

**NEW** **Ferro-Max C™**  
with Vitamin C to aid absorption.\*  
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For use when iron deficiency or iron deficiency anaemia has been diagnosed by your doctor and a therapeutic iron supplement is recommended. Always read the label. Follow the directions for use. If symptoms persist, worsen or change unexpectedly, talk to your health professional. \*Vitamin C has been shown to enhance the absorption of iron when taken together.



## Today's issue of PD

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

- Guardian Pharmacy
- MIMS July update

## Join Guardian

SIGMA Healthcare's Guardian Pharmacy brand is inviting prospective franchisees to join its vision of supporting local communities by putting people at the heart of its one-to-one care.

See page three for details.

## Coma recovery

ALYSSA Kent, Senior Business Unit Director of Virology Australia and NZ at Gilead Sciences has recovered and is in rehabilitation, having suffered a brain blood clot after having a dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccination.

The local pharmaceutical industry rallied to support Kent when she was extremely unwell, according to a *Pharma in Focus* report today.

# Pharmacist vaccination vital for NSW

STRICTER restrictions imposed in NSW this morning are a reflection that the state will be unable to reopen until pharmacists can vaccinate against COVID-19, according to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

The PSA noted statements by State Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, who yesterday said NSW cannot live with the Delta variant of the pandemic unless a certain proportion of the population are vaccinated.

"However she continues to sideline the almost 5,000 pharmacist vaccinator workforce in NSW," said PSA NSW Branch President, Chelsea Felkai (pictured).

Felkai said there was still no explanation from the NSW Government as to why pharmacist involvement in the rollout is still incredibly limited.

"Last week, Premier Berejiklian announced that only 22 community pharmacies across the state will commence vaccinating patients with the AstraZeneca vaccine from mid-Jul," she said.

"We have almost 5,000 skilled, trusted and experienced pharmacist vaccinators across NSW, and the Government has refused



to tell us why they are not being utilised.

"The announcement last week of a positive case at one of the vaccination hubs reaffirms the importance of accessing these vaccinators within your local community, whether that be through your local GP or pharmacist," Felkai added.

Further restrictions announced today by Berejiklian include limiting outdoor public gatherings to just

two people, an order that people must stay within 10km of their home for exercise and outdoor recreation, a maximum of 10 people at a funeral and a ban on browsing in shops, with only one person per household allowed to leave the home for shopping.

The PSA NSW President said "at a time when we are also encouraging NSW residents to stay local, local pharmacists are the obvious choice".

Felkai also urged much wider use of pharmacist vaccinators in settings such as vaccination hubs and aged care.

"Our nursing colleagues have been doing a lot of the heavy lifting in terms of workforce surge, and we don't want to see them burn out," she said.

"We need to utilise our full vaccinator workforce, including local pharmacists."

Felkai noted that the Federal Government's indemnity scheme already covers pharmacists administering COVID-19, adding that "PSA is dedicated to supporting pharmacists in delivering the COVID-19 vaccine both safely and effectively to the public, and pharmacists are on standby to support the strategy".



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## Bloody Qld!

THE Queensland Pharmacy Students' Association (QPSA) has been announced as the winner of this years National Australia Pharmacy Students' Association annual Vampire Cup blood donation drive.

QPSA collectively contributed a total of 54 donations, helping to save 162 lives, with James Cook University Pharmacy Students Association taking out the Young Blood Award.

## Migraine course

GUILD Learning and Development has partnered with GSK on the development of a new education module titled *Primary Care Management of Migraine*.

The move follows the recent down-scheduling of some medications in the triptan class to Pharmacist Only, increasing the scope of migraine management pharmacists are able to offer their patients.

# Dispensary is the heart of your pharmacy.

Join us for a 30min Webinar to find out how TerryWhite Chemmart is driving dispensary growth at a rate of 4% - double the Australian Pharmacy Market.\*

\*TWC Script Numbers Growth Jan - March 2021 vs pcp compared with total PBS subsidised prescriptions FY20 vs pcp

**REGISTER TODAY**



## PDL releases AZ guidance

**PHARMACEUTICAL** Defence Limited (PDL) has issued a practice alert for pharmacists relating to the administration of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to patients under 60 years of age.

