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Today's issue of PD

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

Nova savings

PHARMACIES can secure discounts of up to 30% on orders for Nova Pharmaceutical's MediSOL Disinfectant Spray 300g. See **page three** for more.

Tattoo aftercare

SKINCARE brand, Bepanthen, has launched a new tattoo ointment designed to ensure tattoos heal. The Bepanthen Tattoo Ointment creates a waterproof and breathable protective barrier that provides the moisture level needed to help tattooed skin regenerate.

Make emergency orders permanent

FEDERAL, State and Territory health authorities are being urged to implement public health orders enabling continued dispensing to be implemented on a permanent basis.

With the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign set to commence in the coming weeks, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has warned patients may struggle to obtain a prescription from the GP.

Guild Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, said emergency measures "shouldn't be limited to pandemics or natural disasters", noting that current measures in Victoria are set to expire on 27 Mar.

"The ability of pharmacists to be able to provide their patients with one month's prescription medicine where obtaining a prescription from their doctor is not practicable during the COVID-19 pandemic has been of great value to maintain continuity of care during this difficult time," he said.

"However, patients continue to

report challenges from time to time in seeing their GP to obtain a prescription for their usual medicines and this can occur at any time – not just during a pandemic, and the Guild strongly feels that the authorisation of one month's emergency supply really must be ongoing.

"Continued dispensing originally commenced as an initiative under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, but prior to the COVID pandemic was limited to a very narrow range of medications including: statins and some oral contraceptives.

"It makes little sense from a patient's perspective that pharmacists can be trusted with continued dispensing of these two drug groups, but not a wider array of prescription medicines that can be extremely important in managing their health and chronic conditions.

"Who is to say that patients won't



continue to face some difficulties in seeing their GP in the coming months with the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in parallel with the annual influenza vaccination?

"We will never know how many patients were kept out of hospital during the COVID pandemic thanks to taking a very simple and sensible step of utilising our pharmacist's expertise – but what we do know is if we don't allow our pharmacists to practice to their full scope, we are not doing everything we can to ensure the continuity of care of our patients."

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Guild seeks 'flat rate' for Award

PHARMACY owners are seeking approval for the introduction of a "flat rate" into the Pharmacy Industry Award.

In a submission to the Fair Work Commission, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia reported that it had received "multiple requests from community pharmacy employers on whether it was possible or achievable to introduce a 'flat rate'".

The Guild reported that predominant reasons for the move were, to simplify the wage paid on hours worked, to not have multiple payment steps, and to make it easier to understand for both the employer and employee.

The submission noted that the Guild was supportive of the introduction of a "loaded rate" as part of the Award to assist in

ensuring employers remunerate their employees correctly.

"The 'loaded rate' should be developed on realistic and practical operating arrangements and hours of work including full time employment only (eg 38 hours per week)," the Guild said.

The Guild suggested that loaded rates could be contained within a Schedule that is directly linked to both the business financial turnover position and employee head count.

"This would still allow for medium to large businesses to engage in bargaining for their particular operational arrangements and provided a benchmarking position for the Commission's approval process," the Guild said.

"In addition, the use of a 'loaded rate' could be an optional



agreement for a business based upon the employees being involved in a consultation and decision-making process similar to the enterprise agreement making process.

"This approach will need serious consideration as this approach could impose a significant regulatory burden on a business."



Dispensary Corner

SAFE sex has taken on a whole new meaning during the COVID-19 pandemic, with health authorities around the globe urging lusty singles to minimise interactions with non-co-habiting lovers.

However, little thought has been given to loved-up COVID-phobic males who may be struggling to meet their partner's insatiable needs.

That is until now, Irish online-pharmacy group, Healthwave, has launched a new service to give men access to Pfizer's erectile dysfunction treatment, Viagra, without having to leave the safety of their homes.

The service provides patients with a digital pharmacist consultation, and nationwide delivery of over-the-counter product Viagra Connect.

Healthwave founder and pharmacist, Shane O'Sullivan, said the online offer was an ideal service for those who may be too embarrassed to seek access to it in-person.



Student business plan comp launched

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has launched its National Student Business Plan Competition, with the winners being rewarded with registration, flights and accommodation to attend the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference in 2022.

In the 2021 edition of the competition, the focus on innovation will continue to be greater than ever to ensure future pharmacy owners look for highly differentiated services that

they can provide.

A total of \$15,000 in cash prizes will be won by the top three teams, with entries to be submitted by 16 May.

The semi-finals will take place between 26 Jul and 23 Aug with teams making video submissions, before finalists make a live pitch during the week of 13 Sep, which will be followed up by a post-pitch investor meeting that week.

CLICK HERE for more information.

Real-time vax monitoring

A REAL-TIME monitoring system for the safety of vaccines administered in pharmacies could support the rollout of COVID-19 shots in Australia, researchers from the University of Western Australia believe.

Researchers said the system could monitor reactions, aid public safety and strengthen confidence in vaccines.

VOTE 1 **IRFAN HASHMI**

For Pharmacy Guild of Australia (SA) NATIONAL COUNCILLOR



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