



## Today's issue of PD

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

- Sigma Healthcare
- Friendly Care Pharmacy

## Find the right model for you

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

See page four for more

## Storage solution

TACKLE dispensary disorder with a Willach three bay FAMA drawers bay.

The bay is available for \$2,000, from Friendly Care Pharmacy Sandgate, Qld.

See page five for more.

## TGA approves Moderna COVID-19 vax

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has granted a provisional determination for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, which is expected to be made available to community pharmacies later this year.

"This mRNA vaccine will be considered for the active immunisation to prevent COVID-19, caused by SARS-CoV-2, in individuals aged 12 years of age and older," the TGA said.

"While the vaccine has approval or emergency use authorisation in a number of other countries for older populations, it is currently under review in some of those countries for adolescent



populations.

"If approved, a complete course of the Moderna vaccine is likely to be two doses given 28 days apart.

"The granting of a provisional determination means that the TGA has made a decision that Moderna is now eligible to apply for provisional registration for the vaccine in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods."

## COVAX on pharmacies' horizons

QUEENSLAND Health is waiting to hear back from 105 regional and rural pharmacies it has invited to join its COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) campaign (PD breaking news).

The move came just over two weeks after pharmacist immuniser, Sue Pocock from Footes Boonah Pharmacy in Queensland, administered the first COVAX dose in an Australian pharmacy (PD 07 Jun), following the State Government's activation of 49 stores as part of an initial phase of the vaccine rollout.

Confirming the expansion of pharmacy-based COVAX services Queensland Health spokesperson told Pharmacy Daily that the State Government was "working with the Federal Government to activate community pharmacies who have expressed interest in participating in the COVAX program across the state, to ensure equitable access to the vaccine, particularly in areas



where there are no primary care-led vaccination services".

Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, said the move would bring the number of pharmacies invited to participate in the COVAX rollout to 372 nationwide, with the South Australian Government announcing that it planned to provide green-light "about 100 rural and remote pharmacies" to provide

COVAX (PD 18 Jun).

NSW Health had been expected to announce plans to activate 26 rural pharmacies last week, but an official announcement has yet to be made, while Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, confirmed the Victorian State Government had identified 15 pharmacies to participate in the vaccine rollout (PD 16 Jun).

## ADHA creates new online directory

THE Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) is eliminating the need for healthcare providers to manually update multiple directories allowing them to upload details of their services and practitioners to Provider Connect Australia.

The new service is expected to achieve economic benefits of more than \$30 million a year by 2025, allowing providers to update their contact details in a single place which will share new information with nominated hospitals, pathology and radiology services, public service directories, secure messaging providers and more.

ADHA CEO, Amanda Cattermole, said Provider Connect Australia would drive greater interoperability and adoption of secure messaging across the Australian healthcare system and provide benefits to both patients and health professionals.

"By providing this national service, the Agency can improve the quality and reliability of healthcare service details in directories and other services, including Medicare, and significantly reduce the administrative burden on healthcare organisations," she said.

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## COVID scares hit Bourke and Guild

**PHARMACY** Guild of Australia NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, has received the all-clear after being tested for COVID-19 after attending a dinner alongside State Agriculture Minister, Adam Marshall, who tested positive for the virus.

Heffernan travelled to Canberra on Wed and dined with National Party MP and Federal Minister for Resources, Keith Pitt.

Speaking to *Seven News*, the Guild leader said that after being identified as a close contact of Marshall, he had "tried to advise as many people as I can", adding that he had "no symptoms" and felt "perfectly fine, perfectly health".

In a tweet posted this afternoon, Heffernan said he had just been contacted by NSW Health.

"Negative. No symptoms," he said.

"To be prudent, I should note I am required to [have] COVID test[s] on day seven and day 12."

**MEANWHILE** NSW Health has reported that its ongoing sewage surveillance program has detected fragments of the virus at the Bourke sewage treatment plant in the State's west.

Bourke pharmacist, Peter Crothers, told *Pharmacy Daily* that he had spoken to local authorities and said he would be implementing COVIDSafe measures across his pharmacy, following the NSW Health announcement.

"We always knew that this sort of thing might happen," he said.

"At the recommendation of our local authorities we're going back to full social distancing.

"We'll probably put some limits on the number of people that can be in the pharmacy - we've got a large shopping space, but the way store traffic works we can't have dozens of people in at a time.

"We'll be having people wait outside the store at 1.5 or two metre intervals, which is something



we did early on [in the pandemic], so we're just returning to those early days a year or more ago.

"We had already decided that we would start using the Service NSW QR code check-in - that hasn't been compulsory and it still isn't for pharmacies.

"We started to implement that a few weeks ago to get people used to it, just in case there was an outbreak."

However, Crothers noted that the store was also operating a manual check-in record, as a significant number of people in the area do not have smartphones.

## PBS/NIP cost recovery fees

**UPDATED** details of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) have been published today.

The new fees, which also relate to the National Immunisation Plan (NIP), relate to the 2021/22 financial year, from 01 Jul.

