

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news plus a full page from Floridis.

Floridis' new look

FLORDIS has unveiled a new look for its Femular and Femular Forte range to reflect a "new generation of menopause", with the formula remaining unchanged.

The non-hormonal phytotherapeutic formulations are clinically proven to relieve a range of menopause symptoms, including hot flushes, night sweats, irritability, mild anxiety, sleeplessness, fatigue, and joint pain.

Research shows the Floridis Femular range can reduce menopausal symptoms in as early as one month, with significant relief shown at three months, and continued improvement over nine months - see [page five](#) for more.

COVAX safe for babies

AUSTRALIAN pharmacists may be able to vaccinate children as young as six months old against COVID-19, if the Therapeutic Goods Administration and ATAGI decide to implement US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) findings that the Pfizer and Moderna immunisations are safe & effective in people aged under five years.

Three doses of Pfizer vaccine were found to be 80.4% effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19, with a rate of 75.6% for babies and toddlers aged six months to 23-months-old, and 82.4% for children between the ages of two and four years old.

The FDA said side effects from the Pfizer vaccine in these age groups were mild, and included irritability and drowsiness for children six months to 23-months-old, and pain at the injection site and fatigue for children two- to four-years-old.

In a separate report, the agency determined that two doses of Moderna's vaccine was found to



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NEW IMPROVED HIGH POTENCY FORMULA

HIGH POTENCY FORMULA WITH ADDED BIOFLAVONOIDS

30 TABLETS

Scholarship push

PHARMACY Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, is reminding young pharmacists that nominations for the \$50,000 Young Pharmacist Global Exchange Scholarship close on 01 Jul - [CLICK HERE](#) to apply.

Twomey, who is also Vice President of the World Pharmacy Council, said the move was an initiative of the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement supported by the Australasian Collage of Pharmacy and the World Pharmacy Council, enabling an early career pharmacist to work in the UK for up to a year.

"The Scholar has the opportunity to work in more than one community pharmacy in the UK and learn first-hand how pharmacy services are administered in other OECD countries," he said.

The winner will also be hosted at the Pharmacy Connect Conference in Sep.

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Apple iPhone adds medication tracking

TECHNOLOGY giant Apple has unveiled an updated version of the operating system for its Apple Watch and iPhone, including a forthcoming new Medications app said to “make it easy for users to conveniently and discreetly manage and track medications”.

The new features, part of Apple’s OS 9 and iOS 16, were announced at an Apple developer conference, with the company saying “the new Medications experience on Apple Watch and iPhone helps users manage and track their medications, vitamins and supplements, allowing them to create a medications list, set up schedules and reminders, and view information on their medications in the Health app”.

Custom schedules can be created for each medication, whether it needs to be taken multiple times a day, once a week, or as needed, and users can set up reminders to help keep them on track.

In addition, Apple device users in the USA can even receive an alert if there are potential critical interactions with medications they have added to the iPhone Health app, based on “evidence-based content licensed from Elsevier, a

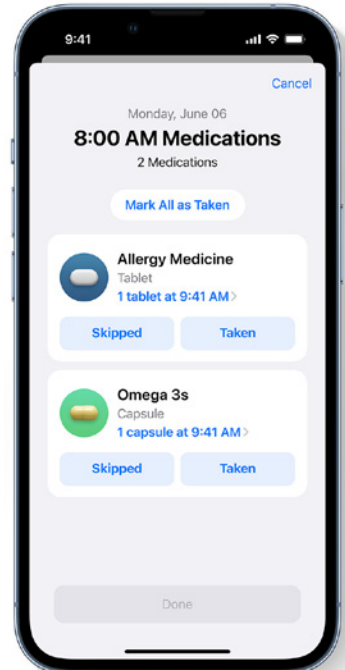


leading publisher of health and science information”.

Medications are added to the app either via manual entry or automatic scanning using the inbuilt iPhone camera.