PDL confirmed that while the ATAGI advice regarding age ranges for the vaccine has not changed, "recent Commonwealth government announcements have reiterated that healthcare practitioners, including pharmacists, can, with informed consent, administer the AstraZeneca vaccine to patients under the age of 60 years in certain circumstances".

The PDL Master Policy provides cover for COVID-19 vaccination, when pharmacists take reasonable steps to understand and comply with the obligations placed on them by government-approved protocols including training, standards, directives, clinical guidelines and recommendations in

place at the time of vaccination.

Following the latest announcements, PDL said for its members handling requests for AstraZeneca vaccines in patients under 60, pharmacists should satisfy themselves that the Pfizer Cominarty vaccine is not available to the patient, and that the benefits to the patient are likely to outweigh the risks.

Patients should give informed consent to the vaccination knowing the risks, and pharmacists should also ensure that state legislation permits vaccination in this age range - noting that for example the NSW Vaccination Standard does not allow for pharmacist administration of COVID-19 vaccines in patients less than 60 years.

ATAGI guidance also indicates that pharmacists can administer the second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine if the patient had no reactions to the first dose, the indemnity insurer added.

## RACFs to get electronic upgrade grants

**RESIDENTIAL** aged care facilities will receive funding to implement Electronic National Residential Medication Chart (eNMRC) systems, under a program announced as part of the 2021-22 Federal Budget.

An update on the PBS website today noted that the Department of Health and the Australian Digital Health Agency are currently working with several vendors, "supporting them to achieve conformance with the legislative and technical conformance requirements for eNMRCs".

Electronic medication charts can help reduce medication safety risks, give increased

visibility of all medications being provided to particular residents, enable timely provision of medicines and give prompts and alerts to advise of allergies or medication interactions, while also potentially reducing polypharmacy.

The adoption of an eNMRC is optional, however "adoption and use of these systems is encouraged to ensure safe and accountable medication management," the Health Department said.

Further information on the initiative will be available shortly, the Department noted, with an eNMRC fact sheet now available online at [pbs.gov.au](https://pbs.gov.au).

## Best Practice now MediSecure

**THE** latest update to GP software platform Best Practice now enables doctors to select the MediSecure prescription exchange service to transmit token-based electronic scripts.

The "Saffron Service Pack 1" update included the new feature allowing either the eRx or MediSecure link, with Best Practice CEO Frank Pyefinch saying "Best Practice Software has always understood that choice is important for our customers, and we are pleased to support our many users who choose MediSecure as their preferred prescription exchange provider".

MediSecure CEO Paul Frosdick said a significant number of the company's GP clients wanted to wait for the Saffron update before moving to ePrescriptions.

"Our users value the fact that we are Australia's only independently owned prescription exchange, and we know that they appreciate the responsiveness of our service team," he said, with more than 160 Best Practice MediSecure GP practices having started issuing digital scripts since the update went live last month.

## UK roundtable

**THE** UK Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) has proposed a round table discussion with British doctor groups to discuss post-COVID collaboration.

An open letter from RPS to the profession calls on GPs and pharmacists to work together for better patient care.



## Dispensary Corner

**SOME** people get tattoos to remember big life events, while others get custom number plates - but that's not going to work for a Melbourne man who has had his special pandemic plates cancelled because they are deemed "offensive".

Last Apr, as COVID-19 was continuing to wreak havoc on the globe, Peter Smith successfully applied for the plates "CVD-19" (pictured) for the truck used for his cleaning business.

However despite displaying them proudly for the last year or so, Smith has now received a letter from VicRoads saying the plates must be handed in by the end of the month.

The plates' registration will be cancelled because of their "specific negative references" according to the agency.

Smith has slammed the decision as "arbitrary".

"Someone has woken up in the morning and said 'I don't like it'. The question is: where does it stop? What number plate will be deemed offensive next," he told radio station 3AW.

