



Mag-Sup

High absorption magnesium

50's PBS & RPBS Listed

Available in 50's, 100's and 250's from Symbion, Sigma and API.

Pharmacy only.

Use only as directed. Consult your healthcare professional if symptoms persist.

Ospolot warning

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a product defect alert for two batches of Ospolot (sulthiame) 200mg tablets, over concerns child-resistant caps may not function correctly.



Deus Luggya
Pharmacist-owner & team
Bakewell NT

Take the next step to grow your successful pharmacy with Australia's leading community pharmacy network.

jobbloomsthechemist.com.au

Blooms THE CHEMIST

Demand fuels Qld's mass COVAX plan

QUEENSLAND Health is set to establish mass vaccination centres across the state in response to "a massive spike in demand" for COVID-19 vaccines (COVAX), Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, revealed this morning.

The Premier's announcement of planned mass vaccination centres contrasts with comments made by Queensland's Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference last month, when she said she wanted community pharmacists "to do mass vaccination", rather than setting up "clinics in school halls on weekends."

In a Twitter thread posted this morning, Palaszczuk said the State Government was expanding its COVAX rollout to cover weekends to meet the interest in the vaccines from 40 to 49-year-olds.

"Eighteen vaccination centres will deliver Pfizer vaccinations on weekends, including three new dedicated community vaccination



centres at Logan Entertainment Centre, Rocklea Showgrounds and Springfield Tower," she said.

"Up to 15,000 vaccinations are expected to be administered this weekend.

"Bookings will be offered to people in the 40 to 49-year-old category, who have registered their interest to get the vaccine as well as aged care and disability workers who are yet to be vaccinated by the Commonwealth Government.

"This expanded community rollout will help pave the way for mass vaccination centres operating later

in the year when more supply [of COVAX] becomes available."

Palaszczuk urged Queenslanders aged 50 years and older to contact their GPs about booking their COVAX shot.

She added that Queensland Health was not encouraging "walk-ins" over the weekend, noting priority would be given to people who have already registered their interest in getting the jab.

MEANWHILE, details of the 56 regional and rural pharmacies in Queensland that have been approved to administer COVAX have yet to be named.

However, it is expected that they will begin administering shots in the coming weeks.

Today's issue of PD

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

- Sigma Healthcare
- MIMS June update

Find the right model for you

SIGMA Healthcare's PharmaSave brand offers pharmacy owners the tools to drive their business to the next level.

The low-cost, self-managed model focuses on 'care, value and service' as its core tenets, and can be tailored to individual needs.

See **page three** for more.



Chemists' Own®

Leap into this Spring Offer 2021

UP TO 40% DISCOUNT

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE. IF SYMPTOMS PERSIST, TALK TO YOUR HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.

To order contact your Arotex OTC Territory Manager or call 1300 927 769
Deal pricing valid 1 August - 30 November 2021. Available via turnover only.

With you, every step of the way

Helping you thrive with a range of leading pharmacy solutions. Join us today – symbion.com.au or email info@symbion.com.au



symbion





COVID-19 opens doors to full scope

PHARMACY'S prominent role in supporting communities around the globe is creating fresh opportunities for the profession to push to be empowered to work to its full scope of practice, International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) President, Dominique Jordan, believes.

Writing in the foreword to the 2020 FIP Annual Report, Jordan said the pandemic had presented significant challenges, but also elevated the profession's profile, with community pharmacies keeping their doors open, exposing pharmacy workers to the virus.

"No single event has demonstrated the value of pharmacy as much as COVID-19 has, and doors to new and expanded roles have been opened,"

Jordan said.

"Never have so many governments and health ministers acknowledged the contribution of pharmacy to health systems and the health of communities.

"In a year of great uncertainty and emergency, our pharmacy profession has demonstrated its expertise, strength, courage and dedication to care at the highest level.

"However, not far from our minds are our colleagues who have died during the pandemic as a result of providing care to their communities."

Jordan also noted that the pandemic had highlighted the "power of sharing and working together in unity", with FIP hosting



regular webinars throughout the crisis to allow pharmacists from around the world to learn from each other's experiences.

"I believe that pharmacy will emerge from this pandemic bigger and better, but we must think ahead and complement the positive recognition we have received with evidence," he said.



Dispensary Corner

IRISH pharmacists' excitement about being granted approval to administer COVID-19 vaccines is being tempered by the limited nature of their role.

With community pharmacists on the Emerald Isle set to join the vaccine rollout from next Mon, the *Irish Examiner* has reported many are disappointed that they are being restricted to targeting vaccine hesitant patients aged 50 years and older.

