

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news, plus a full page from Flo.

Flo Baby Spray

FLO'S award-winning Baby Saline Spray, offers a safe and effective way of clearing little ones' blocked noses, helping infants and parents get a good night's sleep.

See **page four** for more.

Dental Rx survey

RESEARCHERS from the University of Western Australia are asking pharmacists who dispense dental prescriptions to take part in an online survey.

The study aims to determine pharmacists' knowledge and attitudes about medications used in dental ailments in Australia.

CLICK HERE for the survey.

Expanded doctor's bag no solution

CALLS from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) to increase the number of medicines included in the "doctor's bag" will do little to improve patients' access to medicines, pharmacists believe.

Voicing opposition to the pharmacy sector's push for continued dispensing to be implemented on a permanent basis, the RACGP suggested expanding the doctor's bag would be "a better and safer way to increase access to medicines under emergency situations", *NewsGP* reported.

However, in a tweet responding to the RACGP's claims, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia SA/NT Branch Vice President, Sam Keitaanpaa, said such a move would do little for patients.

"Expanding [the] prescribers' bag doesn't solve anything," he said.

"If they can see a doctor for a prescriber bag supply, they could get a script and access



[medications] like normal.

"The issue is a lack of timely access to a prescription or doctor, not access to the medicine."

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, was also critical of the RACGP's stance.

"The RACGP opposes health professional colleagues practising within their scope to ensure continuity of care for patients

when it may not be possible for them to see their usual GP for a prescription," he said.

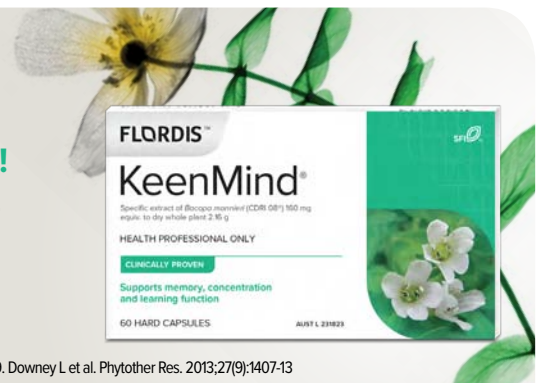
However, former RACGP Expert Committee - Quality Care - Chair, Dr Evan Ackermann, described efforts to have continued dispensing implemented on a permanent basis, as "a very short-sighted strategy to effectively stop or sidestep reviews by the responsible prescriber".

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Stough C et al. Psychopharmacology. 2001;156(4):481-484. Stough C et al. Phytother Res. 2008;22(12):1629-1634. Benson S et al. Phytother Res. 2014;28(4):551-9. Downey L et al. Phytother Res. 2013;27(9):1407-13



Capital Chemist Group scoops award

CAPITAL Chemist Group is celebrating another award win, with Capital Chemist Kingston claiming the 2020 Australian Small Business Champion Awards Pharmacy Category.

Pharmacy owner and Capital Chemist Group Board Chair, Sandra Ferrington, picked up the title on Sat night at an event at Sydney's ICC.

The Kingston store saw off six rival stores - TerryWhite Chemmart Kogarah; O'Loughlin's medical pharmacy, St Ives; HealthSave Norman Park Chemist, Norman Park; Friendly Pharmacy, Lake Munmorah; and Concord West Pharmacy - having won the 2019 Canberra Region Local Small Business Award in the pharmacy category.

The Capital Chemist Kingston pharmacy recently relocated across the suburb to develop a health hub, with health initiatives in many areas, including sleep apnoea, COPD and lung function checks,



audiometry and pre-employment medical checks in partnership with Workplace Health Assessors.

The new space has allowed Ferrington to build the workflow of her dreams, with three consulting rooms, 23 staff and a ROWA dispensing robot.

"It's very rewarding to receive acknowledgement of the work that goes into maintaining small businesses such as community

pharmacies," Ferrington said.

"We work hard to deliver quality healthcare to our community, always looking for ways to better meet healthcare needs.

"Thank you to all our team members who are essential to the success of a small business and to our fabulous customers."

Pictured, the award-winning Capital Chemist Kingston team, celebrating their win.

Toddler milk concerns - ACCC

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has highlighted issues around the advertising of toddler milk, as part of a proposed re-authorisation of the longstanding agreement by formula makers not to promote their products for infant feeding.

The voluntary "Marketing in Australia of Infant Formula: Manufacturers and Importers Agreement" restricts the promotion of infant formula, but the ACCC noted that signatories to the pact "also market toddler milk in almost identical packaging and branding to infant formula".

The ACCC said it was concerned about the erosion of public benefit if the industry is able to market in ways that "work around" the restrictions - details at www.accc.gov.au.

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Dispensary Corner

THE British rollout of the coronavirus vaccine has been relatively incident-free, but there have been a few issues around who is eligible.

Vulnerable people in the population have been identified so they can be among the first to receive protection from COVID-19 - including a slight blunder in relation to a man in his 30s who had no underlying health conditions.

National Health Service records had Liam Thorpe's height erroneously identified as just 6.2cm, which in turn meant he was somewhat overweight.

He contacted his GP after being offered the jab, and was told he had been put into a priority group because of his excessive body mass index of 28,000 - somewhat higher than the obesity threshold of 40.

He told the *BBC* "I have put on a few pounds in lockdown, but I was surprised to have been classified as clinically morbidly obese...it really made me rethink what I was going to do for pancake night".

Pharmacists in vax row



IRISH pharmacists are being warned against signing up to take part in the Emerald Isle's COVID-19 vaccination rollout over a pay dispute.

The Irish Pharmaceutical Union (IPU) had agreed a rate of €70 per hour for pharmacists to administer COVID vaccines, with the Government - equating this to an annual salary of €142,000 - which was legislated under a statutory instrument.

However, a recruitment company being used by the country's Health Service Executive (HSE) has advertised the positions at salary rates ranging from €35,000 to €50,000, the *Irish Examiner* reports.

IPU General Secretary, Darragh O'Loughlin, said the organisation

had raised the issue with the HSE, but had yet to receive a response.

"Until we get firm assurances that, regardless of who is the employer, HSE or agency, the hourly amount payable to a pharmacist for vaccination against COVID-19 services provided in a HSE-run mass vaccination clinic will be at an agreed statutory rate, we are advising that pharmacists should not apply for these positions," he said.

The *Irish Examiner* noted that if the HSE is bound by the statutory instrument and pharmacists are paid at the agreed rate they will work alongside other vaccinators doing the same work for a multiple of the equivalent salary paid to those retrained through the national recruitment campaign.

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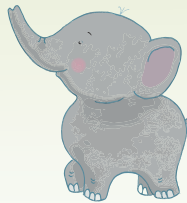


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