

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus a full page from *Pharmacium*.

Make it happen

TRANSFORM your pharmacy from a store to a health destination that reflects the way you work with *Pharmacium*.

See **page five** for more.

Survey closing

CONSULTANT pharmacists and reserachers from the University of WA, Monash University and the University of Sydney are conducting a survey to find out how pharmacists perform home medicines reviews.

The survey closes on 31 Jan. **CLICK HERE** to participate.

Minority engagement key for COVAX

WORKING alongside minority groups and associations could be key to driving uptake of COVID-19 vaccinations, South Australian pharmacist, Irfan Hashmi, believes.

Having rolled out a free influenza immunisation program in conjunction with Multicultural Communities Australia (*PD* 17 Jun 2020), last year, the new Pharmacy Guild of Australia SA Branch Committee Member (*PD* 12 Jan), told *Pharmacy Daily* that a similar approach could help tackle issues around vaccine hesitancy amongst patients from minority backgrounds.

"During my work for flu vaccines with multicultural communities in SA, many people got flu vaccines for the first time," he said.

"Community leaders of those communities played a major role to invite and encourage people to get flu vaccines in our clinics with flyers to translate into many languages circulated with the help



of social media groups.

"For COVID vaccines, I would suggest authorities to use community pharmacists to spread messages through their community leaders.

"Multicultural associations can play a vital role to make this job easier.

"I plan to contact all my connections with such associations to spread the word on the COVID vaccines service."

MEANWHILE *The Pharmaceutical Journal* has reported that a pharmacist-led COVID vaccination site at a mosque in Birmingham, UK, has helped to ease concerns among the local black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

Pharmacists from the Masters Group, which is running the site said they were receiving calls from patients asking to be vaccinated at the mosque.

Quality over the counter medicines you can trust



The APOHEALTH range has been developed to offer your customers quality and affordable over-the-counter medicines that you can rely on. With over **80 products** in our range, APOHEALTH covers key categories including:

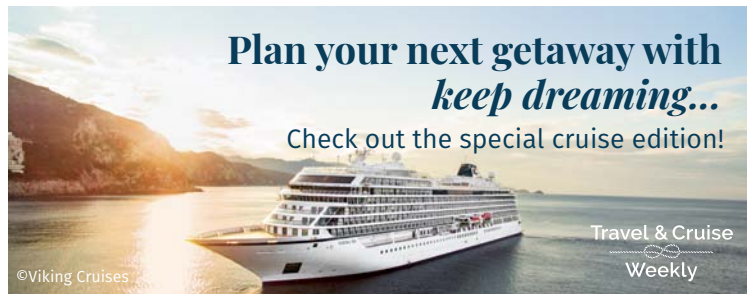
- HAYFEVER & ALLERGY
- COUGH, COLD & FLU
- ANALGESICS
- DIGESTIVE HEALTH
- ANTI-FUNGAL
- FEMININE CARE
- EYE & EAR CARE
- SKIN CARE
- EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION
- VITAMIN SUPPLEMENTS



Available via major wholesalers

www.apohealth.com.au

These medicines may not be right for you. Read the label before purchase. Follow the directions for use. If symptoms persist, talk to your health professional.



PSA calls for aged care investment

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is calling on the Federal Government to invest \$197.8 million over the next four years to support aged care facilities to recruit pharmacists to reduce preventable medicines-related harm, as part of its 2021/22 Pre-Budget Submission.

PSA National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, said the Royal Commission into Aged Care's interim report highlighted the critical need to improve medicines safety in the aged care sector.

"The interim report highlighted widespread over-prescribing of drugs which sedate residents - often without clear consent - rendering them drowsy and unresponsive to visiting family and removing their ability to interact with people," he said.

"Inappropriately sedating residents of aged care facilities is not care, it's an abrogation of responsibility that must be addressed.

"We have seen that the role



of pharmacists embedded within aged care facilities has been well received by patients, family members and healthcare professionals, and we call on the Government to dedicate 0.5 full-time equivalent pharmacists per 100 aged care residents."

The PSA President also called on the Government to establish a medicines safety in aged care

resource and support program, fund pharmacists within Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, and to set up a nationally coordinated pharmacovigilance system for primary care.

"The Government needs to work with pharmacists to implement these recommendations to achieve positive health outcomes for the Australian community," he said.

Nurse unfit to practice

A COFFS Harbour nurse has been reprimanded and deemed "unfit to practice" by a NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, after being found to have helped her husband supply cocaine from their family home.

Lauren Russ was convicted of supplying the drug on six occasions between Sep 2018 and Jan 2019, at a local court hearing in Aug 2019, however, her conviction was set aside following an appeal.

