

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

## Metalyse expiry dates extended

**FORECAST** shortages of Metalyse (tenecteplase) injections have prompted the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to approve a submission from Boehringer Ingelheim to extend the shelf-life of certain batches of the medication by 12 months.

"Hospital pharmacists and ambulance services are encouraged to make appropriate changes to Metalyse packaging to reflect the extended shelf-life," the TGA said.

The regulator has also approved two overseas-registered equivalent products.

## Butler urged to fund *Aus Prescriber*

**HEALTH** professionals are backing calls for Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, to ensure the future of the *Australian Prescriber* journal, as part of his review of future funding for NPS MedicineWise.

In the lead up to May's Federal Election, Butler pledged to conduct a review of former Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg's Budget decision to stop funding NPS MedicineWise's quality use of medicines (QUM) functions from 01 Jan 2023 (**PD** 05 Apr), if Labor was to form a government (**PD** 19 May).

More than 3,800 people have signed a *change.org* petition launched by *Australian Prescriber's* Editorial Executive Committee, urging Butler "to support the ongoing publication of *Australian Prescriber*, preferably through continued funding of NPS MedicineWise".

"With NPS MedicineWise, *Australian Prescriber* has made



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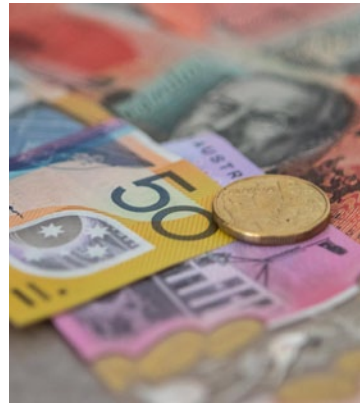
a long-standing contribution to the quality use of medicines in Australia," the Executive Committee said.

"We therefore ask that the review of the funding of NPS MedicineWise ensures the ongoing publication of the journal to assist us in our work to improve the health of all Australians."

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has also backed the petition for the journal to be funded through NPS MedicineWise.

"*Australian Prescriber* is an irreplaceable resource for hospital pharmacists," the SHPA said in a post on Twitter.

"Its articles on complex medicines management and new medicines have been cited countless times in medication safety committee, medication information services and drugs and therapeutic committees who oversee hospital-wide medicines



governance."

A spokesperson for NPS MedicineWise told *Pharmacy Daily* that the petition aimed "to make sure subscribers are aware of the potential impact of the decision and to give them an opportunity to voice their concerns".

The spokesperson added that "NPS MedicineWise awaits the outcome of the review and the decision of the Minister".

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## Dispensary Corner

**A QUICK-THINKING** pharmacist's decision to hand an armed bandit a fake pill bottle with a tracker, has led to the arrest of a suspected serial robber.

Kristopher Kukola, is being investigated in relation to a string of pharmacy hold-ups which occurred between 24 May and 07 Jul.

Over the course of five armed raids Kukola allegedly stole prescription medications valued at close to US\$50,000.

However, his luck ran out when a pharmacist at a CVS pharmacy in Milan, on the outskirts of Detroit, handed him a bag containing painkillers and Xanax, and a "decoy pill bottle" with a GPS tracking device in it.

Authorities were able to track the fake pill bottle to an apartment complex in a nearby suburb, where they said Kukola approached them and said "the guy you are looking for ran that way" - a line that didn't fool police, who arrested him.

## Delahunty's go not out



**BRISBANE'S** Delahunty's Chemist is joining iconic Australian institutions, the ABC and RM Williams in celebrating 90 years in business.

Established by James Delahunty Senior on 13 Jul 1932, three generations of the family have dispensed medications and advice to patients.

Marking the anniversary of the store's opening, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen, said the business has "experienced constant evolution with changes to pharmacist scope, technology innovation, patients as health consumers, and more recently the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic".

"Their 90-year longevity, through ongoing transformation, is a testament of their dedication to patients, community-minded approach, optimistic attitude, commitment to pharmacist progress and business innovation," he said.

"Thank you does not seem enough to appropriately recognise the contribution the Delahunty family has made to community pharmacy practice and the health and wellbeing of many Queenslanders."

**Pictured**, former Guild National President, Kos Sclavos, with current owners, Bridget, James Junior and Carmel Delahunty, and Guild Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen.

## US Govt issues dispensing rules

**US PHARMACISTS** are being warned that they may be breaching patients' civil rights if they refuse to dispense medicines linked to abortion.

Guidance released by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services yesterday, stressed that pharmacists may not discriminate against patients "with regard to supply of medications, making determinations regarding the suitability of a prescribed medication for a patient, or advising patients about medication and how to take them".

Pharmacists were told that they could breach anti-discrimination legislation if they were to refuse to dispense prescriptions for mifepristone and misoprostol to patients who have had a first-trimester miscarriage.

The guidance added that if a pharmacy stocked condoms, but refused to dispense oral contraceptives, it would also be in breach of discrimination laws on the basis of sex.

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