

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

### HMR follow-ups on the rise

**HOME** Medicines Review (HMR) program data released by the Department of Health and Aged Care, shows the number of follow-up services is on the rise.

Figures for the 11 months to the end of May revealed that pharmacists have conducted 19,388 "first follow-up" consultations - up from 19,175 for the year to 30 Jun 2021 - while 7,656 "second follow-up" services were provided during the same period, up from 5,294 in the 12 months to the end of Jun last year.

However, the data shows total HMR numbers are tracking below the 2020/21 figures.

## Guild tops up stake in MedAdvisor

**PHARMACY** Guild of Australia-owned business, Guild Group Holdings Limited, is set to become MedAdvisor's largest shareholder after splashing out \$4.9 million as part of an institutional entitlement offer.

The Guild's investment in the medtech firm came as it finalised the sale of its GuildLink business to MedAdvisor in an all-stock transaction valued at \$9.1 million (PD 25 Jul), this morning.

MedAdvisor Chair, Linda Jenkinson, said the institutional offer announced on Mon had been successfully completed today, raising approximately \$10 million.

"We are pleased by the strong support shown by both existing and new institutional investors for the institutional entitlement offer, and the acquisition of GuildLink," she said.

"I would also like to welcome the Guild Group as MedAdvisor's largest shareholder."



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As part of MedAdvisor's acquisition of GuildLink, Guild Health Economics and Policy Chair, Anthony Tassone, has been appointed to the company's Board as a nominee of the Guild Group.

The deal will extend MedAdvisor's market share to include more than 90% of Australia's community pharmacies.

Meanwhile, MedAdvisor is aiming to raise a further \$4.6 million through a retail entitlement

offer, which will be open to Australian and New Zealand-based shareholders from 7pm tonight.

The offer will entitle shareholders to purchase one new share in the business for every 4.2 shares currently held.

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) MedAdvisor forecast that the retail entitlement offer will close on 15 Aug, with normal trading on all shares to resume from 23 Aug.

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Travel & Cruise Weekly

## Dr Google Aussies' first port of call

**ADDRESSING** Australians' digital health literacy must be a priority, with patients turning to online sources before seeking advice from health professionals, Consumer Health Products Australia (CHP) believes.

The CHP's *The Self-care Opportunity Report* found that two-thirds of adults search online for common health conditions rather than visiting their local pharmacist or GP, with less than 10% saying they fully understand the information they find.

The report also found that close to a third of Australians considered their health literacy was low, while just over 20% rated their health literacy as being high.

With Australia in the grips of another COVID-19 wave, CHP CEO, Dr Deon Schoombie, said it was critical to boost health literacy.

"Self-care is much more than mindfulness and empowers people

to take charge of their health with proactive steps like strong hygiene practices, knowing how to use medication responsibly and fostering strong health knowledge and skills," he said.

"Self-care not only helps prevent illness and improve health outcomes, it lifts the performance of our entire health system and saves on costs.

"The *Self Care Opportunity Report* clearly shows an urgent need to help Australians with digital health literacy - to know where to find, how to interpret, and how to use health information from online sources.

"This is very important as we can clearly see those with higher literacy levels have higher engagement in their health.

"We have an opportunity now to make a significant difference to our overall national health status by making a greater investment in self-



care education, upskilling digital health literacy, and creating more verified and easy-to-access digital health sources."

While the report found that Australians were quick to turn to 'Dr Google' for health advice, more than 80% said they trusted GPs and pharmacists to provide guidance for managing short-term health conditions.

## Kos' top 10

**PHARMACY** Connect Convenor, Kos Sclavos, has revealed his top 10 picks for sessions at the upcoming event taking place in Sydney 01-03 Sep.

He has highlighted the Fri morning Pharmacy Guild Industry Update as his number one, followed by a Leadership Matters session with strategic advisor Peter Baines.

Other key presentations cover mRNA Medicines and electronic prescriptions on the afternoon of the first day, as well as the Community Pharmacy Industry Update.

