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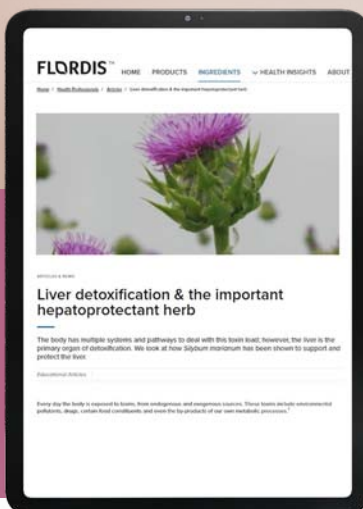
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- ✓ Supports healthy liver function
- ✓ Maintains natural liver detoxification processes
- ✓ Helps reduce occurrence of symptoms of indigestion

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References: 1. Schuppan D, et al. Z. Allg. Med. 1998; 74:577-584 2. Albrecht M, et al. Clinical Pharmacology. 1992;47(2):87-92

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news plus a cover page from Floridis and full pages from:

- Dispense Assist
- Sigma Healthcare

Liver booster

INTEGRATIVE medicine specialist, Floridis' Legalon, uses a clinically trialled extract of Silybum marianum - MZ 80 to support liver health.

See cover page for more.

Sigma offer

SIGMA Healthcare is highlighting the easy to use, Medical Industries Australia Blood Pressure Monitor, in today's edition.

See page five for more information.

PSA steps up case conferencing push

PHARMACISTS' exclusion from accessing new Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items for participating in case conferences, is "disappointing", Pharmaceutical Society of Australia National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, says.

Speaking during the NSW Rural Doctors Network's Rural Pharmacy Workshop yesterday, Freeman voiced his frustration that pharmacists were not included amongst the broad-ranging list of health professionals eligible to access remuneration through the new MBS items for multidisciplinary case conferences, which came into effect on 01 Nov.

"We are really disappointed with the recent allied health case conferencing numbers in the MBS," he said.

"We're basically the only AHPRA (Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency) registered health professional that was not included

on that list."

Freeman told delegates that the PSA had been advocating for pharmacists to be remunerated for taking part in case conferences with the MBS Taskforce over the last two years, and has stepped up its efforts following the launch of the new MBS numbers.

"I can assure everyone we are in contact with the Minister's office to try and get that rectified," he said.

"There's not been a flat-out no to that, [but] it will take time.

"We're working really hard to make sure that pharmacists can get remunerated for that case conferencing, because it is a critical component of the week that we're doing, and it stimulates interdisciplinary care."

The new MBS items apply to non-admitted patients under the care of an eligible allied health practitioner for chronic disease management under the care of a GP in either community or residential aged care,



or for early diagnosis and treatment for children under 13 years with, or suspected of having, a pervasive developmental disorder - including autism - or an eligible disability, under the care of a specialist, consultant or GP.

Under the new items remuneration for participation in case conferences will be provided through time-tiers, based on meeting duration - 15-20 minutes, 20-40 minutes and over 40 minutes.

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Time to diversify beyond dispensary

PHARMACY owners need to implement professional services to compensate for the increasing volumes of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescriptions being dispensed below the co-payment, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's *Guild Digest 2021* reports.

Based on a survey of independent pharmacy operations across the country in the 2019/20 financial year, the *Digest* found there was a 2% dip in gross profit compared to the 2018/19 year.

"The *Digest* results show that there was an estimated 0.56% increase in prescription volume per pharmacy in 2019–20, compared with the previous financial year," the report said.

"This result for 2019–20 points to the increasing movement of prescriptions from above to below co-payment categories (official PBS data shows that below co-payment script volumes increased 2.6% in 2019–20) on the back of price reductions.

"This highlights the need for pharmacies to diversify into services beyond dispensing prescriptions to maintain growth in their businesses.

"Indeed, this is what is occurring,



with many successful community pharmacies responding to the changing business landscape by moving to a greater services orientation through, for instance, incorporating dedicated consultation rooms for the provision of professional health programs and services.

"For example, during 2019–20 services paid related to the MedsChecks and Dose Administration Aids programs rose 4% and 16% respectively, relative to 2018–19.

Data from the report found total

turnover per pharmacy increased by close to 3% to \$3.42 million for each store, with 62% of sales coming from the dispensary, while 30% stemmed from "retail".

