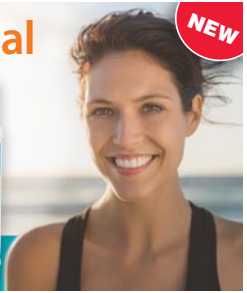


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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from Selima Pharmaceuticals and EllaOne.

SA seeks UTI submissions

A SOUTH Australian Parliamentary Select Committee is calling for submissions on access to urinary tract infection (UTI) treatment in the state.

The Select Committee on Access to Urinary Tract Infection Treatment has been established to inquire and report on barriers facing sufferers of UTIs in gaining timely access to treatment, and the applicability of implementing Qld's UTI Community Pharmacy Service in South Australia.

Written submissions and expressions of interest to appear before the committee are sought by 10 Feb 2023.

The Committee was introduced pursuant to a motion by state Labor MP Jayne Stinson, who is Chair of the inquiry established with cross-party support.

Rather than launching a trial as has been done in NSW and Vic, Stinson said she was aware of divergent opinions, and wanted to "tease out those questions, seek out answers and the most appropriate arrangements to suit patient needs" - info on 08 8237 9284.

Pharmacists warned on PI insurance

PROFESSIONAL indemnity insurance premiums for pharmacists are likely to soar if their practice continues to expand, according to Sydney-based experienced medico-legal advisor and GP Dr Craig Lilienthal.

In a *Medical Observer* editorial published this week, Lilienthal warned pharmacists to "be careful what you wish for".

"Pharmacists pay between \$200 and \$300 per annum for their professional indemnity insurance.

"The underwriter for these policies, incidentally, is Guild Insurance, the highly profitable subsidiary owned by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

"The \$200 to \$300 figure contrasts with the fees for non-procedural GPs, who pay our MDOs (Medical Defence Organisations) around \$5,000 per annum for their numerous protections and support should something go wrong."

Lilienthal, who worked for two decades in corporate medicine and is also a former President of the Doctors Health Advisory Service (NSW) and the Medico-Legal Society of NSW, wrote that "once the negligence claims start rolling in against pharmacists under, what to



me is an artificially expanded scope of practice (and the claims will roll in), their lowly premiums are likely to skyrocket, and the poor chemists will have to scramble around for even more income to cover these costs".

Moreover, the majority of claims against doctors are successfully defended, but "my guess is that most of the claims against pharmacists will be indefensible because the pharmacists are not trained to diagnose and prescribe in the ways they think they are; they are not trained to take proper medical histories, and they are not trained to keep the necessary medical records".

"Further, pharmacists as yet have no understanding of the deep emotional stresses of litigation and

the effect of this on their personal and professional lives," he added.

"The national push to have pharmacists diagnose, prescribe and dispense for a list of medical conditions is succeeding.

"Clearly the pressure is coming from two sources: the pharmacists who seek to improve their incomes, and politically sensitive ministers seeking to keep a lid on healthcare costs without doing anything difficult," Lilienthal noted.

"Most of the arguments against pharmacists playing doctors are correctly based on professional standards and conflicts of interest... the complication is that our governments appear to have no interest in professional standards, only sourcing political donations and electoral votes," he claimed.

Conditions imposed over S8 prescribing

THE NSW Health Care Complaints Commission has today detailed a decision by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal which reprimanded a Penrith, NSW GP over his inappropriate prescribing of Schedule 8 medications.

It was alleged that between 2018 and 2020 Dr Hossein Javaheri undertook "excessive and inappropriate" prescribing of S4D and S8 drugs, with the GP found guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct.

Ultra nature deal

SELIMA Pharmaceuticals is highlighting its Ultra Nature Essentials range, available for bulk purchasing and ideal for medication packaging.

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TGA weight loss reminder

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is urging the public to ensure that any weight loss supplements or medicines they use have an AUST L or AUST R number on the label.

The TGA noted that the new year is likely to see an increase in advertisements promoting such products, adding that the AUST number gives consumers and health professionals reassurance that the medicine has been approved (registered or listed) by the TGA for supply in Australia.

Products purchased online that do not have an AUST L or AUST R on the label may not be approved for local supply, and may also contain "hidden or harmful ingredients, or come from dodgy facilities without quality controls".

More at [tga.gov.au](https://www.tga.gov.au).

New myGov app

SERVICES Australia is inviting health professionals to let their patients know about the myGov app, a "new secure and convenient option for people to use myGov on their mobile".

The app can be used to access services including My Health Record, Medicare, Centrelink and Child Support, and also features a digital wallet for people to store some government-issued digital cards and certificates.

This includes their Centrelink concession and health care cards, and soon people will also be able to add their Medicare card to the app.

QR codes which appear in the app when people present their Centrelink concession and health care cards can be scanned to check whether the card is genuine and valid.

A full kit of resources with more details is at my.gov.au.

ACP free accreditation training

THE Australasian College of Pharmacy's (ACP) move to offer complimentary accreditation training for pharmacy graduates enrolled in the Guild Intern Training Program (**PD** breaking news) will continue the organisation's dedication to supporting the educational needs of the pharmacy industry across Australia - and especially interns, as the next generation of registered pharmacists, according to College President, Michelle Bou-Samra.

She said the College would also offer free ACP membership for the duration of their internship (valued at \$399), granting the Guild Interns easy access to a range of online resources to meet the Pharmacy Board of Australia's requirements for continuing professional development.

"As the leading provider of education for the industry, the College supports pharmacists during all stages of their pharmacy career, from pharmacy student,

intern to a registered pharmacist," Bou-Samra said.

