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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus full pages from:

- TerryWhite Chemmart
- MIMs monthly update

Self-care push

CONSUMER Healthcare Products Australia (CHP) is calling on the Federal Government to invest in improving consumers' health literacy and embed self-care as part of the national health policy as part of its Pre-Budget Submission.

CHP also urged the Government to "facilitate the consistent availability of appropriate air freight capacity separate from variable capacity provided by international passenger arrivals, to minimise disruptions in the pandemic supply chain".

Read the submission [HERE](#).

PAMS a shot in the arm for pharmacy

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) pharmacies will be the first to use HealthEngine's new Patient Appointment Management System (PAMS) ahead of the rollout of COVID-19 and influenza vaccines this year.

The system developed in collaboration with software providers, Minfos, MedAdvisor and HealthEngine, includes a digitised pre-screening and consent component, which is sent directly to the pharmacist's professional service recording software for review prior to the appointment.

It also features a direct integration between the TWC booking system and the Minfos dispense, transferring bookings and patient details securely into a new booking queue.

TWC pharmacy owner, Judy Plunkett, said the platform was a critical first step in supporting pharmacists to meet the expected increase in demand for vaccination

services this year.

"For years I have been campaigning for systems improvement particularly in the field of vaccination workflow and I am really proud to see TWC take a lead in this space," she said.

"Last year pharmacists across my two pharmacies alone delivered more than 6,500 flu vaccinations in what was a very challenging year.

"Any change that supports my team to spend less time on paperwork and more time on doing what they do best - delivering genuine care and advice and supporting more Australians to get vaccinated - is a win in my books."

The PAMS will also integrate with MedAdvisor's PlusOne platform, which will ensure vaccinations are recorded and automatically submitted to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

HealthEngine CEO, Dr Marcus Tan, said the PAMS would "reduce inefficiency" with key systems



being able to communicate with each other.

TWC Chief Pharmacist, Brenton Hart, said the new platform would enable pharmacists across the network to "step up with confidence to play their part in the vaccine rollout".

Pictured, TWC pharmacy owner, Judy Plunkett, administering a vaccine to a patient.

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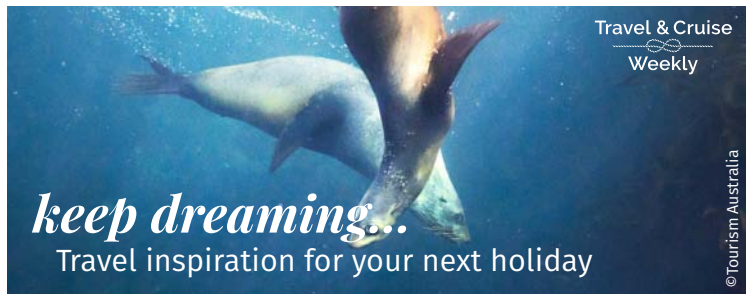
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COVAX push changes GP perceptions

PHARMACISTS involved in the UK's COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) rollout are changing GPs' views of the profession, Primary Care Pharmacy Association President and Brentworth Primary Care Network (PCN) Clinical Director, Dr Graham Stretch, says.

Speaking during a webinar on Tue night, Stretch said pharmacists were playing a significant role in the vaccination campaign - which has seen more than 10 million doses administered since the start of the year - providing vaccines through PCNs alongside other health professionals and community pharmacies.

Stretch told attendees that community pharmacist-led COVAX

hubs were commonly delivered from local community or church halls, rather than the pharmacy.

"Community pharmacies stepping forward and generally doing a good job of this have really changed the perceptions of a lot of GPs around the idea that we can work as a team," he said.

"So the silver lining of all this... [is] it has raised the profile of how effective pharmacists can be."

Stretch said the 'all-hands-on-deck' approach to the vaccine rollout had highlighted the skills of the pharmacy workforce, including pharmacy technicians, who he said had shown their skills in handling the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine.

"It had definitely levelled up the



playing field and allowed people who previously weren't exposed to the skills a pharmacy technician might bring - they've seen it now front and centre," he said.

"We're seeing how good they are."



Dispensary Corner

BREAKING free of the monotony of lockdown in Ireland staff from the McElwee's Totalhealth pharmacy group have taken on the latest viral social media craze, the Jerusalema dance challenge.

