

**Mag-Sup**  
High absorption magnesium  
Pharmacy only.

Available in 50's, 100's and 250's from Symbion, Sigma, API and CH2.

50's PBS & RPBS Listed

Always read the label. Follow the directions for use.

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

### No COVID parties

**MEDICAL** professionals are warning people against hosting COVID-19 parties in the hope of developing immunity to the virus.

Speaking on 2GB after reports that COVID parties were being hosted on the Gold Coast, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Chair, Bruce Willett, said the concept made "no sense at all".

"This sort of behaviour threatens to overwhelm medical services," he said.

"They will get immunity to COVID but it's not substantially better than getting the immunisation and at an extraordinarily higher risk."

RACGP President Karen Price has also criticised the events.

## Free RATs could create ethical issues

**CASH-STRAPPED** pharmacies could be placed "in a dubious ethical position" if the Federal Government does not revise its plans for the rollout of free rapid antigen tests (RATs), pharmacy owners warn.

Following Prime Minister, Scott Morrison's announcement free RATs will be made available to concession card-holders through community pharmacies, the Government made known it will not supply pharmacies with tests specifically for this group, and stores will be expected to provide RATs from their existing supplies.

Adelaide-based pharmacy owner, Patrick Carrig, told *The Guardian*, that it remained unclear how pharmacies would be reimbursed for supplying free RATs to eligible patients.

"We are presumably meant to spend our days scrounging for the cheapest tests so that we can at least break even on the deal," Carrig said.

"We are expected to source our own tests and then provide them at whatever the government is willing to pay."

Carrig warned that some pharmacies may not participate in the program given the upfront costs they will be expected to bear and the unspecified timeframe as to when they will be reimbursed.

"This puts us in a dubious ethical position," he said.

"If the tests fall under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, we're not allowed to supply them, but if it's going to be a separate thing, well, not every pharmacy may be able to afford to do it."

**MEANWHILE**, Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA) CEO, Jill McCabe, has raised concerns the current undersupply of RATs that have been approved for home use across the country is compromising the safety of pharmacy workers and the general public.

McCabe reported that some pharmacy owners have been conducting tests in the absence of self-testing kits, which she said could lead to an unsafe testing regime.

The PPA CEO called on the Government to extend its free RATs program to all Australians.

"While access to a limited number of tests for concession card holders was a small step in the right direction – it's still grossly inadequate," she said.

"We need to make RATs freely available to all, and we need to get the supply of these tests into a range of settings – not just in pharmacies.

"Because of the undersupply of tests and testing options, pharmacists are being inundated with calls for tests and are also expected to dispense medications, administer vaccinations and provide other health services. It simply isn't safe."

### Professional resources need tailoring

**PHARMACY** professional practice resource developers are being urged to consider tailoring their documents to the audiences most likely to use them, researchers suggest.

Results from a study, published in the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice*, investigating "if and how" pharmacy students, interns and registered pharmacists in Australia use professional practice resources, found with the exception of the Professional Practice Standards, less than half of respondents reported using the documents in the last 12 months.

The authors from the University of Western Australia and the University of South Australia, found that there were differences in the use of resources depending on where in their career respondents were, with registered pharmacists and interns more likely to access documents related to practising,

such as the *My Health Record Guidelines for Pharmacists*.

While students and interns reported a higher rate of use of "overarching resources" that relate to essential components of practice, like the *Code of Ethics of Pharmacists*.

"These usage patterns may help to interpret inconsistencies in practice and can inform the tailoring of professional practice resources for future use," the authors said.

"As usage patterns for professional practice guidance resources differ throughout training to registration, resource developers should consider if these resources need to be tailored to the audience most likely to use them."

The researchers added that resources needed to be easy to locate and navigate for practising pharmacists seeking information to provide immediate care to patients.

### TGA to assess COVID RATs' performance

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is conducting a post-market review of COVID-19 tests including all laboratory antigen and rapid antigen test kits (RATs) on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) to determine whether they have been impacted by the emergence of new variants.

The review will include

laboratory testing of all listed point of care and self-test RATs to validate their performance in detecting the Delta variant and other variants of concern.

The TGA noted that mutations in the protein target of the virus's genome could alter its structure and as a result some RATs may no longer be able to detect the virus, leading to false negative results.