Over-the-counter medications accounted for a further 7% of revenue, while "other income" including professional services made up just 1% of turnover.

However, the *Digest* noted that other income was continuing on an upward trajectory as a proportion of total turnover, and forecast it would continue to deliver strong growth going forward.

Practical focus planned for APP

DELEGATES attending the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference 2022 (APP 2022) will be able to boost their management skills with a stream focused on store operations.

Convenor, Kos Sclavos, said the specialist stream will offer insights and practical advice to help owners to future-proof their pharmacies.

The annual event is set to take place from 24-27 Mar 2022 on the Gold Coast.

"Given what the past 18 months have looked like as an industry, we've included some very practical management and operations topics in APP 2022's program as we move into the next stages of COVID-19 recovery," he said.

"Thu's session on how to prepare a Quality Care 2020 assessment will be invaluable for enhancing a pharmacy's service and care.

"Also taking place on Thu is a session examining the outcomes of the latest Guild digest, which will assist owners and managers with financial benchmarking in this rapidly evolving economic environment."

Sclavos noted that a 100% COVID refund guarantee will be available for delegates who cannot attend due to lockdowns or restrictions.

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TGA RAT list

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has released an updated list of COVID-19 rapid antigen self-tests (RAT) that have been approved in Australia.

CLICK HERE for more.

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Dispensary Corner

MARKET stall owner and aspiring pharmacist, Henry Robinson, has avoided a prison sentence after being convicted of running an unlicensed pharmacy in Dublin.

The 57-year-old trader was busted in the Irish capital's Molly Malone market in Nov 2019, with a stock of over-the-counter and prescription-only medicines, valued at more than \$18,500.

Earlier this month medicines regulator, the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) told a Dublin District Court hearing that Robinson was "operating a mini-pharmacy".

The Court was told that the enterprising retailer had handed over his stash which had "visible gnawing on some packages" due to a "vermin infestation" the *Irish Independent* reported.

Robinson had been facing a possible year-long stint behind bars and fines of up to \$6,200, for his effort to establish himself in the pharmacy sector, but escaped with \$1,550 fine.

Judge Anthony Halpin also ordered the 57-year-old to pay the prosecution's costs over the coming 12 months, and granted an order for the destruction of the seized medications.



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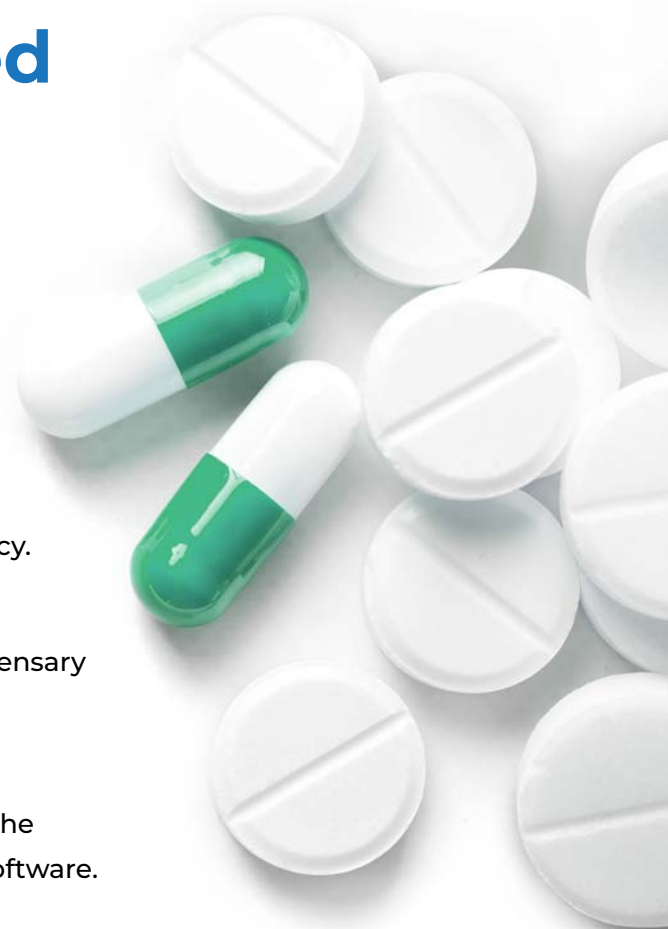
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