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Pharmacies impacted by NSW floods

PHARMACIES in flood-ravaged parts of NSW are being urged to contact their insurer if they have been impacted by the catastrophe affecting large parts of the state.

A spokesperson for Guild Insurance confirmed that the business was providing support to “a number of pharmacy customers who have been impacted by the current catastrophe in NSW”.

While the spokesperson was unable to give an exact number of pharmacies affected by the unfolding disaster, they said Guild Insurance was expecting to see it grow in the coming days.

“Our account management and claims teams are working around the clock to ensure anyone who has been affected is getting the support they need as easily and as quickly as possible,” the spokesperson said.

“Our key purpose is to be there for those for our community rely on, and it’s during times like these that we try to be there for them in any way we can.

“Any impacted customers who haven’t already can contact their account manager, call us on 1800 810 213, or lodge a claim online 24/7 at guildinsurance.com.au.”

Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW



Branch President, David Heffernan, told *Pharmacy Daily* that the organisation was reaching out to members in affected regions to offer support.

MEANWHILE the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) has declared a catastrophe for parts of NSW following the “devastating storms and flooding of the last few days”.

The declaration serves to escalate and prioritise the insurance industry’s response to affected policyholders.

ICA CEO, Andrew Hall, said it was “too early to understand the extent of damage to property in affected areas and to estimate the insurance damage bill”, but noted insurers have received more than 5,000 claims to date.

“The insurance industry has made this catastrophe declaration to activate services and support affected homeowners and businesses, and reassure them that their insurer will be there to help,” he said.

“As many areas are currently inaccessible due to floodwater, insurers are expecting further claims in the coming days as emergency services allow residents to return to their properties to examine the extent of their damage and losses.”

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from **TePe**.

PA web training

GUILD Learning and Development is partnering with TePe Australia to host a live webinar tomorrow at 7pm AEDT on oral health, developed for pharmacy assistants.

See **page four** for more details on this QCPP refresher training session.

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Resolve Plus – combination therapy that treats the fungal infection and inflammation, even when an underlying bacterial infection is present.¹

For Pharmacists and Doctors: Resolve Plus 1.0 contains Miconazole Nitrate 2% w/w and Hydrocortisone 1% w/w. Directions: Clean and dry affected area thoroughly. Gently apply to infected skin and surrounding area two times daily. Once inflammation has subsided continue treatment with an antifungal cream for 14 days after symptoms disappear to avoid recurrence. Do not use Resolve Plus 1.0 on children under 2 years of age. Review full PI before recommending or supplying Resolve Plus 1.0. PI available on request from Ego Pharmaceuticals. References: 1. Resolve Plus Product Information. Date of Most Recent Amendment 26 October 2018. 2. Van Cutsem JM, Thienpont D. Miconazole, a broad-spectrum antimycotic agent with antibacterial activity. Chemotherapy 1972;17:392-404.

Resolve Plus 

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

shpa

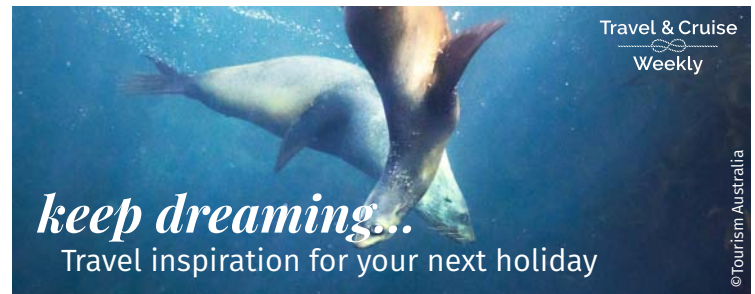
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Talking Pain: Opioid options and alternatives

Four new learning modules to support regulatory changes and best practice in pain management.

ONLINE Learning

PSAS/710



Sigma brands outperform market

PHARMACEUTICAL wholesaler, Sigma Healthcare, has reported a 133.6% increase in net profit after tax (NPAT) for the 2021 Financial Year, with the group's pharmacy brands performing ahead of average market growth rates.

Releasing its financial results to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) this morning, Sigma revealed like for like wholesale sales across its Amcal, Discount Drug Stores, Guardian, Pharmasave, Chemist King and WholeLife pharmacy networks were up 9%, building on the 11.7% growth reported in 2020.

Sigma CEO, Mark Hooper, described the FY21 figures as "a milestone result" for the company.

"We've delivered on our promise of transforming our business and improving our earnings as we enter a period of sustainable growth and improved returns for shareholders," he said.

"Significantly, Sigma has navigated

the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic without any reliance on direct government support such as JobKeeper.

"We have the building blocks in place to underpin our target of 10% per annum growth in underlying earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) for the next two years and around \$100 million by FY23."

The company reported total sales grew by 4.8% in FY21, with Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) sales up 12.4% compared to market growth of 5.5%.

Sigma also saw an increase of 4.9% in over-the-counter medication sales, despite the overall market declining by 2.8%, reflecting the lower export demand and the impact of COVID-19 on some specific categories such as cough and cold and in certain pharmacy locations.

The company's net debt finished



the year at \$50.3 million, down from \$146 million at the same time last year, reflecting the net effect of capital expenditure and the \$172 million received from the sale and leaseback of two distribution centres, which were concluded during the year.

