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## MDR moves to acquire GuildLink

**DIGITAL** medication platform provider, MedAdvisor (MDR), is set to acquire GuildLink in a deal worth \$9.1 million.

MDR announced it has entered into a binding agreement to purchase 100% of the shares in GuildLink from Guild Group Holdings Limited offering in consideration of the issue of 57,118,490 ordinary shares in the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) listed company.

As part of the deal, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Health Economics and Policy Chair, Anthony Tassone, has been appointed to the MDR Board as a nominee of the Guild Group, effective 27 Jul - subject to the successful completion of the deal.

MDR said the acquisition will extend the company's market to include more than 90% of Australia's community pharmacies, providing a consolidated platform for all government programs, and delivering more diversified revenue streams.

Guild National President, Trent Twomey, said the deal would provide improved services for the sector and patients.

"This transaction provides certainty for our ability to continue to deliver health service initiatives aimed at improving the health and wellness of Australians while providing an enhanced medications management technology platform that meets the ongoing needs of community pharmacy," he said.

"It's a positive step forward for the pharmacy community and for all Australians."

MDR Chair, Linda Jenkinson, said the company was focused on improving pharmacists' workflow, to enable them to provide better care to their patients.

"As pharmacies widen their scope of practice, and governments seek a more consistent approach to engaging with the pharmacy sector, our strong belief is that a best-of-breed platform is the best way to enable the industry to achieve



these objectives," she said.

"MDR's acquisition of GuildLink deepens our relationship with the Guild and the many pharmacies supported by GuildLink.

"There is compelling strategic rationale for the acquisition as it ensures Australian pharmacists have access to the world's best technology platform that integrates patient bookings, clinical services, vaccinations and medication management, while also having the additional benefit of being supported by the Guild to ensure they are remunerated appropriately for delivering these services."

Today's issue of *PD*

*Pharmacy Daily* today features three pages of news plus a full page from **Benson Medical**.

### Snore no more

**PHARMACIES** can now order Benson Medical's Snoreben device to help patients tackle snoring, nasal congestion and dry mouth, through pharmaceutical wholesalers, Symbion and API.

See **page four** for more.

### Career webinar

**PROFESSIONAL** Pharmacists Australia (PPA) is hosting a CPD-accredited virtual event, to help pharmacists discover what is possible for their career beyond the dispensary, on 06 Aug.

**CLICK HERE** for the event program and to register.

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## Dispensary Corner

**OLD** adages about children being the most effective form of contraception seem to ring true, research from Flinders University reveals.

However, the study found that night-time crib visits served as a greater disincentive to engaging in the type of lust activity that led to the child, than the sleep deprivation caused by the baby's disrupted sleeping patterns.

Researchers reported that parents who checked in on their infant between 0 and 0.5 times a night on average, reported having sex 4.2 times per month, while those who visited their infant four or more times a night had 50% less bedroom action.

While parents who visited their children less frequently at night enjoyed more active sex lives in the early days, the study found that "the frequency of partnered sexual activity in the first 18 months was  $3.8 \pm 4.2$  times per month... yet increases beyond the first six months postpartum were non-significant".



## RACGP continues criticism of UTIPP-Q

**PHARMACISTS** involved in the Urinary Tract Infection Pharmacy Pilot - Queensland (UTIPP-Q) are being accused of overprescribing antibiotics, by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

In a submission on the proposed amendments to part two of the *UTIPP-Q circumstances and conditions of the extended practice authority (EPA) - Pharmacists*, consultation paper, the RACGP continues to raise concerns about the program.

The RACGP said the UTIPP-Q evaluation report showed that five of the 817 pharmacies provided more than 100 occasions of care, while more than a third reported providing no services during the pilot, suggesting many pharmacists were overprescribing antibiotics to patients.

"By RACGP's calculations, less than 1% of pharmacies provided

about 10% of the scripts for antibiotics during the pilot duration," the RACGP said.

"In other words, at least 640 of the 6751 (9.48%) services were provided by five pharmacies.

"This is certainly an outlier group to which the report offers little to no explanation."

The RACGP added that "the direct relationship between volume of sales and business sustainability generates a conflict of interest whereby commercial interests can influence the health advice provided by pharmacists".

"The report stated that half of the pharmacist respondents found charging a \$19.95 service fee difficult when they did not supply the antibiotic," the RACGP said.

"If pharmacists can only feel comfortable to recoup their service costs when prescribing this significantly risks overprescribing.

"This cannot be ignored and



demonstrates potential for further overprescribing now that this has been made permanent.

