

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

### BenPen back in stock: CSL

INITIAL shipments of BenPen (benzylpenicillin [as benzylpenicillin sodium]) 1.2g and 3g powder for injection have arrived in Australia, sponsor CSL Seqirus reports.

In a statement released today, a spokesperson for the company said it expected to have stock of the 1.2g product available across all jurisdictions this week, while supplies of BenPen 3g has been in stock since late last month.

"We anticipate demand to be high and based on availability the initial order fulfilment of the 1.2g presentation may be limited, until a second batch is released late in Aug," the spokesperson said.

"We will then expect continuous and sustained supply of this important antibiotic."

## Qld Guild prepares for NQPSP start

PHARMACISTS in Cairns are being urged to prepare for the long-awaited North Queensland Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot (NQPSP) to be given the green light by State Health Minister Yvette D'Ath.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen (pictured), briefed pharmacists and pharmacy staff on the imminent rollout of the trial at last night's People in Pharmacy Networking Dinner.

"The Guild and local community pharmacists now want to launch the pilot and start the journey to practice to full scope," he said.

"There has been overwhelmingly positive responses and significant interest from community pharmacists in the North Queensland region to participate in the pilot and undertake the 18-month post-graduate training required.

"Most importantly, recent independent research found that over 80% of North Queenslanders participating in the survey support the pilot and community pharmacists practicing to their full scope."

Owen added that the concept of



pharmacists practising to their full scope was "not a new concept", but will relieve pressure on other healthcare providers.

"The pilot will bring North Queensland pharmacists in line with pharmacists practicing in parts of Canada, New Zealand and the UK and is expected to provide North Queenslanders the same positive health outcomes received by those country's residents," he said.

"Our focus remains on our patients in North Queensland.

"We reassure North Queenslanders that pharmacists are not replacing GPs, but rather working alongside them for better health outcomes for the community."

"Over the weekend, Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service advised residents online that the emergency department was extremely busy with extended wait times.

"This shows that the pilot is a clear need in the North Queensland region to reduce the number of emergency department presentations and improve the community's access to safe, efficient, and convenient primary healthcare services."



"The success of the Urinary Tract Infection Pharmacy Pilot – Queensland (UTIPP-Q) with 87% of women having symptoms resolved safely and effectively and its recent permanent implementation in Queensland community pharmacies, is another clear indicator that pharmacists can do more to meet the needs of their patients."

Speaking with *Pharmacy Daily*, Owen noted that the State Government pledged to implement the pilot as part of its election campaign last year, despite ongoing opposition from medical groups.

## Can your customers book their flu shots online?



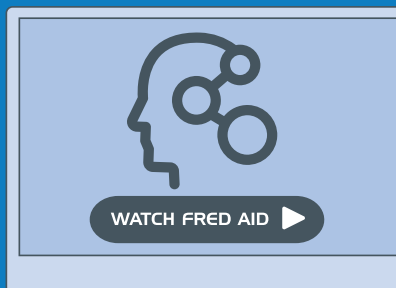
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## Pharmacist fell short of expectations

A VICTORIAN Civil and Administrative Tribunal has reprimanded and suspended a pharmacist over multiple instances of professional misconduct.

Suk Yee Lee was found to have dispensed Schedule 4 medicines without a prescription for her personal use, made dispensing errors, breached cold chain procedures, inappropriately conducted herself in relation to the supply and storage of S8 medicines, and provided inaccurate information regarding her recency of practice when renewing her professional registration.

The Tribunal heard that between 28 Nov 2016 and 05 Aug 2018, Lee dispensed quantities of drospirenone and ethinylestradiol, celecoxib, esomeprazole and zamatil ointment, without prescriptions for her own use, recording them under the name 'Miss Sue Lei' in the Fred Dispense system.

"It was very concerning to us

that Lee not only persistently self-prescribed but by recording the name in a name other than her own arguably added another layer of deception to her conduct," the Tribunal said.

"Concerningly, she initially minimised her conduct to the [Pharmacy] Board [of Australia] when she described having acted in the way she did on a copy-cat basis - apparently understanding that others in the practice were doing so."

The Tribunal also heard that Lee granted a patient access to opioid replacement therapy as takeaway doses, without proper authorisation from the pharmacy's management.

The patient who received the opioid replacement therapy reported to other staff at the pharmacy that Lee had dispensed suboxone films, which were meant to be for live dose, rather than for take home use.

The Tribunal noted that when



Lee submitted her application to renew her registration in Nov 2015, she declared that she had met the recency of practice requirements of having worked as a pharmacist for at least 450 hours between 30 Nov 2012 and 30 Nov 2015, despite not having worked as a pharmacist between 03 Apr 2012 and the date she submitted her renewal application.

The Tribunal noted that Lee has not practiced as a pharmacist since 29 Nov 2018, and currently holds non-practising registration, before suspending her registration for four months and issuing a reprimand.

## Paracetamol poisoning risks

NSW Poisons Information Centre Director of Research, Dr Rose Cairns, will provide an in-depth look at self-harm from intentional paracetamol misuse at Pharmacy Connect on 01 Sep.

Cairns will discuss the high prevalence of accidental and deliberate paracetamol poisoning in Australia during a harm minimisation workshop, facilitated by community pharmacist, Angelo Pricolo.

"There are four Poisons Information Centres in Australia which receive around 220,000 calls per year, 8,000 of which are related to paracetamol," Pricolo said.

