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Med

SafeScript NSW rollout underway



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Mon 8th Nov 2021

#### Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages, plus full pages from **Dispense Assist** and Satinca.

#### Launch special

**SATINCA** is offering 20% discounts on orders of 28 units of its 5.5 inch four-piece grinder, and 24 pack snap cap alcohol cleaners. See page five for more.

#### SWAG II and Panther warnings

**CONSUMERS** are being warned against taking medications labelled as SWAG II Plantinum 33K and Panther Power Platinum 11.000.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) reported that testing of the products had identified undeclared sildenafil.

The TGA has urged people who have purchased the medications to take them to their local pharmacy for safe disposal.

**NSW** is the latest jurisdiction to introduce a real-time prescription monitoring (RTPM) system, with authorities launching a pilot of Fred IT's SafeScript NSW in the Hunter New England and Central Coast regions.

The trial commenced last week, with approximately 210 community pharmacies and more than 5,000 doctors involved.

Under the current rollout plans a NSW Health spokesperson told Pharmacy Daily that the use of SafeScript NSW will not be mandatory.

However, they said "all prescribers and pharmacists in NSW are encouraged to use the system once

it's available in their region". "NSW Health will actively monitor uptake through the implementation period and will use this to inform future policy decisions," the spokesperson said.

"It is part of NSW's commitment to reducing harm associated with the unsafe use of certain high-risk medicines, known as monitored medicines.

"SafeScript NSW provides prescribers and pharmacists with real-time information



about a patient's prescribing and dispensing history for monitored medicines such as opioids and benzodiazepines.

"This information helps to improve clinical decision making and keep patients safe."

The spokesperson said the pilot was part of a "phased statewide rollout", which will see the RTPM system introduced across the State in the first half of 2022.

Fred IT General Manager e-Health, David Freemantle, said it was "fantastic" to have the NSW system underway.

"It's extraordinary the turnaround with NSW," he said.

"[It was] slow initially in getting on board with the project, but is all accelerated really well, with the biggest jurisdiction in the country now rolling it out."

Freemantle noted that SafeScript NSW was part of the National Data Exchange (NDE) project, with Queensland, Victoria and South Australia's RTPM systems all using the same back end platforms.

"Hopefully by Feb next year every jurisdiction will be operating on the national version," he said.

"Western Australia and the NT are also due [to rollout NDE compatible RTPM systems] this year, with Tasmania due early next year."





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# Get into the room where it happens

PHARMACISTS should not only be everywhere that medicines are, but where decisions are being made, Shadow Assistant Health Minister, Emma McBride, believes.

Speaking during a Pharmacy Guild of Australia webinar last week, the pharmacist-turned-Federal MP reiterated calls for pharmacists to take on leadership roles at all levels of society, if the profession to is to secure genuine reform (PD 21 May).

"Pharmacists have all the skills, expertise and knowledge to be able to genuinely contribute in a meaningful way to leadership across Australia," she said.

"Whether it's in their local community, in their State, or in the Federal Parliament, we really need to see the voice of pharmacists, because pharmacists know their communities, pharmacists understand what makes their communities tick - pharmacists have a unique perspective that is so valuable, but under represented.



"They say that pharmacists should be everywhere where medicines are, I think pharmacists should be everywhere where decisions are.

"Unless more people with the perspective and the insight and skills that pharmacists have are in decision-making roles then we're really not going to see the genuine reform that we need."

McBride noted that extending pharmacists' scope of practice was

#### Australian-made RAT gets approval

**COVIDTEST** Online's Australian made InnoScreen COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) has been approved for home use.

The locally manufactured RAT kit has been included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods, and has been made available through community pharmacies in NSW, the ACT, Victoria and Queensland, with IGA and Foodworks supermarkets also

stocking the product.

The InnoScreen test has a straightforward process to follow with only three main components involved, and as the swab sample is fully encased after use, it does not present a biohazard risk.

The nasal swab is inserted approximately two centimetres into each nostril to collect a sample and provides a positive or negative COVID-19 reading.

#### Your views about biosimilars

Researchers at the University of Newcastle are looking for pharmacists to complete a short survey about their views and experience with biosimilar substitution.

**CLICK HERE to find out** more about the survey



one area of reform that leaders from within the profession and in community roles, need to pursue.

