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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news plus a front cover from TerryWhite Chemmart.

TWC supports

PHARMACY owners are being invited to join the TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) network, with the group pledging to provide support to enable them to focus on being the best pharmacist.

See cover page for more.

HPP updated

THE Health Product Portal (HPP) has been updated to help the healthcare industry to interact with the Department of Health and Aged Care about new and existing items on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

CLICK HERE for more.

NMP 2022 consultation underway

STAKEHOLDERS have until 27 Sep to provide feedback on the revised draft of the 2022 National Medicines Policy (NMP) Review.

The consultation process follows Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler's announcement at the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA's) Conference last month, that he had asked Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Professor Michael Kidd, to restart the NMP review.

The initial review had originally been scheduled to conclude on 16 Feb, but the initial consultation period was extended by former Health Minister, Greg Hunt, until after the Federal election in Mar (PD 25 Mar).

The NMP Review Committee noted that stakeholders had "broadly agreed with most components of the initial consultation draft 2022 NMP", but said they had called for consistency in the language and phrasing of the document.

In addition to providing feedback



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on the revised draft NMP 2022, through a survey, Kidd will host six targeted consultation sessions for specific stakeholder groups, including the pharmacy sector.

An initial prescriber session is scheduled to take place tomorrow afternoon, hosted on virtual meeting platform, Webex.

Members of the pharmacy sector will be invited to share their views

during an hour-long online meeting at 3pm (AEST) on 15 Sep.

Stakeholders can register their interest in attending the session by emailing NMP@health.gov.au before 13 Sep, with the subject line - EOI Session E - Pharmacy sector - and providing their full name, organisation and email address.

A meeting invitation with Webex details will be provided on 14 Sep.



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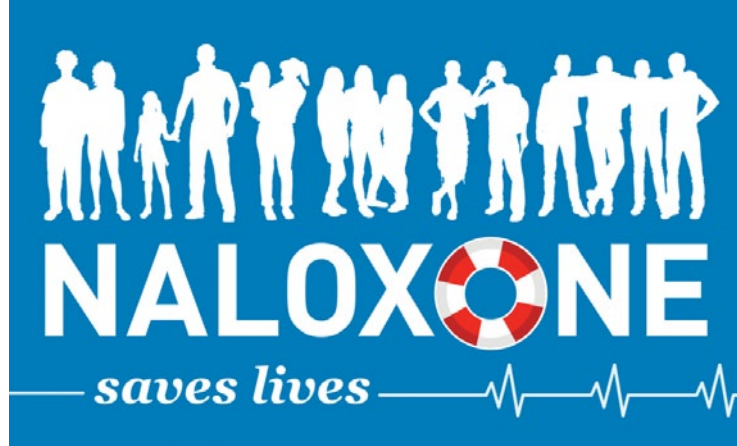
TGA acts on naloxone shortage

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has granted Section 19A approval to authorise Mundipharma to import and supply Nyxoid naloxone 1.8mg nasal spray from the UK, to address shortages in Australia.

The regulator has forecast that a shortage of the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) listed, Nyxoid naloxone hydrochloride dihydrate 2.2mg/actuation nasal spray vial, will remain in short supply until 15 Nov.

Naloxone supply issues emerged a little over a month after the National Take Home Naloxone (THN) program was rolled out (PD 27 Jun), following the success of the pharmacy-based program in NSW, Western Australia and South Australia.

Pharmacies participating in the THN program are required to source naloxone through their usual supply channel, such as a pharmaceutical wholesaler, and claim for it once the medicine has



been supplied free of charge to an individual.

The THN initiative allows any person across Australia to access free naloxone without prescription, with the aim of making it free and easily available for people at risk of an overdose such as illicit drug users and people who use prescription opioid medications, as well as their carers, friends, family and the community.

All sites participating in the program must submit data as part of their claims, to allow the Commonwealth Government and State Health Departments to monitor the supply of naloxone under the program.

Fees for supply of Naloxone range from around \$40 to \$50 depending on the product supplied - for more information and to register see ppaonline.com.au.

Sanofi seeks to support staff

SANOFI Australia is rolling out an industry first, Gender Affirmation Policy, to support employees who decide to affirm their gender at work.

The policy provides an employee planning their transition with up to eight weeks' paid leave, access to consultants who specialise in LGBTQ issues, and other services through the company's employee assistance program.