Cork-based pharmacist, Mairead Reen, said the decision would leave the profession, "trying to round up the over 50s" who have shown little or no interest in getting the vaccine so far.

"It is disappointing for us, and there is a sense of disillusionment with the system," she said.

"I would love to open the door whenever we get the delivery to all the over-40s."

Irish Pharmacy Union Secretary General, Darragh O'Loughlin, said the profession was frustrated with delays in the vaccine rollout, noting that, "a lot of pharmacists now do feel they have been ignored and sidelined and treated with an element of disrespect".

DDS Highfields donation

PHARMACY owners, Roslyn and Michael Zuyderwuk, have donated \$5,000 worth of skincare and beauty products from their Discount Drug Store Highfields outlet to Protea Place, a local charity supporting victims of family violence.

"It's rewarding to think that in some small way we can help make these women feel special and valued at a time when they may be feeling alone," Roslyn said.

Health and business a good career mix

PHARMACEUTICAL Society of Australia 2021 Queensland Pharmacist of the Year (PotY), Bridget Totterman, talks about her career on the latest edition of Raven's Recruitment's *Your Pharmacy Career Podcast*.

The White Retail Group Chief Operating Officer told host, Allie Xu, that from an early age she saw herself pursuing a career in the health sector, but only considered pharmacy as an option when she was in Year 12.

Totterman said that she loves

being able to mix her passion for healthcare with business, noting she was fortunate to have a preceptor who exposed her to all sides of pharmacy during her intern training.

She added that experience gave her the opportunity to go straight into a management role in her first year as a registered pharmacist, and paved the way for a rewarding career as a pharmacist.

CLICK HERE to listen to the *Your Pharmacy Career Podcast*.





SPECIFICALLY FORMULATED FOR THE SYMPTOMATIC RELIEF OF PSORIASIS





IS TAR FREE

CONTAINS 10% UREA & 1.5% LACTIC ACID FOR SCALE REMOVAL

CONTAINS TETRAHYDRODIFERULOYLMETHANE, A NATURAL TURMERIC EXTRACT



dermaltherapy.com.au

Join PharmaSave, part of the Sigma Healthcare family



A leading low cost, self managed, branded pharmacy model

PharmaSave is a national pharmacy brand that focuses on 'Care, Value and Service' as its core tenets.

PharmaSave is a leading low cost, self-managed, branded pharmacy model that can be tailored to meet individual store management needs.

 **PharmaSave**
Australia Pty Ltd

Are you a motivated owner who requires the tools to drive their business to the next level?

