

## Maintain salt balance with Saltabs

For use where salt replacement is necessary.



Available from Symbion, Sigma, API & CH2

Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

### Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

## Meningococcal vax integration

**GUILD** Learning and Development and the Australasian College of Pharmacy (ACP) is launching a webcast to support pharmacists to integrate meningococcal vaccination into their practice.

The CPD-accredited pre-recorded webinar, *Integrating meningococcal vaccination into pharmacy practice*, has been developed in partnership with Pfizer Australia, in response to changes in scope of practice authorising pharmacists to administer the vaccine in several jurisdictions.

The webinar aims to help pharmacists identify patients who are at risk of meningococcal disease.

# RAT move at odds with COVID plans

**PLANS** to end the Federal Government's COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) Concessional Access Program are "disappointing" and not in line with other measures, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia believes.

Acting Guild National President, Nick Panayiaris, said the decision to wind the scheme up at the end of the month, announced by Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, yesterday (*PD* breaking news) flew in the face of rising case numbers across the country.

"The Government has been proactive in increasing the eligibility for booster shots as well as making antiviral medicines more accessible," he said.

"However, to end the concessional RAT scheme seems at odds with everything else being done at the moment.

"With cases surging we need every means available to help the most vulnerable in our community manage the impact of the virus to

keep them as safe as possible.

"If the scheme is removed it will add pressure to government testing hubs and also potentially add to delays in accessing antivirals – delays that could see patients unable to get these medications within the required five days of the first symptoms appearing."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia National President, Dr Fei Sim, was also critical of the decision, saying "Governments should be encouraging more testing, not less".

She noted that by ending the concessional RAT program, the Government could stymie access to antivirals, despite expanding the eligibility for the medications over the weekend (*PD* 11 Jul).

"A patient needs a positive COVID-19 test in order to access antiviral medicines, and for many concession card holders RATs are the only way testing is accessible," she said.

"We cannot simply remove the main method of testing that's



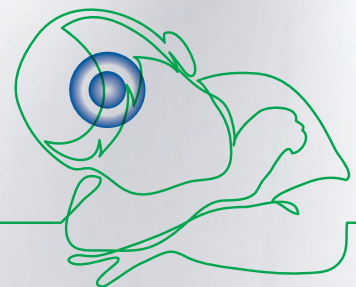
accessible to these vulnerable groups. The result will be a lot of people not testing at all.

"PSA fully supports an extension of the concessional RAT program to make sure that our most vulnerable have continued access to testing when it's needed."

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners President, Adjunct Professor Karen Price, also criticised the decision.

"We can't just have healthcare available to those who can afford it – accessibility for vulnerable groups on low incomes is vital," she said.

# DRAW THE LINE... when it comes to Children's Pain Relief



## Affordable, quality healthcare supporting Australian families

Always read the label and follow the directions for use. Incorrect use could be harmful.

[www.apohealth.com.au](http://www.apohealth.com.au)

The APOTEX trademark is under license. Apotex Pty Ltd Macquarie Park NSW 2113. ABN 52 096 916 148. Copyright © CONSUMER-000779. June 2022. All rights reserved.

## COVID heroics must not be forgotten

**PHARMACISTS'** contributions to supporting their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, must not be consigned to history, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Executive Director, Suzanne Greenwood, believes.

In an opinion piece published in the Guild's *Forefront* newsletter today, Greenwood said that community pharmacists and pharmacy assistants played a key role in helping Australians to "weather the storm" throughout the pandemic.

"As Australia settles into the next phase of living with COVID-19, it is important that we learn from what the community pharmacy sector has contributed during this period in getting as many people vaccinated as possible," she said.

"The very visible contribution was pharmacies actually administering COVID-19 vaccines, a service that should have been

approved early in the pandemic but which was not initiated until Jul 2021.

"Since then, more than 7.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been delivered to patients visiting community pharmacies across the country.

"This is a testament to the trust patients have in their pharmacists and also the accessibility of their pharmacy which often is open after normal business hours and at weekends.

"It is clear that the use of community pharmacies in the COVID-19 vaccine rollout has proven to be hugely successful and popular with patients.

"This is a lesson that must not be forgotten.

"Pharmacists have the skills and knowledge to do so much more and must be included in public health initiatives as a matter of course.

"Including pharmacy as part



of the vaccination rollout earlier would have helped achieve maximum uptake a lot sooner."

Greenwood described community pharmacists as "unsung heroes", ensuring patients retained access to health services despite facing significant challenges, including threatening and abusive behaviour from members of the public.

## Pharmacy visit for PM's booster

**PRIME** Minister, Anthony Albanese, called into Adore Compounding Pharmacy in Rozelle, NSW, yesterday to get his COVID-19 booster shot.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch Vice President, and former Labor candidate for Sydney's Inner West Council, Adele Tahan, gave the shots.

In a post on Facebook, Tahan noted that the Prime Minister also got his influenza vaccine at the pharmacy.

Tahan confirmed that she had administered the shots before Minister for Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, announced that the Government would not be extending the COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test Concessional Access Program beyond the end of Jul.

## Locums launch ownership support firm

**BRITISH** locum pharmacists, Tohidul Islam and Paul Summerfield, are set to launch a business to help employee pharmacists and other locums to buy their own stores.