"While the Policy and Guidelines provide clear advice, they also recognise that each person's journey is unique," the company said.

"In order to provide personalised support, all Sanofians are encouraged to understand our expectations and ensure the experience of someone who is affirming their gender takes place in a respectful way."

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Dispensary Corner

GETTING set up with all the logins and approvals you need to do your job can be a time consuming and tedious process when you start a new role.

While some form filling may seem reasonable, if you require access to sensitive information, such as patient health records or employee data, being asked to get approval from a manager for more mundane things can feel a little excessive.

Melbourne-based public health expert, Professor Marie Bismark, outlined her recent experience of seemingly over the top bureaucracy after picking up her security tag at a hospital where she will be doing some on-call shifts.

Having cut through the red-tape to get access to various areas she needed to perform her role, including the pharmacy, Bismark tried to go to a staff rest room, but sadly her new credentials did not meet the required approvals to use the toilet.

When she asked about what appeared to be an anomaly, Bismark was told, "you'll have to fill out a different form and get your manager to sign it if you want swipe access for the bathrooms".

In a subsequent tweet, Bismark confirmed that "disaster" was averted, thanks to the facilities at a nearby supermarket.

She also confirmed that she had secured the necessary approvals to have her swipe card updated to provide authorised access to the staff toilets.

Counterfeit drugs bust

MORE than \$2 million-worth of illegally imported medicines and therapeutic goods have been intercepted by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) as part of a week-long international campaign.

In a statement issued this morning the TGA reported that more than 840,000 units of unlawfully imported products were seized by authorities in Australia, of which 7% was counterfeit, as part of InterPol's Operation Pangea.

"This represents a significant disruption of dangerous medicines from entering our community," the regulator said.

"During a week of action, 94 countries representing every continent cooperated to detect and seize a combined US\$11 million in illicit and counterfeit therapeutic goods globally.

"Nearly half of the packages inspected were found to contain illicit or counterfeit medicines and products including anabolic steroids, antibiotics, COVID-19 rapid antigen tests, cosmetic



injectables, erectile dysfunction medicines, herbal and sports supplements, ivermectin, nicotine vaping products, pain killers and sedatives.

"This operation serves as a reminder that therapeutic goods must be entered in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods before they can be lawfully imported, advertised and/or supplied in Australia unless an exemption applies.

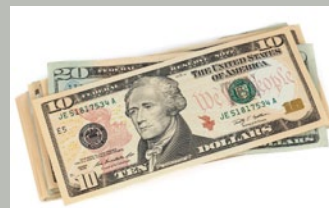
"Unregistered medicines and medical devices are often not assessed for quality, safety or efficacy and could be counterfeit, posing a risk to consumers."

Inflation hits US pharmacists' wages

PHARMACISTS in the US are seeing their wages fall by 5% when adjusted for inflation, *The New York Times* reports.

The dip in pharmacists' income comes despite staff shortages and the expansion of the role the profession has played over the last two years.

The publication said pharmacists' pay had levelled off in recent years, with pharmacies opting to hire pharmacy technicians who are authorised to fill prescriptions and are cheaper to recruit than fully



qualified pharmacists.

Another factor stagnating pharmacists' wages has been retail groups buying up competitors and closing stores, which boosts the salaries of executives, while restricting pay growth for employees.



Guild Update

State of the industry roadshows

COMMUNITY pharmacists, staff and key stakeholders will soon have an opportunity to attend face-to-face meetings with the National President of the Pharmacy Guild, Professor Trent Twomey, and State and Territory Presidents where the state of the industry will be discussed.

The events are a partnership between the Guild, Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd and the Australasian College of Pharmacy, with speakers from all three organisations involved in each event.

The meetings, from 7-9.30pm, will provide an engagement opportunity for Guild members with the National President and industry stakeholders, and enable consultation with members on local issues to help shape Guild priorities.

- 5 Sep: Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 6 Sep: Melbourne Town Hall
- 7 Sep: Tasman Hotel Hobart
- 13 Sep: Adelaide Convention Centre
- 14 Sep: Parliament House, Darwin
- 15 Sep: Brisbane City Hall
- 20 Sep: WA University Club, Perth
- 22 Sep: Old Parliament House

The events are free-of-charge to all Guild, PDL and ACP members. Non-members will be charged a \$100 fee. Contact events@guild.org.au for details.