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wizardpharmacy.com.au/joinus



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus a front cover page from Wizard Pharmacy and a full page from Choice Pharmacy.

Join the Wizards

WIZARD Pharmacy is today showcasing the advantages of its franchise model, which aims to drive profitability and deliver maximum value to pharmacy owners and their customers.

See the cover page for more.

Deloitte digital

THE Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) announced today Deloitte Consulting has been awarded the contract to "deliver the first phase of the modernisation of the national digital health infrastructure".

The contract is for the Health Information Gateway, described as a pivotal piece of enabling technology that provides a secure and scalable platform for exchanging and accessing health information, including priority areas such as vaccinations and aged care.

The consolidated gateway will offer reusable interfaces available to developers, requiring fewer connections to be developed between healthcare providers, My Health Record and other digital health products and services.

ADHA CEO Amanda Cattermole said the initiative "goes a long way to making the sharing of patient information between healthcare providers easier".

CSO admin contract renewed to 2024

AUSTRALIAN Healthcare Associates (AHA) has retained the contract for administration of the Community Service Obligation (CSO) Funding Pool, and will continue to manage the CSO through until Jun 2024.

The re-appointment follows an open tender process, and continues AHA's longstanding association with the CSO process which it has overseen since its establishment in Jul 2006 under the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement between the Australian Government and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

AHA has also retained the contract through the Fifth, Sixth and now Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreements (CPAs).

The CSO funding pool currently provides just under \$1.1 billion over the term of the Seventh CPA to eligible pharmaceutical wholesalers



(CSO Distributors) that meet specific service standards for the delivery of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medicines to community pharmacies, as well as National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) products to community pharmacies

and other NDSS access points.

"The purpose of the CSO funding pool is to ensure that all Australians have ongoing and timely access to the full range of PBS medicines and NDSS products, regardless of where they live," AHA said.

Administration of the CSO pool involves undertaking payment calculations, monitoring the performance of CSO distributors to ensure compliance with specific service standards, and administering a complaints process for community pharmacies and other access points, along with a sanctions framework.

AHA Director Richard Stock (pictured) said the company "looks forward to continuing to ensure the aims of the program are successfully met, by working objectively and independently to efficiently administer the CSO funding pool".

Priceline offers Samantha Jade prize

PRICELINE Pharmacy has launched the 2021 Priceline Sisterhood Foundation fundraising program, which will see one lucky store win a live performance from ARIA Award-winning singer-songwriter Samantha Jade.

The pharmacy group is encouraging customers to head in-store 01-26 Jul and "round up their purchase" to help raise money and awareness of the Foundation's causes including Perinatal Anxiety & Depression Australia (PANDA), Raise Foundation, Dementia Australia, Look Good Feel Better and Motherless Daughters Australia.

Priceline's ambassadors have also banded together to create a range of limited-edition

lipsticks, with all profits going to the Priceline Sisterhood Foundation, while in-store customers can lend their voice to the cause by sharing stories, words and anecdotes about what "sisterhood" means to them.

Samantha Jade will use these anecdotes as inspiration for a special 'Sister Song' to be released at the campaign's end.

Priceline Pharmacy GM Andrew Vidler said the Sisterhood Foundation had raised more than \$7 million over the last ten years in partnership with its stores.

He said partnering with Jade was "an exciting opportunity to harness the power of shared storytelling, making Sisters across the country visible and more importantly, heard".

Mvasi on PBS

MVASI, a biosimilar brand of bevacizumab, was listed on the PBS from 01 Jun as an unrestricted PBS benefit.

The Health Department said the move followed the removal of the Avastin brand of bevacizumab at the request of the manufacturer, Roche, with the Government working with the maker of Mvasi to ensure continuity of PBS supply for the cancer treatment.

Make the Choice

CHOICE Pharmacy has a number of pharmacist and ownership opportunities currently available - details on the back page.



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Managing AEFI

GUILD Learning and Development has partnered with GSK for the development of a new on-demand webinar to assist pharmacists managing Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI) within the pharmacy, or to determine when referral is required.

The course is made up of a segment of a live online event which was held in May this year, presented by pharmacist Tracey Chen.

The webinar focuses on how best to manage AEFI within the pharmacy, with a particular focus on managing mild and common adverse events.

The activity has been accredited for 0.5 hours of Group 1 CPD, which can be converted into 0.5 hours of Group 2 CPD upon successful completion of relevant assessment activities - enrol at guided.guild.org.au.

No irregularities in Vic ownership audit

THE Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) has not detected any unlawful ownership of pharmacies in the state, after conducting 45 audits in 2020 under its ongoing Pharmacy Ownership Audit Program.

The scheme is part of the Authority's "commitment to ensuring that all pharmacies in Victoria are owned, operated and controlled only by registered pharmacists, in accordance with the *Pharmacy Regulation Act 2010*".