The move is an expansion of other health-related features integrated into the iPhone and Apple Watch, such as heart rate monitoring, falls detection, activity tracking, sleep health and more.

Although there are many medication tracking apps already available - some requiring a monthly subscription fee - it’s



the first time that Apple itself has targeted the adherence issue which is estimated to cost the global health system billions of dollars each year.

The new Apple Medications platform also allows users to optionally share their medication history with family members or health professionals.

Guild Update

Men's Health Week

THIS week is International Men’s Health Week, which is celebrated every year around the world from June 13-19.

It is an important opportunity to highlight the importance of men’s health, and to promote and support the health and wellbeing of men and boys in our communities.

Men’s Health Week focuses on not just physical health, but also men’s mental health and emotional wellbeing.

During the week, health challenges faced by men in Australia and worldwide are highlighted and events held to improve the physical, emotional and mental health of men and boys.

Through a series of promotions, events and publicity around the country, **Men’s Health Week** is designed to provoke thought and discussion about what needs to be done to improve male health.

The theme of Men’s Health Week 2022 is Building Healthy Environments for Men and Boys - focusing on creating physically, mentally and emotionally healthy environments in the home, workplace and in social settings.



Anticholinergic burden: reducing the impact on older people

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No pharma gongs

UNUSUALLY, not a single practising pharmacist was cited in last weekend’s Queen’s Birthday Honours list released by the Governor General.

By contrast some 10 GPs were recognised, along with other prominent medicos such as NSW Chief Health Officer Kerry Chant, her former Qld counterpart Jeannette Young and ex Federal Chief Health Officer Brendan Murphy.

Viatrix is rebranding. Many bottles will now be available in blister packs



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New APC video

THE Australian Pharmacy Council has released a new video, aiming to help overseas-trained pharmacists navigate the process to becoming qualified in Australia - see it at pharmacydaily.com.au/videos.

Canada to warn on each cigarette

HEALTH authorities in Canada are proposing new tobacco labelling regulations which would see written health warnings printed on individual cigarettes.

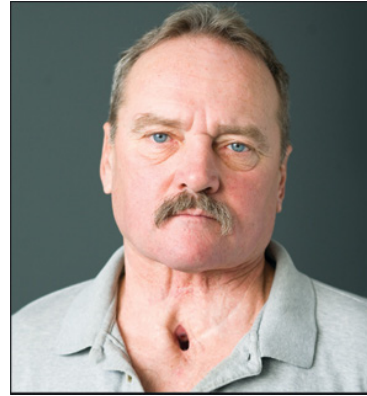
The country's Minister for Mental Health and Addictions, Carolyn Bennett, has announced a 75-day public consultation period on the measure, noting that "despite decades of efforts, tobacco use continues to be the leading preventable cause of illness and preventable death in Canada".

Current warnings on tobacco products (pictured) have "become stale for the 13% of people in Canada who smoke and come across them regularly," she noted.

The new packaging proposal would ensure that health-related messages reach people who often access cigarettes one at a time in social situations, particularly youth and young adults, the Minister said.

If implemented, Canada would be the first country in the world to introduce such a requirement.

Other changes would update current health-related messages on packaging and implement periodic



"I wish I had never started smoking."

"I was diagnosed with cancer of the larynx when I was 48. I had to have my vocal cords removed, and now I breathe through a hole in my throat."

- Leroy

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Health Canada

rotation of messages - including an extended list of health hazards and negative health effects including stomach cancer, colorectal cancer, diabetes, peripheral vascular disease and cervical cancer.

"Reducing the devastating harms of tobacco use remains a top priority for health and health care in Canada," Bennett said, adding that if the measures are implemented they would help more Canadians live healthier, happier and tobacco-free lives.

Canada's formal Tobacco Strategy, funded in 2018 to the tune of

CAD\$330 million over five years, aims to reduce tobacco use from 13% of the population to less than 5% by 2035.