"Our goal is to equip the next generation of pharmacists with the knowledge and skills to practise to their full scope from initial registration, and be able to offer more primary healthcare services to patients," she added.

"Accreditation not only supports pharmacists to provide Home Medicines Reviews and Residential Medication Management Reviews, but the skills and knowledge required to do any type of medication reviews."

The complimentary accreditation training will be available for Guild Interns commencing in the Jan 2023 cohort, with pharmacy students able to enrol in the program now for that intake via internpharmacist.com.au.

For more information on the complimentary accreditation training provided by the ACP to Guild Interns see the website at acp.edu.au/mmr.

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Dispensary Corner

KEEPING up to date with COVID-19 immunisations is vital in this post-pandemic world - but researchers in Canada have now come up with yet another reason to get the jab.

A study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* this week has found that unvaccinated people are 72% more likely to be involved in severe traffic accidents.

In mid-2021 the researchers looked at the de-identified government records of more than 11 million adults, with the 16% of the population having not received the COVID vaccine at that time showing a much higher crash propensity.

"The excess risk of car crash posed by unvaccinated drivers exceeds the safety gains from modern automobile engineering advances, and also imposes risks on other road users," the authors wrote.

They noted that based on the statistics, unvaccinated people posed a similar risk of car crash to those with sleep apnoea, and about half the risk of those who abuse alcohol.

Rather than a physiological cause, the scientists postulated that those who resist public health recommendations "might also neglect basic road safety guidelines".

They suggested health professionals should consider counselling unvaccinated passengers about traffic safety, and warned that insurance companies may end up imposing higher premiums on those without the jab.

Carollo Horton acquired by Honan

PHARMACY industry insurance broker Carollo Horton has been purchased by Honan Insurance Group, which is one of Australia's fastest growing insurance brokers.

Carollo Horton was established in 1989 with a vision to be the "insurer of choice for Australian pharmacies through innovation, growth and superior customer service", specialising in affordable insurance packages tailored to the needs of pharmacists and pharmacy businesses.

Carollo Horton also provides insurance solutions for a range of other businesses and individuals.

Honan Insurance Group is on an aggressive growth path, making more than 1,000 broker sector acquisitions since the start of 2021.

"Acquiring the Carollo Horton business marks another key step in expanding our expertise and client base, while further cementing us as a challenger to the bigger industry players," said Honan Insurance



Group CEO, Andrew Fluitsma.

He noted that Australia is home to 5,700 pharmacies that hire 70,000 staff between them.

"The Australian pharmaceuticals market is a high-growth space that is expected to reach approximately A\$45 billion by 2026, representing a compound annual growth rate of 2.1%," he added.

"Carollo Horton not only enables Honan to service a large, fast-growing industry, but puts the business in a position to offer more to the health and medical sector, where Honan has a strong existing footprint," Fluitsma said.

Carollo Horton CEO, Guiseppe Carollo, said "we needed a strong partner who could give us the support to achieve our vision of becoming the insurance broker of choice for Australian pharmacies - a dynamic partner like Honan, that brings fresh energy, a global network, broad expertise, and go-to-market sophistication to the table".

"We look forward to working together to enhance our service platform, leveraging advanced analytics capabilities, and further sharpening our focus on the specialist industry we know so well," Carollo concluded.

NZ's Pharmac adds Māori directorate

NEW Zealand medicines funding agency Pharmac has established a new directorate dedicated to the country's Māori people, demonstrating its strong commitment to ensuring equitable health outcomes for indigenous New Zealanders.

Pharmac CEO Sarah Fitt said an independent review into the organisation had highlighted the importance of a stronger Māori voice in the organisation's work.

"The Māori directorate will support our focus on lifting our Māori capability and capacity across the organisation.

"It will also strengthen our understanding on how to

effectively partner with Māori, as well as support all our Māori staff," she said.

The new division will be led by Trevor Simpson, who said its core focus would be on collaborating with the health sector to develop strategies that enable better medicine access and tackle health inequities.

"Creating the Māori Directorate reflects the organisational response to the Pharmac Review while also acknowledging the many years of advocacy for a Māori Directorate, both from internal Māori staff and our Māori stakeholders," the directorate's chief added.

Antibiotic SSPs

BRITAIN'S Department of Health and Social Care has issued Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for three penicillin medicines "to help mitigate local supply issues".

The measure follows widespread reports of shortages (**PD** 15 Dec) due to surging demand to treat an outbreak of Strep A.

The SSPs will allow pharmacists to supply alternative forms of phenoxymethylpenicillin if they cannot access the specific formulation on a prescription.

Officials insisted the supply issues were "temporary".



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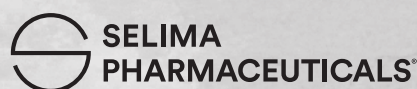
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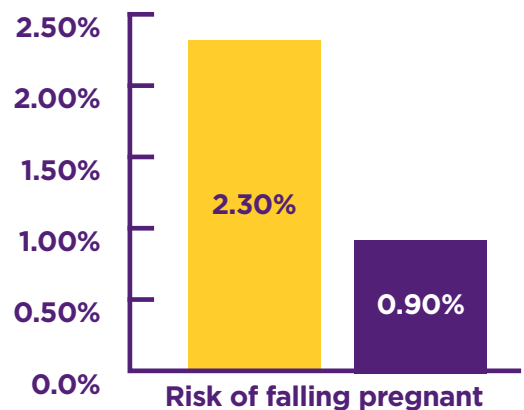
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