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Oral COVID med moves closer to rego

ADJUTOR Healthcare Pty Ltd's new orally-administered drug, sabizabulin, has been granted a provisional determination for the treatment of COVID-19 in Australia.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announced it had given the green light for the drug's sponsor to seek registration of the medication to be used as a treatment for hospitalised patients with moderate to severe COVID-19 who are at risk of developing Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome and becoming seriously ill.

"Published results from clinical trials on hospitalised patients with moderate-to-severe COVID-19 showed significant reduction in hospital and ICU stays, requirement for mechanical ventilation or death compared to a placebo," the regulator said.

"Sabizabulin has a different mechanism of action from the other oral treatments for COVID-19 provisionally approved by the TGA. "It is thought to interfere with the



SARS-CoV-2 virus' ability to enter and leave cells and therefore limit its spread.

"It may additionally suppress some inflammatory reactions that can occur following infection.

"Internationally, the US Food and Drug Administration has received an Emergency Use Authorization application for sabizabulin and the UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency is undertaking an expedited review.

"In making its decision to grant Adjutor Healthcare a provisional determination, the TGA considered all eligibility criteria, including evidence of a plan to submit comprehensive clinical data and the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Granting of the provisional determination precedes the market authorisation application and does not guarantee approval of that application."

RLAP petition

MORE than 150 people have signed a petition calling for the extension of access to the the Rural Locum Assistance Program (RLAP) (**PD** 15 Aug).

CLICK HERE for the petition.

Business compensation not enough

COMPENSATION for businesses impacted by power outages in northern Victoria is falling short for local businesses, Victorian MLC, Tania Maxwell, believes.

Speaking in the Legislative Council last week, Maxwell said that businesses in Rutherglen had been impacted by three power outages in the previous three weeks.

"There was no EFTPOS for the whole town, and the local

pharmacist could not dispense medication," she said.

"For lost income of \$3,500 for just one day, the maximum compensation my constituent can claim is \$130.

"This represents only \$7 per hour compensation, which covers only a third of the minimum hourly wage for just one employee."

Maxwell called for improved compensation packages.

Today's issue of PD

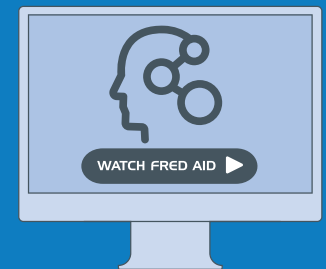
Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news plus our **Spring Spotlight** feature.

Spring spotlight

GET ready for spring with **Pharmacy Daily's** Spring Spotlight, highlighting essential products for the change of seasons, with Chemists' Own Cold Sore patches, and Real-u's skin care range - see **page five**.

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Career podcast

PHARMACEUTICAL Society of Australia WA Branch Vice President, Ayomide Ogundipe, discusses her professional journey on the latest episode of the Raven' Recruitment *Your Pharmacy Career* podcast.

Brace for medicines price increases

PHARMACY owners are being warned to prepare themselves for price increases stemming from the Federal Government's five-year deals with Medicines Australia and the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA).

In a post on LinkedIn, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Tasmanian Branch Director, Monique Mackrill, said the agreements, which were designed to reduce global and local supply chain risk, and tackle Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listed medicine shortages, will result in increases to ex-manufacturer prices.

Under the deals, sponsors of medication that receive a price increase will be required to stock a minimum of six month's supply in the country to mitigate against future shortages.

"From 01 Oct, one component of these measures will directly

increase the price of some 900 low-cost products across 200 PBS-listed medicines with an ex-manufacturer price currently below \$4," she said.

"These increases will flow through the supply chain to community pharmacy as an increase in cost price, increasing the maximum general patient charge for most low-priced medicines."

While the deal will prevent discounting on ex-manufacturer prices on medications priced under \$4, Chemist Warehouse Director, Mario Tascone, has said the group planned to maintain current pricing levels (*PD* 18 Jul).

"Despite these significant changes to the cost prices of these molecules, Chemist Warehouse will hold off any price rise to its patients," he said.

"Permanently and artificially raising the wholesale price of prescription medicines (which will



flow directly to the bottom line of drug companies P&L) seems like an odd thing to do in times where the cost of living is already rising out of control.

"Previous stock shortages were the result of a once in a lifetime pandemic.

"[I'm] not sure a significant and permanent raising of prices is necessary."



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Deveny named as CHF interim CEO

AUSTRALIAN Digital Health Agency (ADHA) Chair, Dr Elizabeth Deveny, has been appointed as the Consumer Health Forum's (CHF's) interim CEO.