The new firm, Schedule Four Consultancy, will offer a mentorship program, support aspiring pharmacy owners with commercial loan applications, and find pharmacies "in their desired location", *Chemist and Druggist* reported.

The two men said they were

motivated to set up the business in response to "the recent spate of pharmacy closures" in the UK.

Islam said he and Summerfield expected to launch the company's website in the coming weeks, and they were already speaking to a number of pharmacists who were interested in using the service.

"In short, we want every pharmacist to have the confidence and knowledge to be able to own and operate their own pharmacy," Islam said.

## PA2022 pain management refresher

**DELEGATES** attending the 2022 Pharmacy Assistant National Conference (PA2022), are being offered access to a pre-event pain management refresher workshop.

The three-hour session will provide attendees with the knowledge and understanding of what pain is, how to recognise pain, appropriate treatments and how to help your customers manage their pain management needs, counting towards their annual training requirements.

The workshop will take place

on the morning of Fri 28 Oct, and will be followed by the rest of the conference program, which covers industry trends, product knowledge and motivational presentations.

Early bird registration, which will save delegates \$65, is now available.

Conference organisers are also offering an 100% COVID-19 refund guarantee, ensuring that delegates will not be out-of-pocket if they are unable to attend due to COVID.

## COVID-19 RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS (RAT)



Cellife 5pc (Nasal)



Ciungene 5pc (Nasal)



Maccura 1pc (Nasal)



Sonictec 1pc/5pc (Nasal)



Wondfo 1pc/5pc (Nasal)



ORDER NOW

sales@powerhousepharmacybrands.com.au

powerhousepharmacybrands.com.au

1300 359 885



FREE FREIGHT • LOW MOQs • IMMEDIATE DELIVERY • TGA APPROVED



Click here to follow Pharmacy Daily on Twitter



### Dispensary Corner

A **RED-FACED** (and perhaps red in other areas of his anatomy) consumer in the UK is calling for clearer labelling on bathroom products, after developing a nasty rash from using toilet cleaning wipes on his backside.

29-year-old, Leon Gleed, admitted to the mishap after failing to read the label on the Tesco-branded antibacterial flushable wipes (**pictured**) which are designed to "make toilets sparkle".

They didn't exactly have that affect on the hapless chap, who got little sympathy from his girlfriend, according to a report on the UK's *Metro* website.

"She burst out laughing... I thought the product was wet wipes you use to go to the toilet with - but as it turned out that wasn't the case," he said.

"When I developed the soreness I knew something wasn't quite right," he said.

"I think cleaning products should have warning labels on them so they're more identifiable," Gleed suggested.

"The only way I can describe it is like the night after a hot curry, but ten times worse.

"I know it was a silly mistake to make, but I'm convinced there's other people out there who have done the same," he said.



## Star Pharmacy launches CEO search

**STAR** Pharmacy Group is commencing a search for a new CEO, with incumbent, David Clark, retiring from the role after three years with the organisation.

The group's co-founders, Stan Kontos and Peter Gardiakos, praised Clark's contribution to expanding the network to 60 stores across South Australia, NSW and Queensland, and delivering record revenue growth.

"David has done an exceptional job in setting the organisation's strong foundations in place for further future growth," they said.

"With a strong senior management team in place to drive innovation and growth, we feel comfortable this is his opportunity to step away and allow a new CEO to continue to drive the organisation to the next level.



"The next stage will be to build on those foundations and innovate even further with the support of an experienced executive group... and [the] fresh energy of a new CEO."

Star Pharmacy Group has engaged Adelaide-based human resource management firm, BespokeHR, to lead a nationwide recruitment process to identify Clark's successor. The group confirmed that Clark

will continue to run the business with the executive group, until the recruitment process is successfully concluded.

Star Pharmacy Group incorporates independent community pharmacies, the Star Discount Chemist network, alongside a number of TerryWhite Chemmart franchisees and Priceline Pharmacies.

### Getting jabby

**ALMOST** half of all COVID-19 vaccinations administered across Australia yesterday were given by pharmacists, data from the Australian Immunisation Register reveals.

To date pharmacists have provided more than 7.7 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines since Jul 2021, with 52,000 delivered yesterday.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia National President, Dr Fei Sim, said the numbers of patients turning to pharmacists for vaccination services highlighted their value.

"It's clear the Australians trust the expertise of pharmacists, now it's time that pharmacists are adequately remunerated for the critical role they play," she said.



**BUSINESS PUBLISHING GROUP**

We are looking for

---

**Permanent** → **ADVERTISING OPERATIONS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CO-ORDINATOR**

Based at our Macquarie Park, NSW office. WFH on Fridays.  
Full time or school hours (negotiable)  
This is a key role in our team, with a variety of tasks working on the development of our daily editions, Travel Daily, Cruise Weekly and Pharmacy Daily.

**Requirements:**

- ✔ Highly organised with an eye for detail
- ✔ Great communication skills
- ✔ Penchant for design, familiarity with Adobe Suite would be highly regarded.

Full job description available on request.  
Salary commensurate with experience.

**Send your CV to [jobs@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:jobs@traveldaily.com.au)**

