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[^]IMS MIDAS data, Absatz MAT04/2019. *Lang C, et al., Planta Med 2015;81:968-974.
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UK J&J vax tick

BRITAIN'S Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has formally approved the one-dose Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

It's the fourth COVID-19 vaccine to be authorised by the UK's independent regulator, with an authorisation issued based on an MHRA review of a previous decision made by the European Medicine Agency's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use.

Time to stock up

JUNO Labs is inviting orders via pharmacy wholesalers for its Bach Rescue Remedy sprays and pastilles, as well as Spatone liquid iron.

See **page four** for details.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, a front cover from **Flordis** and a full page from **Juno Labs**.

Victorian Govt need to ask for COVAX

ACCESS to COVID-19 vaccines (COVAX) is being cited as a barrier to expanding the vaccination rollout to include community pharmacies in Victoria, despite reports that CSL has capacity to produce large quantities of doses domestically.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, told **Pharmacy Daily** "it's utter madness" that community pharmacies have not been engaged to vaccinate at this stage.

He said the Guild was in "ongoing discussions" with health officials in the State "about activating community pharmacies in Victoria to help deliver COVAX".

"There appears to be a willingness by them, but stock supply continues to be raised as the main barrier," he said.

"It really shouldn't be this hard.

"If there is a stock supply issue, ask the Commonwealth for more.

"We have all been told about the on-shore manufacturing of the AstraZeneca vaccine capable of producing large volumes quickly.

"I know that if I need something, I

ask for it.

"We know our patients are asking for it, so we will continue to ask questions of the Victorian Government why we haven't received stock yet.

"While regional Victoria is still stuck in lockdown, community pharmacies across the State continue to turn away ready, willing and eligible patients for the vaccine every day."

Issues around access to AstraZeneca were highlighted by a sign outside a hospital in Melbourne this morning noting it had "no more AZ vaccine" and that patients could get the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine "by appointment only".

Meanwhile, Labor MP for Bendigo, Lisa Chesters, said the Federal Government was holding back 40% of the vaccines manufactured by CSL, and called on Health Minister, Greg Hunt, to explain "where vaccines are going and why they are being held back from distribution".

Chesters backed moves to accelerate the COVAX rollout.

"By giving GPs the vaccine they



need and getting pharmacies on board with distribution, we can normalise distribution and make access to the vaccines people need easier," she said.

"Pharmacies have established booking infrastructure and relevant expertise in administering bulk-vaccination programs in a COVID-safe way, through flu vaccinations, and we are currently not utilising this effectively."

Guild launches melatonin training

GUILD Learning and Development is partnering with Aspen Australia to rollout a new online training module, *Melatonin for the management of insomnia*.

The new course will assist pharmacists in navigating the area following the down-scheduling of prolonged-

release melatonin from Prescription Only to Pharmacist Only for the management of primary insomnia in patients aged 55 years and older.

The scheduling change came into effect on 01 Jun.

CLICK HERE to enrol in the course, or call Guild L&D on 1800 049 056.

Pharmacy perinatal depression survey

RESEARCHERS from the University of Sydney are looking to hear from community pharmacists about their views of the profession's role in perinatal depression screening.

CLICK HERE to take part in the survey, which takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

For more information about the research contact Dr Sarira El-Den by **EMAIL**.



Find out more about the future of community pharmacy



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Guardian boss to rough it for Vinnies

GUARDIAN Pharmacy Head, Kurt O'Brien, is set to sleep rough for a third time as part of the Vinnies CEO Sleepout fundraising event for people experiencing homelessness in the community.

O'Brien is aiming to raise \$5,000 for the charity, with Guardian's parent company, Sigma Healthcare pledging to match every dollar he raises up to his goal, to help break the cycle of homelessness and poverty facing more than 100,000 Australians each night.

"Participating in Vinnies CEO Sleepout each year is an important part of our community engagement ethos which we are so passionate about at Guardian," he said.

"This year will mark my third year being involved in the CEO Sleepout initiative and more than five years

working with Vinnies to support those experiencing disadvantage and homelessness within the community.

"The sleepout is designed to increase awareness around homelessness in our communities and help others gain a better understanding of what Australians living without shelter experience daily, so I'm looking forward to doing what I can to aid Vinnies' fundraising efforts with the support of the Guardian Pharmacy network."

Through his previous Sleepout efforts in 2019 and 2020, O'Brien has raised close to \$10,000 for Vinnies.

The Victorian-based Guardian boss is due to spend the night of 17 Jun at The Timber Yard in Port Melbourne alongside 240 other business leaders, but depending on COVID-19 lockdown restrictions may have to rough it in his car or backyard.



O'Brien will not be community pharmacy's sole participant in the annual CEO Sleepout, with Pharmacy Guild of Australia Tasmanian Branch Director, Monique MacKrell, joining close to 40 other CEOs at University of Tasmania Stadium in Launceston on 17 Jun, for the first time.

You can show your support for pharmacy duo, by donating to O'Brien's fundraising account [HERE](#), and/or MacKrell's [HERE](#).