Announcing Deveny's temporary appointment, CHF Chair, Tony Lawson, said she would bring deep expertise in the health, government and digital sector to the organisation.

"The CHF Board is delighted to welcome Elizabeth to the CHF family," he said.

"Elizabeth takes up the reins at a challenging time as we quickly come to grips with a new Government and its health agenda.

"Her experience in the health sector will be critical to ensure that our vital agenda continues to move forward during this interim period."

Deveny said that she was "inspired by all that [former CEO] Leanne Well and her team have achieved", and was looking forward to continuing the CHF's patient-first agenda.

Connect sells out

EXHIBITOR numbers for the trade show at Pharmacy Connect have returned to pre-COVID-19 levels, with the exhibition selling out.

Convenor, Kos Sclavos, revealed 53 exhibitors will be at the event at the Hilton Sydney next month.

Sclavos said the high level of interest in the event from exhibitors "demonstrates confidence" in the pharmacy sector.

CLICK HERE to register for Pharmacy Connect.

HELPS TAKE THEIR COUGH AWAY

Offer your customers a clinically proven* 5 action formula for chesty coughs

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Dispensary Corner

NEW Dad, Lewis Corbett, is facing time behind bars after ransacking a Birmingham pharmacy, in Jun.

The 29-year-old who has previous convictions including burglary and "other dishonesty-related crimes" told Birmingham Crown Court that he had been coerced into breaking into the store.

The Court was told Corbett was caught fleeing the scene shortly after motion sensors were activated in the pharmacy.

Senior Crown Prosecutor, Sabhia Pathan, said Corbett's partner, who has heavily pregnant at the time, was seen by police sitting on "some bollards and had a plastic bag near her".

Police seized the bag, which contained perfumes and toiletries stolen during the burglary.

Defence lawyer, Exdol Mitchell, told the Court that Corbett had been assaulted by another man and "coerced into burglary".

Mitchell said Corbett was a reformed character having served a custodial sentence in 2017, had "taken significant steps to lean an honest and fruitful life".

However, the judge was unimpressed with Corbett's reform saying "you are a new father, but at present you are not a role model".

Priceline roles out workplace app

WESFARMERS' owned, banner group, Priceline Pharmacy, is rolling out workplace communication and training app, WorkJam, across its 470 stores nationwide.

Priceline General Manager Customer Operations, Cathi Scarce, said the partnership between the pharmacy group and WorkJam, will help improve communication between the leadership team, franchise owners and staff.

The group will use WorkJam's tailored learning and assessment, rewards and recognition, task management and communications functions.

"We wanted a partner that could streamline communications and deliver real impact," Scarce said.

"WorkJam presented an immediate opportunity to



improve our connections with franchise partners and corporate stakeholders."

WorkJam's Asia Pacific Managing Director, Andrew Myers, said the business was "incredibly excited to be joining forces with Australia's leading pharmacy".

"WorkJam's functions and improving the experiences of Priceline's employees across the nation," Myers said.

The WorkJam app enables users to access their work schedules, manage shift trades and communicate with co-workers, using mobile and web-accessible devices.

Employees will also be able to use the app to pick up additional shifts if they are available.