The Department said it had received a complaint about the plates, prompting a review which found they were "insensitive" given the catastrophic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.





# Join Guardian, part of the Sigma Healthcare family

*Let's talk about you*



## Putting people *at the heart* of one-to-one care

Guardian is an award-winning national pharmacy brand with the feel of a 'local' business.

Guardian's goal is to support its local community by putting people at the heart of its one-to-one care. It focuses on health and dispensing without too many distractions of retail.

# Guardian

Do you want a 'local' pharmacy where you can express and maintain your identity and personality with the buying and service support from Sigma Healthcare?

## New Products

- **Trifarotene (Aklief)** is a chemically stable, terphenyl acid derivative with retinoid-like activity. It is a relatively potent retinoid acid receptor  $\gamma$  (RAR $\gamma$ ) agonist, characterised by its high specificity to this receptor over RAR $\alpha$  and RAR $\beta$  (65- and 16-fold, respectively, with no retinoid X receptor activity). In addition, trifarotene modulates retinoid target genes (differentiation and inflammatory processes) in human immortalised keratinocytes and human reconstructed epidermis. Aklief is indicated for the topical treatment of *acne vulgaris* of the face and/or trunk in patients  $\geq$  12 years, when many comedones, papules and/or pustules are present. Aklief is contraindicated in pregnancy and women planning a pregnancy. Aklief cream contains trifarotene 50 mcg/g and is available as a 75 g pump.

## New Indications

- **Ceftazidime (pentahydrate)/avibactam (sodium) (Zavicefta)** is now indicated for the treatment of the following infections in infants and paediatric patients ( $\geq$  3 months to  $<$  18 years): complicated intra-abdominal infection in combination with metronidazole, and complicated urinary tract infection including pyelonephritis.
- **Encorafenib (Braftovi)**, in combination with cetuximab, is now indicated for the treatment of adults who have metastatic colorectal cancer with a BRAF V600E mutation as detected by a validated test, and who have received prior systemic therapy.
- **Ferric carboxymaltose (Ferinject)** is now indicated for the treatment of iron deficiency when there is a clinical need to deliver iron rapidly.
- **Fluticasone furoate/umeclidinium (bromide)/vilanterol (trifenatate) (Trelegy Ellipta)** is now indicated for the maintenance treatment of asthma in adults who are not adequately controlled with a combination of an inhaled corticosteroid and a long-acting  $\beta_2$ -agonist.
- **Nivolumab (rch) (Opdivo)**, in combination with **ipilimumab (rch) (Yervoy)**, is now indicated for the first-line treatment of patients with unresectable malignant pleural mesothelioma.
- **Tezacaftor/ivacaftor and ivacaftor (Symdeko)** is now indicated for the treatment of patients with cystic fibrosis aged 6 years and older who are homozygous for the F508del mutation or who have at least one mutation in the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator gene that is responsive to tezacaftor/ivacaftor based on *in vitro* data and/or clinical evidence.

## New Contraindications

- **Dolutegravir (sodium)/rilpivirine (HCl) (Juluca)** and **Dolutegravir (sodium)/abacavir (sulfate)/lamivudine (Triumeq)** are now contraindicated in combination with medicinal products with narrow therapeutic windows that are substrates of organic cation transporter 2 (OCT2) including, but not limited to, dofetilide, pilsicainide or fampridine.
- **Empagliflozin (Jardiance)** and **Empagliflozin/linagliptin (Glyxambi)** is now contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment (eGFR  $<$  30 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>), end-stage renal disease, and patients on dialysis.
- **Empagliflozin/metformin HCl (Jardiamet)** is now contraindicated in patients with severe renal failure (ClCr  $<$  30 mL/min).
- **Fluorouracil (DBL Fluorouracil Injection BP)** is now contraindicated in patients with known complete dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase deficiency.
- **Ibuprofen/paracetamol (Mersynofen)** is now contraindicated in patients with unclarified blood-formation disturbances, cerebrovascular or other active bleeding, and in patients undergoing treatment of perioperative pain in the setting of coronary artery bypass surgery (CABG).

*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.*