Sigma also confirmed the extension of its \$250 million debt facility with Westpac.

Dispensary Corner

CONFECTIONERY giant, Krispy Kreme, is doing its bit to boost COVID-19 vaccination uptake across the US offering a free doughnut to people who show their vaccination record to staff at 300 of the company's state-side outlets.

The sweet deal will limit vaccinated customers to receive one Original Glazed doughnut per day until 31 Dec, with no purchase required.

However, the company said it was aware that the decision to receive a COVID-19 shot was highly personal, and those who have made the personal choice not to be vaccinated will not be completely starved of tasty treats, with Krispy Kreme saying they can call into stores "on Mon, 29 Mar to 24 May, to receive a free Original Glazed doughnut and a medium brewed coffee to get your week off to a good start".

Pharmacy Daily's doughnut-loving team is hopeful Krispy Kreme will rollout a similar vaccine deal here.



Early vax access

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is calling for action to accelerate the equitable rollout of COVID-19 vaccines to health professionals in every country.

FIP said that ensuring early access to vaccines for pharmacy workers would be key to boosting uptake of the vaccinations through evidence-based counselling and advocacy.

Vaping ban to hit elderly and disabled

MAKING nicotine e-liquid for use in electronic cigarettes Prescription Only, will unfairly impact the poor, elderly and disabled, a petition to the Federal Parliament claims.

The petition submitted last week by Julie Bennett, said the decision to ban the importation of vaping liquid was "unjust and anti-Australian".

"Banning the importation of nicotine-based vaporizing liquid persecutes the poor, the disabled and the pensioners of Australia," the petitioners said.

"These are the people who cannot afford to smoke cigarettes any more.

"Many have smoked their entire lives and vaping nicotine is the only safe and affordable option for them now.

"Stopping elderly and disabled people from smoking is abuse."

The petition called for the House to roll back moves to make it Prescription Only from 01 Oct.

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AHPRA principles

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Boards are seeking feedback on the revised regulatory principles for the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

The revised principles are open for public consultation until 18 May.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

RPNA backs Twomey

REPRESENTATIVES of the Rural Pharmacy Network Australia (RPNA) are hoping new Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey (pictured), will continue to work closely with the organisation to address key challenges facing pharmacies in rural and remote areas.

Welcoming Twomey's appointment, a RPNA spokesperson told *Pharmacy Daily* the organisation had "worked closely with Trent and the Guild on rural pharmacy issues since the establishment of the RPNA in 2019". "[We] look forward to continuing a constructive relationship," the spokesperson said.

"There are many pressing rural issues to be addressed in order to improve capacity in rural and remote community pharmacy, and we trust that the Guild under Trent's leadership will ensure these issues are given the serious attention they require."

MEANWHILE, National Pharmaceutical Services Association (NPSA) Chair, Richard Vincent, also welcomed Twomey's election as Guild National President.

"We look forward to supporting



him and all community pharmacies in the years ahead," Vincent said.

He also thanked former Guild National President, George Tambassis, for his "tireless work for community pharmacy throughout his time as Guild President".

FURTHERMORE, Twomey has said he was looking forward to "reconnecting" with the pharmacy industry at the Guild's Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP) on the Gold Coast in May.

"I look forward to being in the same room as my colleagues during APP, where I will be providing updates on the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement, the state of the industry, our expanding scope of practice as pharmacists and the COVID-19 vaccine rollout," he said.

Win with Jacaru

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Jacaru are giving away a Jacaru 1863 Classic White Hat worth RRP \$34.99

The Jacaru 1863 Classic White Hat is a unisex style that is perfect for the Polo, the Races or anywhere else you want to look even more stylish. For more information, click [HERE](#).

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Q: To protect from the harsh Australian sun, most Jacaru hats have a what UPF rating?

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crampeze.com.au

Guild Update

Medicines reconciliation toolkit

A MEDICINES reconciliation toolkit to help pharmacists improve patient safety has been released by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

FIP says the toolkit also contributes to the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) third Global Patient Safety Challenge – Medication without harm – which lists care transitions as one of three priority areas that need effective action to protect patients.

Transitions of care (such as admission to a healthcare facility, transfer between settings within a facility and at discharge, and also across different prescribers in community settings) can potentially lead to patient harm due to unintentional changes in medication or poor communication.

FIP's toolkit on medicines reconciliation outlines the principles and important processes that pharmacists should follow when providing this professional service. It summarises the definitions, impact and procedures for the implementation of pharmacist-led medicines reconciliation in both community, and hospital healthcare settings and offers a set of tools to support practice.

Further details can be accessed [here](#).



15 Tips for a healthy mouth

Live TePe Pharmacy Assistant Webinar

In a GuildEd first, Guild Learning and Development and TePe Australia have partnered to present a webinar on oral health developed specifically for pharmacy assistants.

Join our presenters LIVE to learn about caring for your customers' oral health. Attend the live presentation of this webinar for an opportunity to ask an expert dentist your questions about oral health.

This event is available at no charge to all pharmacy staff and will entitle you to 45 minutes of QCPP refresher training.

Live Webinar Details:

Wednesday 24th March
7 pm AEDT

For more information and registration please contact
learninganddevelopment@guild.org.au or info.au@tepe.com