Team members from across the group's three stores busted some moves to the South African hit, with pharmacist, Dermot Donaghy (pictured), stealing the limelight showing off his breakdancing skills in a three and a half minute long video.

Pharmacy owner, Peter McElwee, said the viral clip has helped bring "a few smiles" to the faces of customers and staff alike during what has been a challenging time across the Emerald Isle.

"Thanks to all our brilliant staff who went above and beyond despite being as busy as they are," he said.

The pharmacy team's video is the latest from Irish businesses after the country's police force responded to the challenge laid down by their Swiss counterparts.

CLICK HERE to see the staff of the McElwee Totalhealth group take on the Jerusalema challenge.



COVAX safety monitoring and reporting

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has released its COVID-19 vaccine (COVAX) safety monitoring plan, ahead of the national rollout.

The key objectives of the plan are to ensure timely collection and management of adverse events post immunisation, detect and investigate vaccine

safety signals, address safety concerns, inform the public of emerging COVAX safety information and support public confidence in the vaccine, and to collaborate and cooperate with other vaccine safety stakeholder groups.

CLICK HERE to access the TGA's COVAX safety monitoring plan.

COVID debt crisis

ENGLISH pharmacists are threatening strike action if the British Government does not write off £370m in COVID-19 support loans that have been provided to the sector.

A parliamentary group has been told that the loans had not been enough to meet the extra costs faced by pharmacies during the pandemic, and could hasten the network's demise.

National Pharmacy Association Chair, Andrew Lane, said the situation was "desperate" for pharmacists, adding the sector had not received any bailout funding because they had continued to operate throughout the pandemic.

"While other sectors get bailouts for being closed, community pharmacies are in debt because we've stayed open to save lives," he said.

Win with Azclear Action

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily & Azclear Action are giving away an Azclear Action pack valued at RRP \$70.00.

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New Products

- **Ripretinib (Qinlock)** is a switch-control tyrosine kinase inhibitor that binds to both the switch pocket and the activation loop to lock the kinase in the inactive state, preventing downstream signalling and cell proliferation. This dual mechanism of action provides broad inhibition of KIT and PDGFRA kinase activity, including wild type and multiple primary and secondary mutations. Ripretinib also inhibits other kinases *in vitro*, such as PDGFRB, TIE2, VEGFR2, and BRAF. Qinlock is indicated for the treatment of adults with advanced gastrointestinal stromal tumours (GIST) who have received prior treatment with 3 or more kinase inhibitors, including imatinib. Qinlock tablets contain ripretinib 50 mg and is available in a pack size of 90.

New Indications

- **Durvalumab (rch) (Imfinzi)**, in combination with etoposide and either carboplatin or cisplatin, is now indicated for the first-line treatment of patients with extensive-stage small cell lung cancer (ES-SCLC).
- **Ibrutinib (Imbruvica)** is now indicated for the treatment of adults with previously untreated chronic lymphocytic leukaemia/small lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL/SLL) in combination with rituximab.
- **Pembrolizumab (rch) (Keytruda)** is now indicated for the first-line treatment of patients with unresectable or metastatic colorectal cancer (CRC) that is microsatellite instability-high (MSI-H) or mismatch repair deficient (dMMR) as determined by a validated test. It is also indicated in adult and paediatric patients for the treatment of unresectable or metastatic solid tumours that are MSI-H or dMMR as determined by a validated test, that have progressed following prior treatment and when there are no satisfactory alternative treatment options. The safety and effectiveness of Keytruda in paediatric patients with MSI-H/dMMR central nervous system cancers have not been established.

New Contraindications

- **Measles, mumps and rubella live virus vaccine (M-M-R II)** should not be given to pregnant females. If vaccination of post-pubertal females is undertaken for protection against rubella, pregnancy should be avoided for one month following vaccination.
- **Metronidazole (Metronidazole Intravenous Infusion (Pfizer))** is now contraindicated in patients who have taken disulfiram within the previous two weeks; and with concomitant consumption of alcohol or products containing propylene glycol (or within three days after therapy with metronidazole).
- **Monobasic sodium phosphate/dibasic sodium phosphate (Phospho-Soda)** is now contraindicated in children under 18 years of age, and should not be used in combination with other laxative products containing sodium phosphate.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.