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Ellura caps recall

SFI Australasia has commenced a recall of a batch (No. N0121301) of Flordis Ellura capsules due to the presence of ethylene oxide.

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Docs quit NQPSP role

REPRESENTATIVES of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) are stepping away from the North Queensland Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot (NQPSP) Steering Reference Group, claiming the trial "is a serious risk to patient safety".



The RACGP and the Australian Medical Association (AMA) announced they were quitting the group on Fri following a hearing by the Queensland Parliamentary Health and Environment Committee on Fri (**PD 11 Feb**).

Pilot - Queensland (UTIPP-Q) (**PD 04 Feb 2020**), when Willett had warned that the trial carried the risk of "misdiagnosis and delayed diagnosis".

In a statement RACGP Queensland Chair, Dr Bruce Willett, criticised the trial, which would enable pharmacists to diagnose and treat specific conditions, saying they were "completely unqualified to do this".

However, addressing last week's Health and Environment Committee hearing, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen, noted that of the more than 6,300 occasions of service that have been provided under the UTIPP-Q, "no adverse events have been recorded, and as part of the pilot pharmacists have referred more complex cases to local practitioners, where clinically appropriate and required, without prescribing any medicine".

"While it's important to have a seat at the table in order to influence change, we cannot provide representation on an advisory group for this pilot which compromises patient care," he said.

"This pilot is yet another example of the system better utilising the skills, knowledge and competence of community pharmacists to improve patient health outcomes," he said.

"The pilot is in direct opposition to current clinical arrangements across Australia and prescribing arrangements agreed to by national health regulatory bodies.

"It would require a pharmacist, who doesn't have the required training or skills, to make complex diagnostic decisions and manage complex chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease."

"Time and time again, we have proven that community pharmacists are highly trained medicines experts who safely care for their patients."

The move echoes the RACGP's decision to abandon its position on an advisory group for the ongoing Urinary Tract Infection Pharmacy

TGA RAT update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has added three new COVID-19 self-test rapid antigen tests (RATs) to its list of approved products - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

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Dispensary Corner

WHEN it comes to sending emails you would like to think that the IT department of a Government-run organisation would know a thing or two. However, it appears someone working for the UK's National Health Service (NHS) is not quite as tech savvy as you might assume, providing an updated username to every employee with the name Chris Kelly in the British health system. The erroneously sent email has sparked a flurry of responses from Chris Kellys across the NHS, which have been shared by one of their number on Twitter, with one London-based Chris Kelly saying, "Always thought the NHS needed more people like me". Another Middlesex-based CK said, "[it] feels like the scene out of the Matrix when we all swim and attack Neo. Should we eventually takeover the world?" While the error may have annoyed some, it was an opportunity for others to say hello to their namesakes.

New programs at TWC

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) is expanding its health and wellbeing offerings with new personalised vitamins and weight management programs. The network has launched its TWC 'Rai' Vitamins range, which was developed by its pharmacists, to deliver personalised pre-packed "vitamin subscriptions" in daily dosing sachets. The program aims to provide patients with a personalised vitamins regime, while connecting them directly with their local TWC pharmacist, with sales attributed to the specific store, providing a sustainable business model for the group's franchisees. TWC has also extended its weight-loss offering with The Refresh Program, which combines the convenience of Tony Ferguson High Protein Shakes with nutritionally balanced snap frozen prepared meals from Be Fit Foods. TWC Executive General Manager, Nick Munroe, said the new programs were a direct response to the changing needs of customers who have been searching for more convenient ways to stay healthy. "The world is changing rapidly and moving faster every day, making it difficult for people to keep on top of



their health," he said. "We wanted to take the hassle out of being healthy and so we set about exploring innovative platforms and partnerships that would help us deliver more convenient health and wellbeing programs to our customers while providing an additional revenue stream for our network partners. "We are therefore incredibly excited to partner with dietician extraordinaire Kate Save and the Be Fit Foods team on our newly launched 'The Refresh Program' and roll out our bright and inviting 'Rai' vitamins offer – both of which will make it easier for our customers to keep on top of their health."

ACP membership structure revised

THE Australasian College of Pharmacy (ACP) is rolling out a new membership structure designed to support pharmacists working across a broad spectrum of roles in the profession. The refreshed membership offerings include updated clinical, leadership and business management-related learning opportunities. ACP CEO, Dr Dimiti Kopanakis, said the changes reflected an increase in demand for training to meet the evolving needs of the pharmacy profession as both healthcare providers and local businesses. "Our new membership structure and strategy builds on the foundations of the past 40 years to provide training that is relevant and current, not just in content but also in the delivery, because how people want to access professional development is very different now," he said. "We're giving members more flexible options and we are acknowledging that careers can follow different paths."

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EDITORIAL
Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper
Editor – Nicholas O'Donoghue
Contributors – Adam Bishop, Myles Stedman
info@pharmacydaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING
Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi
advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER
Jenny Piper
accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

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