"Pharmacists are highly-trained experts who have the knowledge and skills to contribute much more than our current funding systems allows them to do," she said.

"What we really need to see for our patients, for our communities, for our healthcare system, is pharmacists working to the top of their scope of practice.

#### Sydney firm hit with vaping fine

SYDNEY-BASED business. **RV Global Ecommerce Ptv** Ltd, is the latest enterprise to fall foul of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in relation to nicotine vaping products.

The company has been handed three infringement notices totalling \$39,960 for alleged unlawful advertising of the Schedule 4 products.

"The TGA provided RV Global with detailed guidance about the legal requirements for importers, suppliers and advertisers of nicotine vaping products," the regulator said.

"The TGA also informed the company that it must immediately remove all advertising of nicotine vaping products from its website.

"The website was taken down however the TGA identified that it had been moved to a different domain name linked to RV Global."



Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Ben** 

Weick, Pharmacist Manager,

**TerryWhite Chemmart Warners** Bay, NSW.

#### A transition made easy

CHANGING pharmacy brands can be daunting but TerryWhite Chemmart has made it both easy and immensely rewarding.

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Much of our success though is attributed to the business support provided by the team - from the leadership group, through to the handson assistance provided by my dedicated BDM Leigh right through to our Chief Pharmacist Brenton Hart who is always just a phone call away lending advice.

I had heard a lot about Masterclass but it's nothing compared to being there - the practical training provided alongside the ongoing support has been instrumental in helping myself, as a single vaccinating pharmacist, be able to deliver more than 1,200 Covid-19 vaccinations to date.

It's been a great ride so far and I look forward to continuing this exciting journey with TerryWhite Chemmart.



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# Wesfarmers steps up API takeover

**RETAIL** conglomerate, Wesfarmers, is expecting to complete its takeover of pharmacy wholesaler, Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API), by the end of Mar 2022, after announcing it had entered a Scheme Implementation Deed (SID).

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) this morning, the API Board unanimously backed the \$1.55 per share offer (*PD* breaking news), "in the absence of a superior proposal, and subject to an independent expert concluding that the scheme is in the best interests of API shareholders".

The Board's backing comes ahead of a Scheme Meeting, which is due to take place in early 2022, to approve the deal. Wesfarmers currently owns 19.3% of API, after acquiring 95.1 million shares in the wholesaler last month. Wesfarmers Managing Director,

Rob Scott, told the ASX that the API deal offered the company an attractive opportunity to enter the health, wellbeing and beauty sector.

"Wesfarmers continues to see opportunities to invest in and strengthen the competitive position of API and its community pharmacy partners by expanding ranges, improving supply chain capabilities and enhancing the online experience for customers," he said.

"In addition to our discussions with API management, we have engaged with industry stakeholders during due diligence.

"As we have previously stated,

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Wesfarmers supports the community pharmacy model, including the pharmacy ownership and location rules.

"Wesfarmers recognises the importance of strong relationships with our trading partners and we look forward to working closely with API's pharmacy partners, suppliers and other industry stakeholders."

The SID is subject to standard conditions in addition to the requirement for approval from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

#### TGA issues vaping fines A MELBOURNE-BASED

"entrepreneur" has been ordered to pay \$7,992 in fines over alleged importation breaches involving nicotine vaping products.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) revealed it issued the unnamed individual with three infringement notices, as the products were not listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) at the time they were imported in breach of the *Therapeutic Goods Acts 1989*.

### Dispensary Corner

**Fravel & Cruise** 

Weekly

**ENCOURAGING** pharmacy students to play video games may seem like a waste of time, but that's what is happening at the University of Kentucky.

The pharmacy school is developing a game designed to help students to identify patterns that may indicate "foul play within the drug industry", *Bloomberg* reported.

While the aim of the game is to make money, players will enter a pharmaceutical manufacturer's factory floor and are given a range of choices, including scrimping on ingredients to save cash, risking the wrath of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or dumping a batch of a contaminated medication - steps that could hurt the company's bottomline, or put patients' lives at risk.

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Senior Director of Pharmacy Practice and Quality, Michael Ganio, said the game's concept was fascinating, noting the predictive models used in the game could help students to better understand risk.

"On the frontlines, it helps us prepare for the vulnerability in a drug's supply chain," he said.





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