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Thu 25th August 2022

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news and a Fact Sheet from Flordis.

Probiotic support

INTEGRATIVE medicine specialist, Flordis, is providing pharmacists with a checklist to help them provide the right Ther-Biotic probiotic strains, formulations, and dose for their customers' individual needs.

See page three for more.

REGARDLESS of what business model pharmacy owners adopt it is crucial that their offering meets patients' expectations, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, believes.

The Westpac/Guild Counting on Community Pharmacy insights report found that discount pharmacies have seen significant growth in transaction numbers of total customer spending over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Transactions in discounters now account for 30.5% of sales in



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Australian community pharmacies, up from just over one-in-five in Jul 2019, while discount stores have seen a 64% increase in total spend over the same period.

Pharmacies must meet expectations

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Service-orientated pharmacies have seen a modest increase in total spend since Jul 2019 (8.7%). with total transaction numbers falling 4.3%.

The report said the growth of the discount sector may have been fuelled by an increase in store openings, with the authors noting that "there was a 1.8% contraction in spend per transaction at discount pharmacies overall".

"In contrast, spend at serviceorientated pharmacies increased 13.4% per transaction," they said.

Twomey said that while discounters were generally perceived more as retail centres than health service destinations, "all pharmacies are a mix of both".

"Whether you're discount or service-based, those pharmacies that are making it easier for consumers to make decisions about whether they can access a product or service from their pharmacy before they set foot in the door are the ones that are doing really well," he said.



"It's vital that our profession meets the expectations of patients and consumers who may want to check on their mobile phone that they can access a flu jab, or that you have their particular antacid in stock."

In addition to seeing increased spending in pharmacies throughout the pandemic, the report noted that patients were "spending substantially more in pharmacies as of Dec 2021 compared to Jul 2019".

"Like the retail sector in general, community pharmacy retailing enjoys a bumper Dec, but people are also likely to be in store for more than just their Christmas shopping," the authors said, with patients who have reached the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Safety-Net seeking to access medicines before the New Year.



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Thu 25th August 2022

Dispensary Corner

THE after-effects of COVID-19 have slowed many people down, but for Irish teenager, Conan Noonan, they may spell the end of a career before its even got started.

The 19-year-old star of Dublin-based soccer team, Shamrock Rovers, has developed symptoms of long COVID, with the club's medics ordering him to stop training as a result of concerns about his heart.

Speaking ahead of the club's Europa League play-off secondleg against Hungarian side, Ferencváros, tonight, manager Stephen Bradley, revealed the teen footballer had experienced "irregular heartbeats" after having two bouts of COVID.

"We thought he was about to train six weeks ago and literally jogged and his heart rate and blood pressure went through the roof so we took him out again," Bradley said.

"In terms of young lads coming into the first-team, he's one who we thought would have been right there but unfortunately it's just knocked him a bit."

FRAGILE SKIN

Tenecteplase shortage

Boehringer Ingelheim's (BI's) thrombolysis treatment, Metalyse (tenecteplase) are being extended by 12 months in response to global supply shortages of the medication. The Therapeutic Goods

Administration (TGA) announced that both strengths of Metalyse are expected to be impacted until the end of 2023.

BI has backed the TGA's new guidance designed to preserve stock and reduce use of the medication by 35% from Oct until supply levels improve.

"Tenecteplase (Metalyse) supply must be prioritised for settings where there are no alternatives," the TGA said.

"Clinicians are asked to adopt the following recommendations from the beginning of Oct 2022.

"Prior to this, BI will increase stock of alteplase (Actilyse) to allow for the increased use of alteplase in place of tenecteplase for some indications.

"Healthcare professionals are urged to avoid stockpiling.

"These recommendations will be reviewed as supply improves." The regulator has called for

Metalyse to be prioritised for pre-thrombolyis, small rural and remote health facilities, including



Aboriginal health services, with Actilyse to be used in metropolitian and large regional hospitals.

"Any out-of-date tenecteplase products should be set aside and not disposed of," the TGA added.

The regulator has approved the extensions of the shelf-life of Metalyse (rch) 40mg powder for injection vial plus prefilled syringe batch no 007057, until 31 Jul 2023, and batch no 101396 until 30 Nov 2023, while batch no 006382 and 101397 of the 50mg preparation have been extended until 31 Jul 2023 and 30 Nov 2023 respectively.

Hospital pharmacists have been advised to make appropriate changes to Metalyse packaging to reflect the extensions.

Approvals for the supply of overseas-registered equivalent products have been granted under section 19A of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989.

CLICK HERE for more.

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Spender joins Connect panel

NEWLY elected MP, Allegra Spender (Wentworth), will join the Women in Pharmacy breakfast panel at Pharmacy Connect on Sat 03 Sep.

Former Pharmacy Guild of Australian National President and conference convenor, Kos Sclavos, said the discrepancy between the percentage of women in community pharmacy and female representation in leadership roles and ownership, will be the focus of the discussion.

"Women make up 57% of community pharmacists, but this is not reflected in our leadership and ownership statistics," he said.

"This breakfast aims to support and mentor the next generation of pharmacy leaders and owners in order to correct this imbalance and support our pharmacy profession."

The breakfast panel will include 2022 Pharmacy of the Year winner, Brooke Young, Arrotex Executive General Manager Pharmaceuticals, Hayley Tamborini, and Guild National Councillor, Judy Plunkett.

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www.pharmacydaily.com.au Thu 25th August 2022

Choose your probiotic like a trillion tiny lives depend on it.

Checklist: What to look for when recommending probiotics to your patients

STEP 1: Strain

Does the product only contain strain-specific probiotics? Did you know? Certain probiotic strains are more effective for certain conditions than others, even within the same Genus. The strain refers to a specific genetic variant with particular characteristics that may not appear in other members of the same species. $\mathbf{\nabla}$ Are the probiotics supported by robust clinical research? What to look for in a robust clinical study: \checkmark Do the results support the primary objective of the trial? ✓ Was the study performed on the specific probiotic strains, rather than the Genus or Species? Vas it double-blind, placebo controlled and studied on humans? Vas there a significant population size and positive outcome? **STEP 2: Formulation** $\mathbf{\nabla}$ Does the formula contain any 'filler' strains lacking evidence relevant to product claims? Are any active ingredients included in the clinical research but missing in the final product? STEP 3: Dose & Delivery \checkmark Are the strains provided in the same CFU count as studied in the research? $\mathbf{\nabla}$ Does the product mode of delivery match what was used in the research? Immunity For example, probiotics researched as a vaginal suppository & Digestion may not deliver the same therapeutic benefit when taken Vaginal Health Stress & Mood as an oral supplement. Balance **CLINICALLY RESEARCHED STRAINS** SFIO FLORDIS **OPTIMAL THERAPEUTIC DOSE** THER-BIOTIC SFIO FLORDIS FIO FLORDIS **TARGETED HEALTH BENEFITS** THER-BIOTIC THER-BIOTIC Learn more on Flordis.com.au 21.5 810 Always read the label and follow the directions for use. Del Piano, et al. 2010, Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology, Vol.44, S30–S34; Reid, G, et al. 2003, 'Oral use of Lactobacillus rhamnosus GR-1 and L. fermentum RC-14 significantly alters vaginal flora', FEMS Immunology & Medical Microbiology, Vol. 35, No. 2, pp.131-134. Funded by Procter and Gamble, NSERC and Kidney Foundation of Canada; Diop, L, et al. 2008, 'Probiotic food supplement reduces stress-induced gastrointestinal symptoms in volunteers: a double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized trial', Nutrition Research, Vol. 28, No. 1. Sponsored by Lallemand SAS.