Vital weekend sessions include Westpac Chief Economist Besa Deda on Sat morning, as well as the key Judy Liauw Address by MP Emma McBride.

Early registration closes tomorrow - [CLICK HERE](#).

## Vapor Kings set for Federal Court date

**LEGAL** proceedings are being launched against NSW-based business, Vapor Kings Pty Ltd, and its sole director, Amir Kandakji, over alleged unlawful advertising of nicotine vaping products.

In a statement announcing the Federal Court proceedings, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) reported that the company and its director were responsible for ads on their websites and social media pages promoting the products, in breach of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

"Despite being warned about alleged non-compliant advertising, the company and Kandakji continued to advertise and sell the products for some months," the TGA said.

The regulator alleged that the business removed some ads for the products from its Australian website between Feb and Jun, but redirected consumers to advertisements for nicotine vaping equipment on its UK platform, when users clicked on 'e-liquid'.

## Pangea takes over 285,000 illicit items

**A GLOBAL** week of action coordinated by Interpol has seen large quantities of illegally traded medicines and medical devices intercepted.

So-called "Operation Pangea" saw the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) shut down almost 50 social media accounts unlawfully offering to supply medicines, while officers from the MHRA Criminal Enforcement Unit searched five premises in the West Midlands and London,

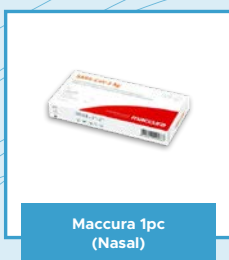
arresting two suspects.

In the UK medicines seized included antidepressants, erectile dysfunction tablets, painkillers, anabolic steroids and slimming pills.

The MHRA said it would be following the week of action with a detailed analysis of the global results to better understand the emerging criminal threat.

That includes identification of "hotspot" exporters, favoured medicines being traded and evolving criminal business models.

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### Dispensary Corner

**THROUGHOUT** the COVID-19 pandemic pharmacists have faced abuse and aggressive behaviour from customers.

However, the shoe was on the other foot when a pharmacist at a Walmart in Arkansas, went on a "rampage" after a woman went to pick up a prescription for her daughter.

The pharmacist allegedly told the woman "you're a demon" and said he would kill her, before throwing objects at the plexiglass screen separating the dispensary from the rest of the store, *NBC* affiliate *WDTN* reported.

Local police confirmed they had been called to the store following a "violent episode" in which a number of people were injured.

The pharmacist was subsequently taken into custody, while police continued their investigation.

The mother of the woman who had been collecting the prescription when the pharmacist became agitated called on Walmart to take action to prevent a similar incident in the future.

"I think that they should actually look into what the issue was to go from absolutely normal to snapping and endangering not only my daughter and her infant but everyone else that was there," she said.

Australian pharmacists who are experiencing high stress levels can contact the Pharmacists' Support Service for help on 1300 244 910.

## Pharmacists need robbery training

**ADDITIONAL** training to better prepare pharmacists to cope with the stress of being confronted by armed robbers should be part of pharmacy schools' curriculums, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Northern Territory Branch President, Peter Hatswell, believes.

Speaking with *ABC Alice Springs Breakfast* host, Stewart Brash, yesterday, Hatswell praised the actions of a Tennant Creek pharmacist, who foiled an armed raid last week (*PD* 21 Jul).

During the hold-up the pharmacist managed to disarm the bandit, before unloading the breach.

"I think he did an amazing job," he said.

"It is really unfortunate that pharmacies do get held up and it can be very disturbing.



"It would be really good if we did get some training during schooling just to get us prepared."

However, he noted that even with training he didn't think pharmacy students could be fully prepared for "the stress and shock that happens when you get held-up".

"I've been held-up myself," Hatswell said.

"Someone came into the pharmacy when I was on duty and asked for drugs.

"It's very unsettling and I had to get a bit of counselling, and so did the other staff member."

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