As well as individual cigarettes, the new packaging rules would also apply to cigars that have a filter and cigarette tubes, with a host of Canadian health organisations backing the proposal as an important advance in public health protection.

Tobacco use prevalence in Canada has more than halved over the last 25 years, falling from 28% in 1998 to 13% today.



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ACT complex mental health service

PEOPLE living with complex mental health issues in the ACT can now access a new Australian-first digital and telephone service providing ongoing support.

Developed and delivered by national complex mental health organisation SANE, the guided service will support people with issues such as bipolar

disorder, OCD or schizophrenia, and the service is also built for the autistic community and those with intellectual disability seeking mental health support.

The free service offers personalised programs of counselling and peer support activities via a best-in-class digital platform - see sane.org/referral.

UK takeover

BRITISH supermarket giant Morrisons is under new ownership, with US private equity firm Clayton Dubilier & Rice approved by competition authorities to take control after a lengthy takeover process.

The Bradford-based firm has almost 500 UK shops, 117 with in-store pharmacies.

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Dispensary Corner

TOO much chocolate can be bad for your health, but usually the problems are caused by eating too much of the sweet treat, not drowning in it.

In a scene reminiscent of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, two maintenance workers at an M&M manufacturing facility in Pennsylvania, USA, almost came to a sticky end last week after they fell into a partially filled chocolate tank.

Officials at the Mars Wrigley plant in Elizabethtown weren't able to detail how it happened, but the pair somehow found themselves inside the tank and were unable to get out on their own, spending more than an hour trapped in waist-deep warm chocolate.

After being rescued they were taken to hospital for observation (and probably a very long, hot shower), with the incident being investigated by the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration.



TGA issues fake RAT alert

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a formal warning to consumers, urging them to only purchase COVID-19 rapid antigen tests (RATs) which are approved in Australia.

The move is a response to unapproved RATs, which the TGA says are still being sold to Australians.

"The TGA is taking strong enforcement action against unlawful activities resulting in unapproved RATs being imported, sold or advertised in Australia," said TGA Head, John Skerritt.

"We are concerned that some consumers may be relying on RATs that have not been approved in Australia, and subsequently do not work as intended," he said.

Using unapproved, repackaged or repurposed RATs risks poor test performance, Skerritt added.

"Before RATs can be legally supplied in Australia, they must be assessed by the TGA to ensure they have the necessary specificity and sensitivity and meet Australia's other regulatory requirements... once the product has been approved it is entered in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG)," he said.

While the outer packaging or label of an approved COVID-19 rapid antigen self-test may not include the ARTG number, it should contain the Australian sponsor details and/or the manufacturer name and



address, with the TGA regularly updating its list of approved RATs so consumers can compare the details on the outer packaging with those on the official document.

Consumers are advised to report instances of packaging not being in English, or items appearing to have been relabelled or repackaged into single items from a larger pack without all the required parts or instructions for use.

Since the beginning of the year at least six companies and individuals have been collectively fined more than \$100,000 for illegally importing unapproved RATs.

Perceived breaches or questionable practices can be reported at tga.gov.au.

US pharmacists claim "big win"

AMERICA'S National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) and the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) have withdrawn a longstanding legal case against Federal authorities, after a change to rules in relation to price concessions demanded from pharmacies wanting to participate in Government pharmacy benefit programs.

The lawsuit was filed by the NCPA in the final days of the Trump administration, after years of fighting against retroactive fees which had grown hugely since 2010 and "wind up inflating seniors' share of their prescription drug costs," said CEO Douglas Hoey.

He said pharmacy organisations had been fighting in Congress for years to end the fees, lower prescription costs and protect small business pharmacies.

The legal case was strategically filed as a last resort in case a regulatory solution could not be found, but now newly revised "Part D" regulations have changed the landscape.

"We are cautiously optimistic that the new Part D rule satisfies the goals we had for the lawsuit," Hoey said.

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