"As paracetamol sales are relevant to all pharmacies in Australia, this session is a must-attend."

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## Hehir named FIP SAPS President elect

SYDNEY-BASED pharmacist, Tara Hehir, will assume the presidency of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Social and Administrative Pharmacy Section (SAPS).

Hehir, who is currently SAPS Secretary, will be joined by two other Australian pharmacists on the section's Executive Committee - Kenji Fujita and Jack Collins.

Portugal's Filipa Alves da Costa has been elected as SAPS Vice



President, while British/Egyptian pharmacist, Dr Dalia Dawoud, will succeed Hehir as the group's Secretary.

## TGA issues vaping infringement notice

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a \$2,664 infringement to an unnamed WA-based individual in relation to the alleged unlawful importation of liquid nicotine.

The Western Australian reportedly imported nicotine vaping products into the country without the required approval of an exemption.

"The package was intercepted and seized at the border and contained many more products

than allowable under the Personal Importation Scheme," the regulator said.

"Furthermore, it is alleged that the shipment was falsely declared in an attempt to evade detection.

"This case serves as a reminder to anyone considering unlawfully importing liquid nicotine products into Australia that they risk the loss of the products, fines, and potentially court action."



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## Dispensary Corner

**BRITONS** are being urged to stay hydrated as temperatures soar across Europe this week.

In recent weeks Britain has experienced record highs, with heatwaves taking their toll on a population more accustomed to damp and overcast conditions.

While sunburnt skin is the most apparent sign that people have spent too much time outside, online pharmacy, From Mars' Superintendent Pharmacist, Navin Khosla, warned that excessive exposure to the sun can lead to hair loss.

Khosla said that many people fail to notice the impact of the sun on their hair until it is "far too late" to do anything about it.

"During the summer months we want to be able to enjoy the sun and the activities on offer, but we also need to ensure we are looking after our bodies and our hair simultaneously," he said.

Hair care can easily be forgotten as we often don't notice the damage until it's too late, so by keeping this advice in mind, your hair can stay healthy throughout the year.

"The sun is one of the main culprits for summer hair loss, drying the hair out and increasing the chances of breakage.

"You need to also be sure you're protecting your scalp from possible sunburn as this can damage the hair follicles and increase the possibility of hair loss.

"Dehydration can also cause the hair strands to become dry and brittle, leading to accelerated breakage."

## RUM promotion critical

**WITH** rising cost-of-living pressures forcing patients to be frugal, pharmacists are being urged to warn customers of the dangers of hoarding expired medicines.

Writing in the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's *Forefront* newsletter, the organisation's Executive Director, Suzanne Greenwood, stressed that unused medicines were the "big exception" to the "waste-not, want-not" adage.

"It is widely known that keeping expired or unwanted medicines in the home can be dangerous, particularly if small children are in the home or visit it.

"Children may accidentally access the medicines which can have serious implications which we all want to avoid.

"In addition, older people may become confused with too many medicines in the home and may inadvertently take an expired medicine, or a medicine that their doctor no longer thinks is appropriate for their condition.

"Some medicines deteriorate with time, and this results in changes to their chemical composition; changes which can make the medicines less effective or, in some cases, potentially harmful and toxic if they are used after their expiry date.

"Getting rid of those unwanted medicines is therefore important, but just as important is getting rid of them correctly and safely.

"The question then is how can we safely dispose of these medicines?

"And the answer which many people may not be aware of is that you can safely dispose of them where you got them – at your community pharmacy through an innovative program called Return Unwanted Medicines (RUM).

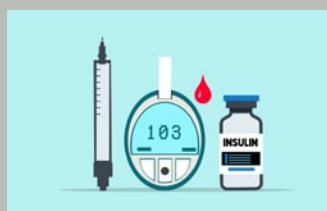
"The program is operated by a national not-for-profit company funded by the Commonwealth Government through the Department of Health as part of the Quality Use of Medicines commitment in Australia."

## Semaglutide shortages to continue

**PHARMACISTS** are being urged to prioritise semaglutide (Ozempic) supply for patients with type-2 diabetes to ensure continuity of care, due to ongoing shortages of the product.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) noted that the drug's sponsor, Novo Nordisk, has forecast that "the intermittent availability of semaglutide will continue until the end of Dec".

Novo Nordisk has previously reported that shortages of semaglutide products were due to an unexpected increase in consumer demand.



"The increased demand is due to extensive prescribing for obesity management, for which Ozempic is not indicated," the TGA said.

To alleviate shortages, the TGA has approved a number of overseas-registered products under Section 19A of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.



## Guild Update

### Protecting - your registration

**ATTENDEES** to this year's Pharmacy Connect - being held at the Sydney Hilton from 1-3 September - will be provided with expert advice on the role of the Pharmacy Council of NSW and how it interacts with other regulators to protect the public.

Find out what this means for your business and those who work within it - employed pharmacists, locums and you as a proprietor.

This session will be held on Thursday 1st September from 2pm - 5pm.

Session highlights will include:

- The complaints process - Who is who in the zoo?
  - Which issues land business owners in the most trouble.
  - Tips to minimise regulatory exposure.
  - Real life experiences from the regulatory coalface.
  - Locums, silent partners, graduates, early career pharmacists - where does the risk lie?
  - Professional isolation versus mentoring - are you giving back to the profession?
  - The importance of professional autonomy.
  - Support and closing the knowledge gaps.
- Registration details are available [here](#).