"I consider that while the proposed changes would address some barriers affecting access to ongoing supply of oral contraceptives, I do not feel the benefits of supply from a pharmacist outweigh the risks to women's health when supplied without consultation from a medical practitioner."

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Hair Nutrition, Food for your hair 'Leave-In' Hair treatments

Convenient 5mL Ampoule available in 4 varieties.

- Botox Keratin – restructures the Keratin fibres of the hair repairing it and reducing its risk of breakage.
- Urban Protect – combat environmental and heat damage.
- Sublime Shine – provides instant luminosity and softness.
- Total Repair – hydrates, softens and nourishes.

Salon efficacy for day-to day use. Apply to wet or dry hair.

Supplier: Available from Key Sun Laboratories via 1800 791 381 or customerservice@keysun.com.au or order directly through Purveyance <https://retailer.purveyance.biz/Account/Login>

RRP: \$6.99

Website: www.keysun.com.au



KEYSUN
LABORATORIES

Business support from the best in the industry.



We have the business smarts, supports and systems you need to succeed.

- We are there for you with a hands-on TerryWhite Chemmart Business Development Team committed to driving your profitability
- State of the art custom built systems including our proprietary BuyBetter platform which uses data intelligence to support your ordering and ranging decisions providing additional \$GP to your business
- Efficient systems and support network that allows you to practice at the top of your scope and focus on your patients.
- Reliable wholesaler support with market-leading fulfillment rates
- We back ourselves with the Performance Promise – if your annual \$GP does not grow by more than your first year's core fees, we will simply refund them

Want to grow your business? Call today:

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Richard Jensch (QLD) – 0401 560 712
Gary Flynn (SA/NT) – 0488 223 155
Fiona McKenzie (NSW) – 0437 599 920
Peter O'Brien (VIC/TAS) – 0427 352 902
Rebecca Wall (WA) – 0477 538 865

realchemistry.com.au



that's *real* chemistry