"This issue does not exist in general practice where there is a separation between prescribing and dispensing.

"What process will the Queensland Government put in place to identify and monitor overprescribing, such as in the case of the five pharmacies in the UTIPP-Q pilot without independent compliance oversight?"

## FIP launches pharmacist diabetes guide

**THE** International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has released a new *Knowledge and skills reference guide for professional development in diabetes* as part of its ongoing push to champion the role of pharmacists in preventing and treating chronic diseases.

The guide is intended as a companion to FIP's 2021 Diabetes Handbook for Pharmacists ([CLICK HERE](#)), helping pharmacists to acquire

competencies such as screening and clinical management.

The new publication also aims to guide the design and delivery of training programs by pharmacist CPD providers.

"By expanding the full potential of pharmacists in the delivery of diabetes care and associated services, we get closer to offering optimal health services to patients making sure that no one is left behind," the authors said.

See the new guide at [fip.org](http://fip.org).

## Topiramate probe

**AUTHORITIES** in the UK have announced a safety review of topiramate, looking at possible harms in the learning and development of children whose mothers took the drug during pregnancy.


Topiramate is used for the treatment of epilepsy and migraine, with the review responding to an observational study suggesting increased risk of neurodevelopmental disabilities.



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## NSW pharmacist struck off

**THE** registration of a NSW-based pharmacist has been cancelled with a non-review period of 12 months, with the state's Health Care Complaints Commission today publishing the outcome of a case brought before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The matter included allegations that between 2018 and 2020 Andrew Kaye, the owner and operator of five pharmacies including Pharmacy Nutrition Warehouses in the Sydney suburbs of Toongabbie and Quakers Hill "was convicted of criminal offences (including larceny) and failed to notify the National Board in writing within seven days".

The case also included claims Kaye conducted a pharmacy business at Toongabbie without required approval, and did not have a pharmacist in charge to personally supervise at the Quakers Hill pharmacy.

A hearing earlier in the year found the complaints proven, and that Kaye was guilty of professional misconduct and unsatisfactory professional conduct.

In a follow-up decision handed down on Thu last week, evidence cited included character witnesses, ongoing CPD activities relating to

ethics, and the pharmacist's "deep regret and remorse" for his actions.

The hearing also included testimony from a forensic psychiatrist, pharmacy staff and pharmacist, Albert Regoli, who was asked to assess Kaye's non-compliance with the relevant legislation and his knowledge of his obligations as a pharmacist.

The Tribunal acknowledged that the practitioner had reduced his workload by altering the structure of his group of pharmacies, continued his CPD, introduced new management practices including a monthly proprietor audit checklist, and had had to deal with various painful personal family circumstances.

However "having considered all the submissions and the applicable principles, we consider that there should be an order cancelling the practitioner's registration," the Tribunal noted.

"We have come to that conclusion given the objective seriousness of the conduct, because of the necessity to emphasise to other practitioners that such serious professional misconduct is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, and to maintain public confidence in the profession."



## Weekly Comment Top Tips!

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is Sarah Ding, Pharmacist



**Manager at TWC Coffs Harbour & Pharmacist of the Year 2022.**

**STAYING** motivated and keeping our teams motivated during this challenging winter season is crucial to keeping our communities healthy!

- Here's my top tips:
- Set yourself realistic goals each day so you feel a sense of achievement.
  - Show your team appreciation - surprise them with a round of

coffee and always show them individual appreciation at the end of the day - this goes a long way!

- Communication is key, make sure your team know you're with them on the frontline.
- Make sure you get down time, and you're scheduling the same for your team.

And most importantly, find your support team - having someone you can call on who understands the pressures and can lend an ear can really help.

It might be a colleague, your brand BDM or someone you've known for years.

And remember the Pharmacist Support Line is available also – 1300 244 910.

## Californian pharmacists vote to strike

**PHARMACISTS** and pharmacy assistants in Southern California are set to take industrial action claiming employers have engaged in "unlawful and unfair treatment".

The United Food and Commercial Workers union has filed Unfair Labor Practice charges against pharmacy groups, Ralphs, Vons, Albertsons and Pavilions, with the National Labor Relations Board.

The union alleges the groups have attempted to bribe pharmacists with bonuses rather than negotiating wage increases

and hiring temporary workers to undermine union activity, *The Orange County Register* reported.

"Southern California's essential pharmacists have made their voices heard with this vote," the union said.

"This vote gives union leaders the authorization to call for a strike and lays the groundwork to allow more than 600 pharmacists across California to stand up to protect their rights and ensure they have the ability to effectively serve their patients and communities."

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