2020 was the second year that the program had been in place, with the Authority initially selecting 101 pharmacies to undergo an ownership audit, and a further 11 for a financial audit in the 2019 calendar year.

The first year of the program saw 35 ownership audits undertaken, and two financial audits, while in 2020 a further 45 ownership audits and one financial audit were undertaken from the pharmacies selected in the previous year.

"These audits have not identified

any cases of silent or undeclared ownership," according to a newly released report on the program.

"A major barrier to progress in 2020 has been delays caused by the coronavirus pandemic," the Authority noted, with licensees given ample time to respond to audits with due consideration for the challenges presented by sustained lockdowns.

The ownership audits conducted did in some cases identify "potential non-compliance with the control and undue influence provisions of the Act," the report said, but these instances involved franchisees operating pharmacies pursuant to franchise agreements which were already undergoing a formal legal review for compliance.

The Authority has revised its annual target to 40 ownership audits for 2021, including at least 10 financial audits.

The full report from the audit program's second year of operation is online at pharmacy.vic.gov.au.

MEANWHILE an update from the VPA on recent activity has highlighted several cases where inspectors found pharmacies had no dose administration aid (DAA) packing records, noting that even in cases where a third party is engaged to pack DAAs, records should be kept of any changes made at the pharmacy.

The inspectors also observed instances where filled Return of Unused Medicines (RUM) bins were stored in insecure locations such as storerooms to which all staff members have unrestricted access.

"Returned or expired medicines/ filled RUM bins should be stored in the dispensary or in another part of the premises under lock and key to prevent unauthorised access," the Authority reminded pharmacists.

The report also noted several instances where VPA inspectors have found the keys to the S8 drug safe were left insecure on the pharmacy premises during business hours or overnight.



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Starpharma fined over COVID-19 spray

ASX-LISTED biopharmaceutical firm Starpharma Holdings Limited has been fined \$93,240 for unlawful advertising of its Viraleze spray in relation to COVID-19.

Seven infringement notices were issued by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) after the company allegedly promoted the use and supply in Australia of the product, which was not entered on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

Viraleze is currently registered for sale in Europe and India, and is described by the company as “an easy-to-use antiviral nasal spray containing 1% w/w Astodimer sodium (SPL7013) shown in laboratory studies to inactivate a broad spectrum of respiratory viruses, including multiple variants of SARS-CoV-2”.

The TGA alleges that the unauthorised advertising, on two of Starpharma’s websites as well as its YouTube channel, included a restricted representation claiming Viraleze is an antiviral nasal spray that stops the COVID-19 virus.

“Any claims or references to preventing or treating a serious form of a disease, condition, ailment or defect are restricted representations,” the TGA said.

The agency also highlighted “references to the substance Astodimer sodium that is included in Schedule 3 (Pharmacist Only



Medicine) of the current Poisons Standard.

“The reference to Astodimer sodium in relation to SARS-CoV-2 is not permitted in advertising to consumers and was not authorised or required by a government or government authority,” the TGA notice added.

Earlier this year Starpharma trumpeted a major new UK sales and distribution deal for Viraleze with Britain’s LloydsPharmacy Group (**PD** 30 Mar).

However last month the company announced a “temporary pause in promotion and sales” in the UK, after the country’s Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) wrote to LloydsPharmacy “in relation to

specific promotional claims made for Viraleze antiviral nasal spray” prompting a withdrawal from sale.

The Starpharma website notes that Viraleze has been approved for sale in India and Europe, and is sold online in some markets via the company’s viraleze.co webstore.

“Starpharma is also progressing regulatory activities for a number of markets, including Australia, with the intention of rolling it out across other markets,” the company said.

Starpharma was awarded development funding for the development and commercialisation of Viraleze by the Australian Government’s Medical Research Future Fund Biomedical Translation Bridge Program.

Yet more pharmacy exposure sites

THE NSW Health Department has confirmed new COVID-19 exposure sites over the weekend, including pharmacies in Sydney’s inner west suburbs of Five Dock and Drummoyne.

The list now advises anyone who attended Five Dock Pharmacy 4 Less on Tue 29 Jun between 10.40am and 10.55am that they are deemed a “close contact” and must immediately get tested and isolate for 14 days, regardless of the result.

Similarly visitors to Chemist Warehouse Five Dock on Tue 29 Jun between 10.30am and

10.40am are also deemed close contacts and must be tested and isolate.

New “casual contact” venues, where visitors must immediately get tested and isolate until a negative result is received, include Chemist Warehouse Drummoyne on 29 Jun between 10.30am and 10.40am; Avalon Beach Chemist Warehouse on Sat 26 Jun between 3.00pm and 4.00pm, and Chemist Warehouse Strathfield Plaza on Tue 29 Jun between 12.00pm and 12.25pm.

The full list of exposure sites is at health.nsw.gov.au.