**Fabulicious**

**NAIL TREATMENTS CONTAIN 100% PLANT DERIVED CELERY SEED EXTRACT TO MOISTURISE & STRENGTHEN THE NAIL**

- NO FORMALDEHYDE, TOLUENE, DBP & CAMPHOR
- NOT TESTED ON ANIMALS
- AUSTRALIAN MADE AND OWNED

Nail Treatments / 15mL / \$13.99

- Intensive Growth
- Ceramic Glaze
- Miracle Nail
- Triple Tough

Nail Polish Remover / 125mL / \$9.99

- Acetone
- Non-Acetone

RRP \$13.99

RRP \$5.99

Available from Key Sun Laboratories via 1800 791 381 or customerservice@keysun.com.au  
Or order directly through Purveyance <https://retailer.purveyance.biz/Account/Login>  
Website: [www.keysun.com.au](http://www.keysun.com.au)

KEYSUN

## Dispensary Corner

**WHILE** consumption of lots of hamburgers is not usually associated with a particularly healthy lifestyle, McDonald's Big Macs have been attributed by a 106-year-old US woman as part of her secret to long life.

Dorothy Nedd from South Philadelphia had her 106th birthday last Fri, and when asked how she had lived so long it appeared to be a mixture of faith and fast food.

One of her granddaughters remembered that "Grandma always used to take me to church...and then after church we would sometimes go to the McDonald's and my grandma got a Big Mac. She was getting Big Macs for a long time."

**THERE'S** long been speculation about the validity of use-by dates, and British supermarket giant Morrisons has decided to do something about it.

The retailer has announced it will scrap expiry dates on most of its home-brand milk products, instead encouraging customers to simply use the "sniff test" to see if it's off.

Morrisons says the move will help stop megalitres of perfectly good milk being poured down the sink, with the company saying milk is the third most wasted consumable item in the UK, after potatoes and bread.

About 300 million litres of milk are wasted each year in Britain, with about a quarter of that usage due to customers following use-by labels despite research showing milk is usually still okay for several more days.

## COVAX supply an issue

**SUPPLY** issues plaguing the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines (COVAX) for children need to be "urgently" addressed, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners President, Dr Karen Price, believes.

Following the first official day of the COVAX program for children aged five to 11 years yesterday, GPs and pharmacies have reported having to cancel appointments due to delays in stock being delivered.

In a social media post this morning Price called on the Federal Government to "urgently repair the nation's troubled vaccine rollout to children aged five to 11 years".

"The Government must ensure practices receive the doses they have requested when they need them and improve communication with practice teams," she said.

Speaking on Perth's 6PR yesterday, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Western Australian Branch President, Andrew Ngeow, noted that the distribution of



the shots was a challenge for the sector.

"The supplies are just kicking in now, so some pharmacies have them and some don't," he said.

"Our biggest problem at the moment is actually supply.

"There is a cap of 100 [doses] per pharmacy...but we would expect that to go up as the program takes off, but that's just the initial supply that the Commonwealth is sending out."

## Wizard Pharmacy lands PAotY winner

**WESTERN** Australian banner, Wizard Pharmacy, has recruited Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year (PAotY) winner 2021, Ashleigh Hutson, for its first store in the Northern Territory (PD 21 Oct 2021).

Hutson, who became the second successive Territorian to scoop the PAotY title (PD 22 Oct 2021), has been appointed as the Wizard Pharmacy Casuarina Square Shopping Centre's Retail Manager.

Hutson said that she chose to join the Wizard store as the group's brand advocated for her

beliefs in what pharmacy should be like.

"People come to pharmacies in the hope of receiving expert advice, and they put their trust and confidence in us as healthcare professionals to deliver that outcome," she said.

"At Wizard Pharmacy, this is what our customers will receive every time they walk through our door."

Hutson added another factor behind her decision to join the Wizard group was its focus on providing opportunities for career development and growth.

## Guild Update

### Rapid Antigen Tests

**COMMUNITY** pharmacists and pharmacy assistants have again been identified as key to tackling COVID health risks.

Planning is already well advanced to deliver free Rapid Antigen Tests to 6.6 million concession holders.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison and National Cabinet have asked the Pharmacy Guild to model delivery of these kits exclusively through pharmacies – not through supermarkets or other retailers.

The scheme will continue until April, providing up to 10 free tests with a maximum five in one month.

Costs will be shared 50:50 by the Australian and State or Territory Governments.

Pharmacy Guild National President Trent Twomey has forecast supply of RAT kits from overseas will be bumpy through January but then be more readily available.

As well, community pharmacies are participating in a voluntary code to limit sales of RATs, similar to rationing arrangements early in 2020.

The voluntary code will prevent stockpiling and give customers clear guidance.