

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Wizard Pharmacy
- Wakey Wakey

## Pleasant success

WIZARD Pharmacy Mount Pleasant has taken the Wizard Pharmacy of the Year title, after landing a 100% mystery shopper score.

The store, which opened in 2021, has established itself as a pillar of its community, working with local schools and GP clinics, and producing a three-day Wizard Mentoring program for year 11 and 12 students interested in pursuing careers in pharmacy.

The pharmacy has more than 500 scripts on file, with Wizard Rewards transaction rates sitting well above the group's average.

See page four for more.

# Authorisation sought for Minfos PDS

PRESCRIPTION exchange system, eRx Script Exchange, is seeking the revocation and replacement of its authorisation for a revenue sharing arrangement with IP MDS Pty Ltd.

eRx has requested that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) issue a new authorisation to facilitate the inclusion of pharmacy software provider, Minfos, to become a third provider of conformant prescription delivery services (PDS) in the exchange of electronic scripts.

The application has sought to ensure that the ongoing operational costs of the IT infrastructure necessary to facilitate the interoperability of the conformant PDS are shared equally between the providers.

The ACCC noted that the IT services will be provided by Medication Knowledge, an entity owned by eRx and IP MDS.

In a letter to the ACCC, independent competition counsel for eRx, Alexandra Merrett,



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said the request for interim authorisation was sought on the same basis as the previous authorisations, which have been in place since 2012.

"The proposed conduct has significant public benefits and the parties submit that there are no public detriments," Merrett said.

"Arguably the public benefits are greater for this application, as it will enable a third conformant PDS provider to enter the market.

"Minfos' entry to the market as a

third conformant PDS provider will delay until authorisation is granted.

"While an interoperable system can be built without authorisation, Minfos is unable to act as a conformant PDS provider without authorisation.

"There is a significant public interest in Minfos being able to enter as a third conformant PDS provider sooner rather than later.

"Granting interim authorisation would allow Minfos to enter sooner."



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## NSW Labor pledges scope expansion

**MOVES** to expand pharmacists' scope of practice will go ahead in NSW regardless of which of the major parties forms government after the State election next Mar.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, told *Pharmacy Daily* that the organisation has received a letter from NSW Labor Shadow Minister for Health, Ryan Park, committing increasing pharmacists' scope, if the party wins the election.

Park's pledge followed NSW Premier, Dominic Perrottet's announcement of a 12-month trial to evaluate allowing pharmacists to prescribe medication for urinary tract infections (UTIs), based on the successful Queensland program which became a permanent part of pharmacists' scope of practice in the sunshine state in Oct (*PD* 14 Nov).

"NSW Labor supports these reforms and should we be given the privilege of forming a Government after the election in Mar we will continue to see the implementation of these improvements," Park said.

Speaking at the Guild NSW Branch's Parliamentary Dinner



in Oct (*PD* 21 Oct), Park said the State was "in a very challenging period in terms of access to primary healthcare".

"It's a challenge both in the cities, but also a big challenge in regional and rural communities," he said.

"Having spoken to many regional and rural pharmacists, they've made it very clear to me... that pharmacists have the ability to do more, they want to do more, because they want to help the community.

"Those things are important, not just to pharmacists, they're

important to the community and they're important to the health system."

Heffernan welcomed Park's commitment to the profession.

"Delivering better, more accessible everyday healthcare to patients should be an issue above politics, and we're glad to see agreement between the major parties on this issue," he said.

"Patients across NSW can now be guaranteed that they will have easier access to everyday healthcare no matter who forms government next Mar."

## Moderna hits milestone

**CONSTRUCTION** of Moderna's manufacturing site at Monash University's Clayton campus, has commenced.

The start of work on the site came less than four months after the vaccine manufacturer announced it would build a plant at Monash as part of its 10-year strategic partnership with the Federal and Victorian governments.

The facility is expected to open in 2024, and produce up to 100 million doses of COVID-19, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines a year.



## UK considers preventative antibiotics

**SCHOOL** children in the UK could be given preventative antibiotics following the deaths of nine students who died from streptococcus A (strep A) infections since the beginning of Sep.

The possibility of dispensing the medications through schools where pupils have been infected, was raised as "an option" by Schools Minister, Nick Gibb, earlier this week.

"This is an ongoing situation, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is involved very closely with those schools and they will be providing further advice later on," he said.

"But that may well be an option for those particular schools where there is an infection."

Data from the UKHSA revealed

that cases of scarlet fever, which is caused by strep A, have been significantly higher than usual, with 851 infections reported in the week commencing 15 Nov, compared to the average of 186 for the preceding years.

