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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news plus a full page from Fred IT.

## Talk to Fred

DISCOVER faster, smarter and safer dispensing solutions with Fred IT at this month's Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference on the Gold Coast.

See page three for more.

## Pharmacists key to cutting meds

PROPOSALS to use artificial intelligence (AI) to identify patients needing medication reviews will lead to missed opportunities to improve patient outcomes and cut costs, if pharmacists are not involved, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) believes.

The SHPA said that while AI has a role to play, it did not ameliorate the need for an actual pharmacist to help lead and deliver medication reviews.

## Barwick named WotY

NSW Premier, Dominic Perrottet, has named pharmacist-led telehealth provider, Anna Barwick, as the 2022 Premier's Woman of the Year (WotY).

Announcing the award yesterday, Perrottet hailed the Walcha-based pharmacist's efforts in establishing PharmOnline to give patients "reliable advice compared to Dr Google".

"Barwick's telehealth service has innovated how people access pharmacy services, ensuring vital care is at the fingertips of people right across the country, no matter where they live," Perrottet said.

Speaking with *Pharmacy Daily*, Barwick said that she was pleasantly surprised to receive the award, noting that it "demonstrated that there is recognition of the hard work that pharmacists have done and continue to do".

"I feel so honoured and privileged," she said.

"I met all the women in all of the categories, and they're just doing the most amazing things in their communities."

Barwick said the PharmOnline service aimed to overcome the "tyranny of distance and isolation

[to get health advice] where it's needed".

Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, said that Barwick's "drive and commitment has led to an innovation that has helped many people every day".

"Her work has been particularly beneficial to people living in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia," Heffernan said.

"PharmOnline was the first pharmacist-led telehealth service in Australia that aimed to provide 24/7 remote access to experienced health professionals.

"It has helped to reduce harm from medications through support from the medication experts: pharmacists."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, said that Barwick was an "utterly deserving" recipient of the NSW Premier's WotY.

"Anna truly embodies excellence in pharmacy," he said.

"I am delighted to see that an outstanding female pharmacist has been acknowledged for her devotion to improving the lives of the NSW community."

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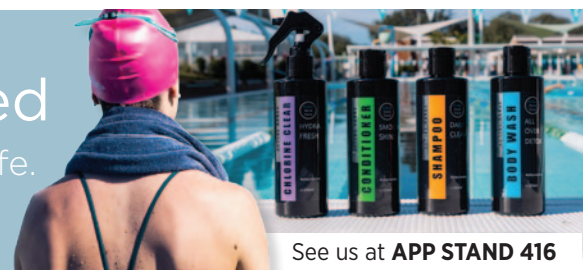
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## Pharmacy rises to flood challenges

**FLOODING** in northern NSW is creating logistical and staffing challenges for pharmacies in affected areas.

Having escaped without any damage, Blooms The Chemist, Ballina, Retail Manager, Lauren Theodossiou, told *Pharmacy Daily*, that the pharmacy had taken on the group's wipe-out Lismore store's workload and team.

"The logistics of getting stock for two stores together has been hard," she said.

"Last week we had no deliveries whatsoever, because of the roads being cut, so trying to make sure we had enough stock for everyone was hard and then also having no prescriptions for the other store [was challenging].

"We had to get the IT people [from Blooms head office] to allocate one of our computers to the other store, so we could log into their database, so we could at least see the prescription histories."

Adding to the challenge of having to access IT support, the flooding knocked out the store's phone lines and internet connection, and mobile phone coverage was also impacted, forcing Theodossiou to drive to a lookout point where she could get reception to communicate with head office and other suppliers.

With the Lismore store expected to be out of action for "at least a month", Theodossiou said the Ballina pharmacy had taken on additional Webster packing services, putting pressure on its stock of foils and blisters for the dose administration aids.

However, she said "Webstercare has gone above and beyond" to help resupply the pharmacy.

"We've got them being flown to Brisbane [today] and the Webstercare rep from Brisbane is going to drive them to us, because we've run out of those and we can't keep Webster packing without



them," she said.

**MEANWHILE**, staff from the pharmacy have been going to evacuation centres to find patients they would normally deliver medicines to, to ensure they had access to their medications.

The team has also donated supplies of Betadine, dressings, sanitisers and other essentials to help staff at the evacuation centres to look after people.

## Dispensary Corner

**READING** through medical journals can make a man wince, and an article in the latest edition of *BMJ Case Reports* under the heading, *Reminder of important clinical lesson* would bring a tear to the eye.

The report chronicled the painful tale of a lusty 34-year-old Australian soldier, who injured himself in a sensitive area when his passions got the better of him.

The man attended the emergency department of a Melbourne hospital with ruptured "penile cellulitis with abscess formation", which the authors described as "an extremely rare presentation".

The patient revealed that the swelling initially occurred after "dry humping" his female partner three weeks before presenting at the hospital.

The authors noted that his symptoms cleared up after taking paracetamol for a few days, but they relapsed a week later when the couple engaged in sexual intercourse.

The man reported that the pain became unbearable and subsequently led him to overdose on paracetamol.

Once he presented to the hospital, medical staff conducted an "urgent penile exploration" where they identified localised abscess and *Streptococcus intermedius*.

The authors said the case highlighted the importance of patients with such painful injuries seeking prompt medical advice and receiving appropriate antibiotics.

## Illegal herbal meds supply

**GOLD** Coast-based firm, FuturePro Pty Ltd and one of its directors, have pleaded guilty to the unlawful import, export, manufacture, supply and advertising of herbal medicines.

The business made claims to the effect that the products - which were not listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) - could be used for the prevention and treatment of various forms of cancers and other medical illnesses.

The director is set to face sentencing on 28 Apr.

## TGA gives Novavax fresh determination

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announced it has granted a second provisional determination for the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine, this morning, which will allow patients aged 12 years and older to receive the jab.

The vaccine received the green-light for patients aged 18 years and older earlier this year (*PD* 20 Jan), with the rollout getting underway last month (*PD* 21 Feb), with the TGA noting that Bioelect Pty Ltd is expected to submit an application for provisional registration of the vaccine for adolescents next month.

The TGA added that it anticipates that an application for the vaccine's use in children aged five to 11 years will be lodged later this year.

TGA Head, Adjunct Professor John Skerritt, told a Pharmacy Guild of Australia webinar last week that the vaccine sponsor had also made a submission to have the shot listed as a booster.

At the time Skerritt said a decision on the booster could be made before the end of this month, but added that "the ball is still in Novavax's court, because you've got to have the data before we can assess it" (*PD* 03 Mar).



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