In a statement Russ acknowledged she caused harm to the community, her immediate family and nursing colleagues through her role in the supply of cocaine.

She told the Tribunal her actions "went against everything I was taught in my life, as well as the values instilled in me by my parents."

AZ confident in COVID vaccine efficacy

ASTRAZENECA (AZ) has refuted claims made by German health authorities, that there is not enough evidence to support the use of the company's COVID-19 vaccine in patients aged 65 years and older.

A spokesperson for AZ told *Pharmacy Daily* that "the latest analyses of clinical trial data for the AZ/Oxford COVID-19 vaccine support efficacy in the over 65



years age group".

"We await a regulatory decision on the vaccine by the European Medicines Agency in the coming days," the spokesperson said.



1800 429 829
info@ravensrecruitment.com.au
www.ravensrecruitment.com.au

Pharmacist
 Southern Highlands NSW (Job# 200035715)

- Easy drive south from Campbelltown or Liverpool.
- Excellent opportunity for a Pharmacist with 2+ years experience.
- 38 hours per week Monday to Friday roster.

Pharmacy on the train line so commute is a piece of cake!

...see more info

Commuting or travelling?

FESS with Tea Tree Oil and Vitamin E.

A natural way to help guard against airborne bacteria, moisturise nasal passages and relieve nasal congestion.



For wherever the nose goes



*The pictured FESS Saline Spray Frequent Flyer is made in Australia.

For more information click here: FESS.COM.AU



CHECK OUT OUR 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

Pharmacy Daily

TGA issues \$106k face mask fine

SYDNEY-BASED company, Life Biotech Pty Ltd, has been hit with a \$106,560 fine from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for alleged non-compliance with requests for information and face mask samples in relation to COVID-19.

Department of Health Deputy Secretary, Adjunct Professor John Skerritt, said, "there are serious consequences for failing to respond to the TGA's requests for information and samples in a timely manner and for providing inaccurate information".



NSW hospitals under-resourced

GREATER investment needs to be made to boost hospital pharmacy departments in NSW, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) believes.

In a submission to the Inquiry into health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote NSW, the SHPA called on the State Government to commit to joining the Public Hospital Pharmaceutical Reform Agreement to boost resourcing to support medication safety.

The SHPA reported that there is a higher rate of medication adverse events in NSW than other states such as Victoria and Queensland, "who have better resourced hospital pharmacy departments, who are better equipped to reduce medication related errors".

"SHPA NSW members frequently report that hospital pharmacy departments in NSW public hospitals lack the investment and resources to meet accepted

standards of practice for hospital pharmacy services," the SHPA said.

"This means that the full suite of clinical pharmacy services, which reduce the incidence and severity of medication related incidents, cannot be provided to all NSW hospital patients that require it.

"These issues are exacerbated further in rural and regional NSW health services."

The SHPA called on the NSW Government to amend hospital pharmacist-to-bed ratios, to bring them into line with Victoria and Queensland, which have one pharmacist to every eight hospital beds in metro areas, compared to 1:13 in NSW.

The pharmacist-to-bed ratio in regional NSW hospitals is 1:27, while similar hospitals in Victoria have one pharmacist to every 18 beds, with Queensland having a ratio of 1:14.

"The severe inequity in access to hospital pharmacists in NSW hospitals compared to other



jurisdictions contributes to the 75 medication-related incidents daily," the SHPA said.

"Poorly managed medicines can result in unintended hospital admissions, increased length of stay, poor health outcomes, re-admissions, morbidity or mortality.

"In 2017-2018, NSW patients were 48% more likely to experience an adverse effect from medicines than Victorian hospital patients, and 29% more likely to experience an adverse effect from medicines than Queensland hospital patients."

FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE | ADELAIDE & SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ADELAIDE
INFORMATION
SESSIONS



TUESDAY
TO THURSDAY
NEXT WEEK

NOT JUST A BRAND | A COMPLETE PHARMACY PLATFORM

A Wizard Pharmacy Franchise is a complete Pharmacy Platform that delivers effective operational outcomes across 7 key business pillars:

- Inventory Management
- Retail Services
- Community Partnerships
- Professional Services
- Marketing Solutions
- Business Systems
- Training

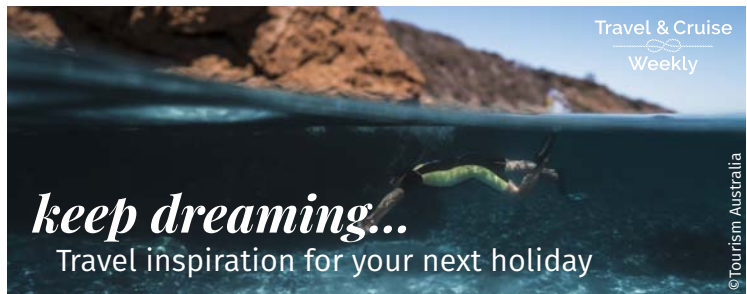
"The entire team at Wizard Pharmacy Services has blown me away by their commitment to provide the best pharmacy support system in the market.