While there has been a global shortage of some antibiotics, British Health Minister, Maria Caulfield, told the *BBC* there was "no shortage of antibiotics" to treat the rising number of strep A infections.

"We want to reassure parents if their children do have symptoms and they are concerned, to seek help," Caulfield said.

"There is no shortage of antibiotics, we want to reassure people of that, and we are keeping an eye on that on a daily basis."

## Amoxicillin SSSI subsidy arrangements

**THE** Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing has released Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) subsidy arrangements for amoxicillin Serious Scarcity and Substitutable Medicine Instrument (SSSI).

The arrangements came into effect yesterday following the Department's decision to issue the SSSI for the antibiotic, which will allow pharmacists to supply different strengths of the medication in the manner of administration at equivalent doses for the duration of the shortage, provided specified conditions are met.

The Department noted that substitution will only be authorised between specified amoxicillin formulations, and will not extend to amoxicillin with



clavulanic acid formulations.

The SSSI will remain in force until 31 May 2023, unless repealed earlier.

Speaking on *7 News* last month, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, noted that there was "no clear end date" for shortages of amoxicillin (*PD* 03 Nov).

He said that shortages of the medication were impacting "children's formulations... and also tablets and capsules for adults".

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## Dispensary Corner

**THIS** is perhaps not the ideal way to get more calcium into your diet.

Soft drink maker Pepsi has launched a campaign in the US urging soda lovers to mix their cola with milk, with the company publicising the mix as a festive drink in the lead-up to Christmas.

The apparently Santa-friendly concoction is being promoted with the hashtag #PilkandCookies (i.e. Pepsi plus milk), offering prizes for drinkers who come up with their own unusual combinations in a social media competition.

"Combining Pepsi and milk has long been a secret hack among Pepsi fans," claimed the company's Chief Marketing Officer, Todd Caplan.

He said the move is Pepsi's spin on so-called "dirty soda", which is apparently a TikTok trend combining fizzy drinks with sweet syrup and cream.

**PRESCRIPTION** poo is finally a reality, after the US Food and Drug Administration approved a faeces-based microbial treatment for recurring diarrheal infections.

Called Rebyota and made by Ferring Pharmaceuticals, it's a blend of donor stool, saline and laxative solution which is administered as an enema.

The approval follows a Phase III clinical trial which found treatment with Rebyota led to a higher prevention rate of recurrent *C. difficile* infections among 262 patients, with the treatment well-tolerated and no serious side effects.

## Incident reports rise with bivalent vax

**PHARMACIST** immunisers are being urged to review all vaccination processes before administering a shot, following an increase in incident reports to professional indemnity insurer, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL).

In a practice alert issued yesterday, PDL said the surge in vaccine-related calls had coincided with the rollout of booster doses of Moderna's COVID-19 bivalent vaccine.

"With the availability of the Pfizer bivalent booster vaccine imminent, the PDL professional officers would like to remind pharmacists of the need to review all vaccination procedures before offering a new vaccine and ensure steps are in place to minimise the risk of errors," the insurance said.

"Verbally confirm the expected vaccine with the patient, parent or

carer using an open question prior to each vaccination.

"Don't make assumptions, if your pharmacy only stocks one type of Moderna vaccine, it is still important to confirm which type the patient is expecting.

"Incidents have been reported where the original Moderna vaccine was administered as it was the only one in stock, but the patient had expected the bivalent formulation.

"Always check the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) before vaccinating every individual.

"Pay close attention to how many COVID-19 vaccinations the patient has had and how long since the last dose.

"Ensure the selected vaccine is appropriate for the patient's age and be mindful that this can be



dependent on whether the patient is having a primary or booster dose."

PDL also noted that the latest NSW Vaccination Standards, released on 11 Nov, which lists the broader heading of SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) vaccines, rather than listing the individual brands, has caused some confusion.

## HEALTH & BEAUTY

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# Congratulations to our 2022 Pharmacy of the Year

**WIZARD** *pharmacy*

## Wizard Pharmacy | Mount Pleasant | WA

Wizard Pharmacy Mount Pleasant, while only being open for just over a year, have secured themselves as a pillar in their community. The team have leapt at the opportunity to participate in community events, including engaging with local primary schools, high schools and GP clinics and producing a 3-day Wizard Mentoring program for year 11 and 12 students interested in studying pharmacy.

Since opening, the team have achieved a 100% Mystery Shopper score, have 500 scripts on file and are sitting well above the group average in Rewards transaction rates.

“ I am so proud of my team, the culture they have created and how hard they have worked to serve their customers, ”  
said Franchisee Frank Napoli.

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