New Products

- **Beclomethasone dipropionate/formoterol (eformoterol) fumarate dihydrate/glycopyrronium bromide (Trimbow)** combines beclomethasone dipropionate, a glucocorticoid, formoterol, a selective β_2 -adrenergic agonist, and glycopyrronium, a high-affinity, long-acting muscarinic receptor antagonist (LAMA). Trimbow is indicated for maintenance treatment in adults with moderate to severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease who are not adequately treated by the combination of an inhaled corticosteroid and a long-acting β_2 -agonist (LABA), or the combination of LABA and LAMA. Trimbow pressurised solution for inhalation contains beclomethasone dipropionate 100 mcg, formoterol fumarate dihydrate 6 mcg and glycopyrronium 10 mcg per metered dose (equivalent to a delivered dose of beclomethasone dipropionate 87 mcg, formoterol fumarate dihydrate 5 mcg and glycopyrronium 9 mcg), and is available in a pack size of 120 actuations.
- **Recombinant varicella zoster virus glycoprotein E antigen (AS01_B adjuvanted vaccine) (Shingrix)** induces antigen-specific cellular and humoral immune responses in individuals with pre-existing immunity against varicella zoster virus (VZV) by combining the VZV specific antigen (gE) with an adjuvant system (AS01_B). Non-clinical data show that AS01_B induces a local and transient activation of the innate immune system, which facilitates the recruitment and activation of antigen presenting cells carrying gE-derived antigens in the draining lymph node, which in turn leads to the generation of gE-specific CD4+ T cells and antibodies. The adjuvant effect of AS01_B is the result of interactions between 3-O-desacyl-4'-monophosphoryl lipid A (MPL) and *Quillaja saponaria* saponin (QS-21) formulated in liposomes. Shingrix is indicated for the prevention of herpes zoster and post-herpetic neuralgia in adults \geq 50 years. Shingrix powder and suspension for injection contains 50 mcg/0.5 mL of VZV gE antigen adjuvanted with AS01_B and is available in a pack size of 1.
- **Satralizumab (Enspryng)** is a humanised IgG₂ monoclonal antibody that binds to soluble and membrane-bound human IL-6 receptor and thereby prevents IL-6 downstream signalling through these receptors. IL-6 is a pleiotropic cytokine produced by a variety of cell types and is involved in diverse processes such as B-cell activation, differentiation of B-cells to plasma blasts and production of autoantibodies, Th17-cell activation and differentiation, T-regulatory cell inhibition, and changes in blood-brain barrier permeability. IL-6 levels are increased in the cerebrospinal fluid and serum of patients with neuromyelitis optica (NMO) and neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders (NMOSD) during periods of disease activity. Some IL-6 functions have been implicated in the pathogenesis of NMO and NMOSD, including production of pathological autoantibodies against aquaporin-4, a water channel protein mainly expressed by astrocytes in the central nervous system. Enspryng is indicated as monotherapy, or in combination with immunosuppressive therapy, for the treatment of adults with NMOSD who have an anti-aquaporin 4 antibody IgG positive status. Enspryng is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to Chinese hamster ovary cell proteins. Enspryng solution for injection contains satralizumab 120 mg/mL and is available in a pack size of 1 pre-filled syringe.
- **Trabectedin (Yondelis)** binds to the minor groove of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), bending the helix to the major groove. This binding to DNA triggers a cascade of events affecting several transcription factors, DNA binding proteins, and DNA repair pathways, resulting in perturbation of the cell cycle. Yondelis is indicated for the treatment of patients with unresectable or metastatic liposarcoma or leiomyosarcoma who received a prior anthracycline-containing regimen. It is contraindicated with concurrent serious or uncontrolled infection, during breastfeeding, or in combination with yellow fever vaccine. Yondelis powder for solution for infusion contains trabectedin 0.25 mg or 1 mg per vial and is available in a pack size of 1.

New Indications

- **Buprenorphine (Buvidal Monthly)** is now indicated for maintenance treatment of opioid dependence with prior stabilisation on Buvidal Weekly, sublingual buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone, within a framework of medical, social and psychological support.
- **Buprenorphine (Buvidal Weekly)** is now indicated for initiation and maintenance treatment of opioid dependence, with or without prior stabilisation on sublingual buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone, within a framework of medical, social and psychological support.
- **Combined diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis (dTpa) vaccine (Boostrix) and Combined dTpa and inactivated poliovirus vaccine (Boostrix IPV)** are now also indicated for passive protection against pertussis in early infancy following maternal immunisation during pregnancy.
- **Osimertinib (mesilate) (Tagrisso)** is now indicated as an adjuvant therapy after tumour resection in patients with non-small cell lung cancer whose tumours have activating epidermal growth factor receptor mutations, as detected by a validated test.
- **Sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (Epclusa)** is now indicated for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C virus infection (genotype 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6) in children \geq 12 years weighing \geq 30 kg.
- **Upadacitinib (Rinvoq)** is now indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe active psoriatic arthritis in adults who have responded inadequately to, or are intolerant to, one or more disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs). It may be used as monotherapy or in combination with a non-biological DMARD. Rinvoq is also indicated for the treatment of adults with active ankylosing spondylitis.

New Contraindications

- **COVID-19 (ChAdOx1-S) vaccine (COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca)** is now contraindicated in patients who have experienced major venous and/or arterial thrombosis in combination with thrombocytopenia following vaccination with any COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Cyclopentolate hydrochloride (Minims Cyclopentolate Eye Drops)** is now contraindicated in patients with narrow-angle glaucoma or in those with a shallow anterior chamber; in the elderly (> 65 years) and other patients who may be predisposed to increased intraocular pressure; in at risk patients, especially premature babies, infants, and patients with Down syndrome, as well as in children with brain damage; in children with organic brain syndromes, including congenital or neurodevelopmental abnormalities, particularly those predisposing to epileptic seizures; and in patients with cardiovascular disorders.
- **Trastuzumab (rch) (Ogivri)** is now contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to murine proteins.
- **Zoster virus vaccine, live (Zostavax)** is now contraindicated in patients with current or recent severe immunocompromising conditions from either a primary or acquired medical condition or medical treatment.

Safety Related Changes

- **Buprenorphine (Buvidal Weekly, Monthly)** is no longer contraindicated during pregnancy and lactation.

*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.*