I wish I'd joined sooner! "

ANDREW STENT
WIZARD PHARMACY FRANCHISEE
JOINED 2020



CONTACT | Lyndon Dyson - 0417 937 299 | Sally Parker - 0437 311 899 | wizardpharmacy.com.au/joinus



© Tourism Australia

FIP releases COVAX factsheet

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has published a frequently asked questions factsheet for pharmacists about the Moderna, Pfizer BioNTech and Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines (COVAX).

The sheet addresses questions about storage, handling and use of COVAX for the three major vaccines.

FIP said it was important to minimise wastage, noting "if, following a vaccination program, there is surplus vaccine, consideration should be given to vaccinating healthcare staff or redistribution of the vaccine to other clinical areas (if the cold chain can be assured)".

FIP said it would expand the factsheet to include other COVAX as they become widely used, receive national approvals and possess phase III clinical trial data.



Corum eyes bright future

AUSTRALIAN Securities Exchange (ASX) listed pharmacy software provider, Corum Group, is expecting its costs to be "significantly reduced going forward" following the completion of its acquisition of PharmX.

In its quarterly activity report for the three months to 31 Dec 2020, Corum noted it raised \$3.3 million through a strategic placement of 60 million new shares with Arrotex Pharmaceuticals, with funds from the placement to be used to accelerate key product development and business expansion (*PD* 06 Nov 2020).

The company reported that a final settlement of \$4.3 million was made for the remaining interest in PharmX during the quarter (*PD* 01 Sep 2020).

Corum also paid \$800,000 in Nov 2020, to BAMB Group Administration Pty Ltd, as consideration for the development work completed to date, associated intellectual property and other commercial rights relating to a cloud-based pharmacy Head Office software solution the companies had agreed to develop (*PD* 02 Nov 2020).

Under the terms of the deal Corum will make three further payments of \$400,000 to BAMB over the next three years, while the 63,642,138 full paid ordinary shares that were to be issued to BAMB following the adoption of a



resolution at the company's 2019 annual general meeting, will not be issued.

Corum recorded a positive operating cashflow of \$536,000 for the quarter.

"This included non-recurring operational legal costs of approximately \$300,000 related to the PharmX acquisition and the BAMB Agreement," the company said.

"Corum expects that these costs will be significantly reduced going forward.

"Corum ended the quarter with a cash balance of \$7.62 million."

The company also reported that a total of \$166,000 was paid in fees and salaries to Directors, key management personnel and their related entities during the quarter.



Dispensary Corner

MUCH has been made of the "nightmare" that is hotel quarantine in Australia, including the indignation of having to wash and blow dry your own hair.

Throw in a couple of COVID-19 tests, with someone jabbing a stick down your throat before ramming it up your nostrils, it's positively ghastly - just ask any tennis pro.

However, if you think that's traumatic, spare a thought for those quarantining in China, who have just discovered that officials are now using anal swabs to detect the virus.

The alternative testing method involves the use of a saline-soaked cotton swab being inserted approximately three centimetres into the rectum, before being twisted around and withdrawn, with the sample securely placed in a container for analysis.

Authorities have said there were no plans to extract the anal swab testing nationwide as it was not particularly convenient.

We think we can safely say this is one form of COVID testing no one will want to see being conducted in Australian community pharmacies!



Tim

HEWITT

VOTE

for Pharmacy Guild of Australia (NSW)

Branch President

strategic collaborative leadership



www.pharmacydaily.com.au

Pharmacy Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Editor – Nicholas O'Donoghue

Contributors – Adam Bishop,

Myles Stedman

info@pharmacydaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi

advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper

accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

Sign up free at
www.pharmacydaily.com.au

Pharmacy Daily is a publication of Pharmacy Daily Pty Ltd ABN 97 124 094 604. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.





Transform your Pharmacy

Dream It | Design It | Make It Happen

We design spaces which reflect the way you work, and create efficiencies throughout your pharmacy with particular emphasis on dispensary operations.

We have a unique combination of hands-on pharmacy operations experience paired with hundreds of pharmacy design projects.

pharmacium.com.au
+613 9429 9244

find out how we can help