"An indexation approach has been applied to all fees that reflect the current efficient costs of delivering services based on an inflation rate for future years set by the Department of Finance," the Department of Health said.

The CRIS incorporates stakeholder feedback from a public consultation process that was undertaken in Apr.

**CLICK HERE** for further information about the fees.

## National Medicine Policy Review due

**A REVIEW** of the National Medicine Policy is set to begin in Aug, with Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Professor Michael Kidd, to chair the review committee.

The review will include a stakeholder consultation process involving a call for public submissions.

The National Medicines Policy was initially published in 2000, and provides a framework for the

delivery of four key objectives:

- Timely access to medicines at a cost individuals and the community can afford.
- Medicines meet appropriate standards of quality, safety and efficacy.
- Quality use of medicines.
- Maintaining a responsible and viable medicines industry.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## NSW COVID outbreak hits NZ pharmacy

**A PHARMACY** in New Zealand's capital, Wellington, has joined the growing list of COVID-19 exposure sites linked to the expanding Bondi cluster.

Health officials in New Zealand have urged shoppers who were at the Unichem Wellington Central Pharmacy on Sat 19 Jun to get tested because a Sydneysider who visited the store tested positive for COVID-19, after spending the weekend in the city.

The man is believed to have spent more than an hour in the pharmacy from 10.38am, with patrons being advised to stay at home until they get a negative test result and to continue monitoring for symptoms for the next 14 days.


The Location of Interest report released by the New Zealand Ministry of Health also reported that the man spent two and a half hours at a barber shop adjacent to the hotel he was staying in.

Officials have noted that



extra time had been added to the man's visits to various exposure sites to ensure all potential contacts who may have encountered the man go for testing.

**MEANWHILE**, two more pharmacies in Greater Sydney have been added to the NSW Health list of exposure sites, with shoppers who visited TerryWhite Chemmart Rouse Hill Town Centre between 11.05am and 11.15am on 21 Jun being urged to get tested and isolate until they return a negative result, with the same advice being given for those who were in the Priceline Pharmacy North Sydney between 4.50pm and 5.15pm on the same day.



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## SHPA welcomes NSW Budget

**INVESTMENT** in digital health records announced in the NSW Budget this week, is being backed by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA).

SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels welcomed the \$4 billion commitment to increasing the capacity of the State's healthcare system, highlighting the \$141 million pledge to implement a single digital patient record to enhance care coordination across hospital and other settings.

"Our members understand that, when robustly and securely supported, digital records effectively aid medication management and improve the quality of care in high-risk situations such as transitions of care, identified as a key priority in the global strategy to reduce preventable medication-related harm," she said.

## Compounder eyes NZ

**AUSTRALIAN** chemotherapy compounder, Slade Health, is entering a long-term agreement with the Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) to meet the growing needs of cancer patients in the region.

The deal announced yesterday will see Slade design, build and operate a Medsafe licensed sterile compounding facility to deliver chemotherapy, antibiotics, analgesics and nutritional infusions for public and private hospitals across New Zealand.

Currently the ADHB treats 40% of the country's oncology patients, with the facility to be built to meet the local demand alongside growth in services to the wider New Zealand market, Slade Health CEO, David Slade, said.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with the ADHB to provide New Zealand hospitals and patients with a world-class compounding service," he said.

"This partnership not only marks progress for our business but also for New Zealand's health system.

"Our innovative approach will



ensure the facility is designed with the latest technology to handle a broad range of formulations and clinical trials – especially in oncology where cancer treatments are becoming more personalised and complex.

"At Slade, the patient is at the centre of everything we do.

"I am proud to say we go above and beyond to ensure critical medicines are delivered on time despite raging floods, fire, and a pandemic here in Australia.

"It is this commitment which will underpin our service in New Zealand."

The facility in Avondale, Auckland, is expected to be fully operational by mid-2022.

## Dispensary Corner

**STEERING** clear of alcohol is a no-brainer for most expectant mothers, but it appears some parents-to-be seem to have missed the memo that dabbling in illicit drugs is also a no-no.

Irish doctors have started to warn parents to avoid narcotics, after a paper revealed twin boys born at a Dublin hospital tested positive for cocaine and both had a birth defect.

The incident highlighted in a paper published in the *Irish Medical Journal*, was identified after staff in the hospital's neonatal unit noticed that "the father presented as high alert, energetic and was talkative with a short attention span raising the suspicion that he was under the influence of an illicit substance".

The authors revealed that the boys' development was reviewed at six weeks and three months at the hospital's outpatient department, and both were "thriving".

The paper estimated that between 5% and 10% of women admitted using illicit substances during their pregnancy, while testing in high risk populations suggested cocaine use could be as high as 40% in such groups, *The Irish Times* reported.



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## Dienogest clot risk update

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has released an update on Dienogest and the risk of venous thromboembolism.

Dienogest, a progestogen, is available in two combined oral contraceptives (COCs) in Australia.

The TGA reported that the risk of developing venous thromboembolism in a year from dienogest was eight to 11 per 10,000.

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