Dispensary Corner

DANGERS associated with heading footballs may never be more pronounced than a former pro who tried to argue that COVID-19 was "make believe", when authorities visited his soft play centre during the UK's lockdown.

The ex-Premier League defender, Bradley Orr, refused to close his Cirque D-Play centre, despite nationwide restrictions ordering the shutdown of non-essential businesses.

When Merseyside Police called on 01 Nov, and found the centre open, Orr told them that the 800-year-old Magna Carta meant the COVID-induced rules did not apply to him.

Orr argued that Clause 61 of the medieval document allowed him to ignore laws that he deemed to be unjust.

However, the *BBC* reported that Orr's claims to protection under the Magna Carta were misguided, noting just four parts of the document were still valid under modern British law, noting "none of those clauses allows citizens to decide which laws should apply to them".

In a statement issued to Wirral Magistrates Court, Police Constable Matthew Edwards said that on 07 Nov (during a second visit to the play centre), Orr acted "in a childish manner" and claimed the virus which has claimed the lives of 128,000 British people, was "make believe".

The court issue a £3,960 fine and ordered Orr to pay costs of £200 and £366 for victim services.

It will be interesting to see if the ex-soccer player maintains the rage, or pays up or continues to ignore the rule of law, because it doesn't suit him.

The former on-field defender may wish to man up with a good lawyer so he himself now has some defense



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More pharmacies linked to COVID sites

VICTORIA'S rapidly growing list of COVID-19 exposure sites now includes a total of 20 pharmacies, with two stores at Craigieburn Central being added last night.

The shopping centre, which is home to a Priceline Pharmacy and a Chemist Discount Centre was added to the list as a Tier 2 exposure site at 7.59pm yesterday.

The Victorian Government's COVID-19 website reported confirmed cases visited Craigieburn Centre on 23 May between 10am and 1.30pm, and again on 26 May from 9am until 11.45am and again at 7pm to 9.05pm on the same day.

Customers who attended the centre during the above timeframes have been asked to "get tested urgently and isolate" until they receive a negative result.

The addition of two new pharmacies to the State's watchlist comes as Victorian Government officials revealed



six new confirmed cases were identified yesterday, including one who had been travelling in NSW while potentially infectious.

The Victorian Department of Health revealed the individual had been in Jervis Bay, Hyams Beach and Vincentia on the NSW South Coast, and Goulburn, on 23 and 24 May.

A Department source told *The Age* that the State's Chief Health Officer, Brett Sutton, and his team were leaning towards recommending an extension of Victoria's fourth lockdown.

KEEP UP TO DATE. ORDER YOUR 2021 EDITION NOW!

AMH
AUSTRALIAN MEDICINES HANDBOOK

AHPRA aged care podcast

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has highlighted the latest episode of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's *Taking Care* podcast, which examines the future of aged care in Australia.

The podcast, which is highly relevant given the findings of the recent Royal Commission into Aged Care, features discussions with Dr Linda Mellors, CEO of Regis Aged Care, geriatrician Dr Joseph Ibrahim and Allyson Warrington, CEO of Community Based Support Tasmania.

Taking Care is available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts as well as on its own dedicated web page at whooshkaa.com.

QUM key to patient centred care: CHF

QUALITY Use of Medicines (QUM) is fundamental to combatting medication-related harm and improving patients' health literacy, Consumer Health Forum (CHF) CEO, Leanne Wells, believes.

In a blog posted on the CHF's website, Wells noted that the benefits of medications such as opioids, antimicrobials and antipsychotics were overshadowed by the harms associated with them.

Wells said that while QUM can reduce harms and deaths flowing from medication misuse, "positive measures can include closing the chasm people have to cross as they transition between care settings".

"We are striving for higher levels of consumer medication literacy – giving consumers information and the agency to ask questions, understand their consumer

medicine information (CMI) and feel confident proactively to seek medication reviews," she said.

"On a separate but associated front, we are also working on 'Five Questions to Ask your Pharmacist', borrowing from the Five Questions format of the Choosing Wisely program (PD 16 Mar).

"We need to increase consumers' capacity to manage and feel in control of their health care, including with QUM.

"That's a challenge when we know that significant numbers of Australians appear to lack the capacity to access, understand, appraise and use crucial information to make health-related decisions."

Wells added that supporting patient-centred models would advance QUM.



"Having non-prescribing pharmacists in general practice represents a really powerful development.

"We have the workforce in pharmacists who can work with prescribers to use localised data to look at prescribing patterns, medication reviews, and most importantly work with the GPs to educate and better equip consumers."

PRODA w AIR

PHARMACIES are being required to transition to Services Australia's PRODA authentication platform before 30 Jun if they require ongoing access to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

"All authentication file access to the AIR will be switched off by 30 Sep, but some provider types will lose access sooner," the Government agency advised.

The 30 Jun switchoff for pharmacies also applies to State health departments, public health units and public hospitals.

GPs, councils, nurse practitioners and Aboriginal Health Services will have their AIR authentication file access turned off on 30 Sep.

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