APC recruits

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) is recruiting for a new Executive Director Corporate Services.

Reporting to the CEO as part of the APC executive leadership team, the role is described as a “unique opportunity for a customer and people-centric executive to lead an experienced, innovative and capable team of professionals, delivering valued and critical enabling services for this key organisation in the health sector” - more details at pharmacycouncil.org.au.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily’s weekly comment feature. This week’s contributor is



Emma Conway, TWC Pharmacist of the Year, TerryWhite Chemmart Goondiwindi, QLD.

Our responsibility as Rural Pharmacists

RECENTLY I was proud to be awarded the TerryWhite Chemmart Pharmacist of the Year – thanks to my generous mentors like Lucy Walker, and the incredible educational support provided by the TWC brand.

As a passionate rural pharmacist, I believe it is our responsibility to bridge the inequality of healthcare in the bush. The cultivation of thriving rural community centres around access to high quality healthcare. As pharmacists, we are trusted by the community and can interact with our patients in a holistic manner. This is our advantage, and it charges us to practice to our full scope and provide meaningful improvements to the health of our patients.

In hubs, such as Goondiwindi, that play host to a plethora of health professionals, we can join forces and use advances in technology to service our rural communities. For the last two years I have travelled to surrounding towns with a nurse practitioner to help deliver family flu clinics. I am also fortunate to be part of a team trialling an exciting new initiative alongside TerryWhite Chemmart and Symbion that will help improve medication access to remote areas through drone delivery. COVID has shown us that we are able to resourcefully deliver healthcare, in person or online. By empowering patients and ourselves to use the technology and resources available, we will be able to combat the tyranny of distance that plagues our rural communities.



Dispensary Corner

WE'VE all heard of diets and medications to help with weight loss, but the latest innovation from NZ's University of Otago is a device which physically locks the user's mouth shut.

Dubbed the DentalSlim, the "world-first weight loss device" (pictured) is basically a magnetic lock which keeps a person's jaw together, meaning they can only ingest liquids.

Fitted by a dentist, participants in an early trial reported a 7kg weight loss in the first two weeks of use.

It seems radical, but the Kiwi researchers said it aimed to particularly help patients with a medical need for rapid weight loss, such as preparing for some types of surgery.



NAPSA elects 21/22 team

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) held its Annual General Meeting over the weekend, with Verity Boustead named as President for the 2021/22 NAPSA term.

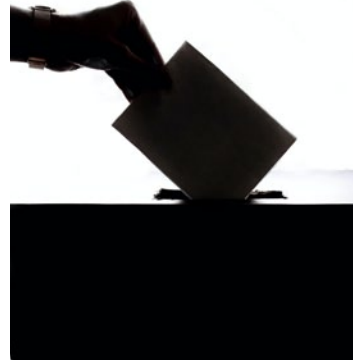
The meeting was conducted virtually at 10am on Sat, due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions across the nation.

Boustead is currently in her fourth year as a Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours)/Master of Pharmacy student at Melbourne's Monash University.

Seven other Executive Directors were also elected at the meeting:

- Georgia Bridges, RMIT University Melbourne;
- Ellie Hawkins, Queensland University of Technology;
- Samantha King, University of Queensland;
- Jack Papworth, University of Newcastle;
- Flynn Swift, Queensland University of Technology;
- Forrest Tang, University of Newcastle; and
- Alexandra Ward, University of South Australia.

Boustead said: "it is a privilege to be elected as the 2021/22 President alongside such a highly qualified team of Executive



Directors...I am very excited to work with the Board to continue advancing the excellent work that NAPSA does for our members".

She takes over from Immediate Past President, Ethan Kreutzer, who said he was confident that the newly elected team would be able to achieve great things for NAPSA.

"I step down knowing that the association is in good hands," he said, thanking the NAPSA Advisory Council, all of the organisation's sponsors and the wider pharmacy industry for its continued support.

"Without this support, NAPSA would not have been able to provide ongoing exciting opportunities for pharmacy students," Kreutzer concluded.

NZ nurses given new authority

NURSE prescribers in New Zealand are now able to initiate and renew a special authority for medicines they are authorised to prescribe, under new prescribing rules which went into effect this month.

The change means they will be able to apply, on behalf of their patient, for a government subsidy on prescription medicines, according to NZ's PHARMAC regulatory agency.

"Patients won't necessarily need to wait for their GP or specialist doctor to sign off on much-needed prescriptions for these medicines," said NZ Ministry of Health Chief Nursing Officer, Lorraine Hetaraka.

"Being able to start patients on medicines straight away will make better use of nurse prescribers' expertise and time."

The Ministry updated the relevant IT systems to permit nurse prescribers to apply for a Special Authority, while PHARMAC updated the NZ Pharmaceutical Schedule rules to allow nurse prescribers to apply for the medicines.

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