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Award allows for 'no jab, no work'

PHARMACY owners operating in jurisdictions where no legislation mandating staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19 has yet to be implemented, can make it a requirement under the *Pharmacy Industry Award 2020*.

Speaking during a webinar last week, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, noted that Public Health Orders (PHOs) mandating pharmacy staff to be vaccinated were in place in the Northern Territory, Victoria and Tasmania, while the governments

of South Australia and Western Australia have indicated that they intend to implement necessary legislation soon.

"Even though we have PHOs, the Commonwealth Government through the Fair Work Ombudsman has actually made it possible for individual employers, who are community pharmacies... to mandate nationally that it is compulsory for their staff to be vaccinated," he said.

"It is not only within the right of an employer to mandate that it is a

requirement of their [employees'] continuing employment in their business to be vaccinated, there are legal protections for you to do this.

"But you must follow these appropriate steps - you need to first make an assessment... based on the risk and the health and safety, not just of your patients, but of your staff.

"Then you must consult with your staff before you make a final decision, [and] you then need to warn your staff that you have reached a decision on balance, because of the assessment you've done, and after consulting with them, that you are going to implement mandatory vaccinations.

"If a certain staff member - after you've gone through this process - does not want to be vaccinated then they are no longer allowed to be in your employ."

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Pharmacy Daily today features three pages plus a front cover page from Symbion and a full page from Willach.

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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.

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COVAX drives MedAdvisor app use

COMMUNITY pharmacies' involvement in the COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) rollout is fueling growth in user numbers for the MedAdvisor PlusOne app.

Announcing results for the first quarter of the 2022 Financial Year to the Australian Securities Exchange, MedAdvisor, revealed more than 200,000 new patients had signed up to the app, "driven by the volume of COVAX administered by pharmacies, and continued utilisation of the remote patient verification process".

"MedAdvisor has seen a significant increase in transaction volume due to the COVAX program," the company said.

"To date, more than 900,000 vaccinations have been administered through pharmacies

in the MedAdvisor network, which represents over 70% of all pharmacy vaccinations.

"COVAX utilise the MedAdvisor PlusOne booking functionality, which contributes to transaction revenue, and provides an important source of patient sign-ups."

The company noted that it had seen a "strong growth in performance with revenue of \$3.3 million" in the Australian market, in the three months to 30 Sep, while annual recurring revenue had climbed from \$6.6 million as at 30 Jun to \$7.4 million, "an 11.4% increase".

MedAdvisor's market share of the community pharmacy network grew by approximately 6.7% during the quarter, with more than 3,900 stores using the company's platform.



"This has been driven in part by the recent signing of a new five-year contract with Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API), and investment in the sales resources for the Australian business," MedAdvisor said.

The company also reported "pharmacy churn has remained low" following a price rise and a new premium pricing model introduced in Jun.

Across its US, UK and Australian businesses, MedAdvisor reported first quarter revenue of \$15.4 million, up 36.5% on the same period in FY21 on a like-for-like basis.

VPA gives COVAX rollout support

PHARMACY owners in Victoria can access support from the Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA), via a virtual platform to ensure their premises are set up appropriately to administer COVID-19 vaccines (COVAX).

The VPA said the online consultation sessions would not be conducted as an inspection and reports would not be issues.

"Pharmacies will be emailed relevant resources and improvement opportunities after the session," the VPA said.

Email the VPA at enquiries@pharmacy.vic.gov.au to express your interest in arranging a consultation.

Looking to 2022

PHARMACY owners planning for the future are being invited to speak with wholesaler, Symbion, about its 2022 Member Program. See **cover page** for more.

Vaccine Forum

PHARMACEUTICAL Society of Australia representative, Jarrod McMaugh, is set to address the National Vaccine Forum next month.

The event will focus on vaccine confidence, covering the COVID-19 vaccination program and beyond, and factors around vaccine hesitancy.

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Dispensary Corner

IRELAND'S dull and dreary climate has for centuries - if not eternity - made it a less than hospitable place for venomous creatures.

However, times and temperatures have changed with backpackers returning to the Emerald Isle with false widow spiders in tow, who appear to have taken a liking to the well-insulated homes in recent years.

In the centrally heated environment of an Irish house, these spiders have found a perfect breeding ground, and their interactions with the locals has led to a sudden uptick in demand for treatment at local pharmacies RTE reports.

Freshly baked vax treat

RESIDENTS of the community in South Taranaki, New Zealand, are being enticed to visit a pharmacy-run COVID-19 vaccination clinic on Sat morning, with a local bakery offering discounts to recently jabbed customers.

The clinic has seen Mountainview Pharmacy team up with Tun's Bakery and Hawera Assembly of God Church to drive up vaccination rates in the area.

Pastor, Paul Cornish, has opened the church to be used as a vaccination centre by the local pharmacy for the last six weeks, while the bakery, which is located next door is offering customers who have had their jab a 10% discount, stuff.co.nz reported.

"With the low vaccination rates in Taranaki, we have had to incentivise the last few to get it



done," Cornish said.

"The bakery is humming on a Sat morning.

"There's a lot of people, particularly people who work on the land.

"We see them come in for a little breakfast date, and now it can become a breakfast and a vaccination date.

"Mrs Tun jumped at it, she was very quick to want to be part of it."

US pharmacist faces prison time

A TEXAS-BASED pharmacist is facing up to 12 months behind bars after pleading guilty to adulterating a compounded medication for cataract patients.

Court papers revealed Jack Randall Munn, 71, had overseen the compounding for two outpatient surgical centres in Dallas in 2016 and 2017.

Munn's, Guardian Pharmacy Services business produces a medication which included an ingredient that could damage sensitive eye tissue.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Amit Saha, M-Pharm, MBA, MPS group technical manager, LaCorium Health.**



Lysine in cold sore treatment

COLD sores are tiny blisters that appear either in the mouth or on the lips. Normally HSV-1 virus causes cold sores, and it comprises 5 stages – tingling, blistering, weeping, crusting and healing. According to the American Academy of Dermatology, more than 50% of people aged 14 -49 carry the virus. While typically antiviral medications are prescribed to help treat an outbreak, there are many alternative approaches that work very well to combat all five stages of cold sores. As an alternative approach, lysine is commonly used for the treatment and prevention of cold sores. Lysine is essential for many bodily functions, however, people looking to use lysine to help treat cold sores will probably need to take a supplement to boost their lysine intake or use topically as soon as symptoms onset. Lysine may help to slow down or prevent the growth of the herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1), which is responsible for cold sores. HSV-1 requires arginine to grow, and Lysine helps prevent the body from absorbing arginine, making it difficult for HSV-1 to grow and reproduce.

Dermal Therapy's Cold Sore Lysine Plus gel is a new and innovative approach to treatment. Combining lysine, anti-viral lemon balm and propolis extract, this is the first clear gel in the Australian market for combating all five stages of cold sores.

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