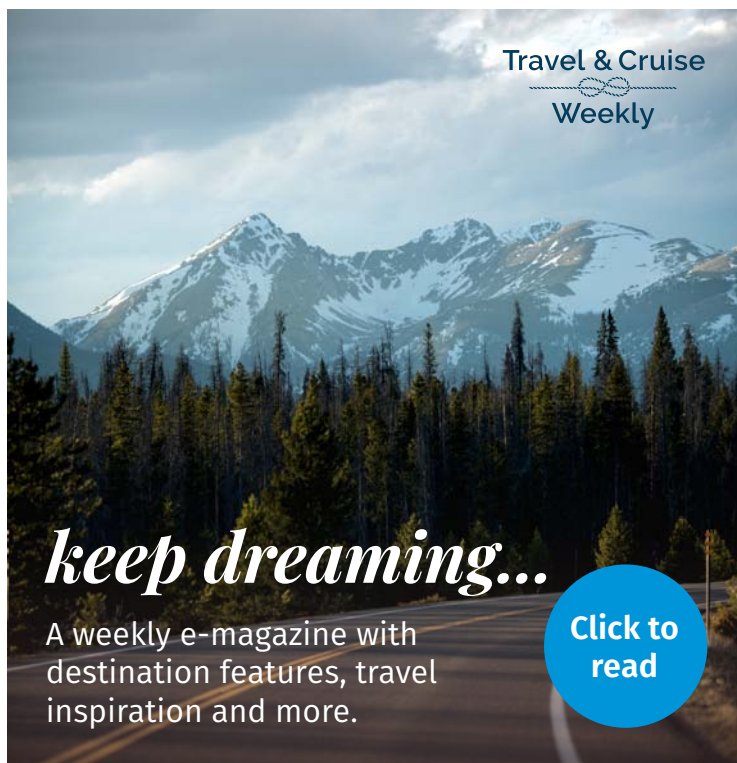
SafeScript push

PHARMACISTS in NSW are being urged to register to use real-time prescription monitoring system, SafeScript NSW.

The Pharmacy Council of NSW noted that once pharmacists have signed up to the program, they will be able to access SafeScript NSW through their dispensing software, and receive pop-up notifications when a high-risk situation is detected.

Pharmacists can **CLICK HERE** to register for SafeScript NSW using their AHPRA number.

Travel & Cruise Weekly



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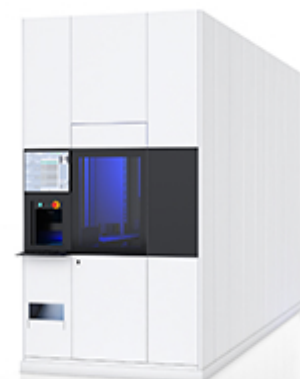


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Pharmacist drops CWH for sneakers

FORMER Chemist Warehouse (CWH) pharmacist, Edwin Low, who ditched the profession to open a designer sneaker store in Melbourne, is expecting to turn over \$20 million this year.

The Victorian footwear fanatic dropped out of pharmacy to launch the Secret Sneaker Store in 2017, after falling victim to an online shoe scam, the *Daily Mail* reported.

Low said he purchased a pair of \$500 shoes, which he had been led to believe were “rare”, through a Facebook group, but was stunned to discover he had been swindled when they arrived.

“The seller had a legitimate Facebook profile, but when I tried to get a refund - he instantly blocked me,” Low said.

“I quickly told my friends and was shocked when they said almost everyone buying sneakers on social media would eventually run into a scammer.”

Low said the Secret Sneaker Store aimed to protect customers



from falling prey to online scammers, while helping people selling collectable shoes to connect with buyers.

“My very traditional Malaysian parents thought I was crazy to give up my stable job at CWH to chase my dream of opening a sneaker store,” he said.

Low launched the business as a pop-up store, generating more than \$16,000 in turnover in its first week.

“People were lining up to buy and sell shoes, and at times before we could even put the sneakers on the shelf customers would ask us about sizing and if they could buy it,” Low said.

Over the last five years the business has grown to employ 31 staff, who have authenticated more than 100,000 pairs of limited edition sneakers at stores in Melbourne and Sydney.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to *Pharmacy Daily's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Amit Saha, MPS Group Technical Manager, LaCorium Health.**



Beat the itch!

DRY, itchy or flaky scalp? You're not alone. Around half of us will suffer symptoms at some point. Many of us will experience symptoms caused by dry scalp, including dandruff, redness, itching and flakes. There are 4 primary causes:

- Dandruff
- Scalp psoriasis
- Seborrheic dermatitis
- Reaction to hair care product

Because symptoms are similar, the biggest challenge for practitioners and sufferers is diagnosing which of the common causes is responsible, and then recommending the right treatment. While there are a mix of prescription and OTCs for itchy scalp, traditionally there has been no “one-stop shop” remedy for all 4 causes. For example, dandruff shampoos will not soothe the itch and irritation caused by excessive hair product use. Equally, tar-based treatments recommended to treat scalp psoriasis will not stop fungal infection that causes dandruff.

Dermal Therapy's scalp range is for anyone with itchy scalp. With a leave-on serum, and a rinse-off shampoo and conditioner that target all 4 causes of itchy scalp. Cleansing, soothing and healing, these products are suitable for 2y.o+ and are tar and steroid-free.

Pharmacies fined

US PHARMACY giants, CVS, Walgreens and Walmart, have been ordered to pay combined fines of \$650 million to two Ohio counties who claimed the way they distributed opioids to patients harmed local communities.

US District Judge, Dan Polster, issued the fines after a jury found the pharmacy groups had played a significant role in creating a public nuisance.

Walgreens rejected the fine, saying “the facts and the law did not support the jury verdict and they do not support the court's decision now”.



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