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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Wizard Pharmacy Services
- Nova Pharmaceuticals

TGA vaping fine

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is continuing its crackdown on unlawful importation of nicotine vaping products.

The regulator has issued an infringement notice totalling \$2,664, to a Melbourne-based individual for alleged unlawful importation of vaping pods, in breach of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

Since nicotine vaping products were listed as Schedule 4 products on 01 Oct 2021, the TGA has issued fines in excess of \$400,000, in relation to breaches of advertising and importation rules.

COVID fuels rise in pharmacy values

ALMOST one-in-two pharmacy owners expect the value of their store to increase in the next 12 months, the University of Technology Sydney's Pharmacy Barometer reveals.

The result marks an 11.9% jump in the proportion of owners who expect pharmacy values to grow, compared to the 2020 Barometer reading, with optimism even higher amongst those predicting they would grow over the next three years (57.1%).

The annual survey of the community pharmacy sector, which was published this week (PD 03 May), found that optimistic owners were forecasting the value of their stores will climb by 14.1% in 2022, and 15.9% by 2025.

The authors of the Barometer noted that when pharmacists were asked to indicate the factors impacting pharmacy values in the year ahead, the "emerging reasons for value change were predominantly linked to COVID-19

and financial subsidies put in place for support throughout the pandemic".

"Previous year trends that focused on service offerings, population growth, competition, and discounters continue to remain a focus for predicted value change," the authors said.

"Pharmacies that were successful in implementing services such as the delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations have demonstrated the success of integrating professional services into the pharmacy business model.

"Many consumers have become sensitised to the increased service provision available through pharmacy during the pandemic, ultimately resulting in increased pharmacy value.

"For pharmacies projecting value decreases, this was attributed to increased competition from discount pharmacies, discounting prices, COVID-19 and online sales, with it appearing CBD pharmacies



and those located in shopping centres to have been more directly negatively impacted by COVID-19 lockdown restrictions."

Former Head of the UTS Graduate School of Health, Emeritus Professor Shalom 'Charlie' Benrimoj, believes that the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement was also a factor inspiring confidence in the value of pharmacy businesses.

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Meds review key for Parkinson's care

HIGH rates of medication prescribing and administration errors impacting hospital patients with Parkinson's disease highlight the need for pharmacists to play a greater role in their care, research reveals.

A study conducted by researchers from Flinders University, the University of South Australia and the University of Western Australia, found that patients who did not have a pharmacist-led medication history within 24 hours of admission to hospital, had significantly higher rates of medication errors than those who did.

The paper, published in *Plos One*, reported that of 351 patients included in the study, 85% of case notes reviewed contained one or more Parkinson's medication error during the administration phase.

"We believe this data indicates that people with Parkinson's disease should be ranked as of 'high importance' when



developing clinical prioritisation tools for pharmacists," the study's authors said.

"Pharmacists supporting prescribers by completing a thorough medication history when a person with Parkinson's disease is first admitted to the hospital offers a realistic solution that can be easily implemented to reduce error rates, as clinical pharmacists

are often already present in large hospital pharmacy departments."

The authors added that another measure to limit the risk of medication errors amongst patients with Parkinson's when they are hospitalised would be to provide a "go bag" containing the current medications, which would be ready to be taken to hospital in the event of an emergency.

Bronze protect sunscreen recall

ENSIGN Laboratories Pty Ltd's 2XP SPF50+ Bronze Protect Sunscreen Lotion 70ml is the latest product to be recalled due to benzene contamination.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announced the recall impacts batch #1102889.

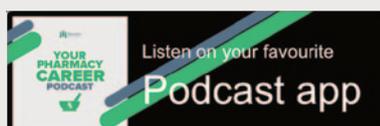
The announcement follows recalls of a number of sunscreen products including, batches of the Cancer Council Sensitive Sunscreen range, and Nivea's Sun Protect and Moisture SPF30 Lotion 200ml, and Sun Protect and Moisture SPF50+ Roll On 65ml (**PD 02** May).

Recalls of batches of Banana Boat Sunscreen Sprays SPF50+ and Neutrogena Ultra Sheer Body Mist Sunscreen Spray SPF50+ have previously been announced by the TGA.



YOUR PHARMACY CAREER PODCAST

Listen to **Chris Owen**, President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia - QLD Branch, discuss the emerging and ever changing career opportunities in Community Pharmacy in our latest episode.





Dispensary Corner

ALL too often the efforts of those working in the pharmacy sector go unnoticed, but that was far from the case on Wed night in London.

Heir to the British throne, Prince Charles, whose profile will likely adorn the back of Australian coins in years to come, described pharmacy workers as “a vital source of healthcare advice” for millions of people, during an event to honour their efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, at St James’s Palace.

In his closing address the monarch-in-waiting thanked pharmacists “for everything you do, so brilliantly, to keep people well and above all to save lives”. “I very much hope that this evening’s event will help, a little bit, to highlight the marvellous work you do in your communities day in and day out,” Prince Charles said.

“Pharmacies are about people and places, not just pills.

“You continue, ladies and gentlemen, to innovate and adapt to the rapidly evolving needs of patients and the National Health Service, and this includes developing your skills as prescribers, which seems to me of critical importance.”



Exciting times for Aussie pharmacy

COMMUNITY pharmacists in North Queensland will be “the envy of the industry”, with recruitment for the controversial full scope of practice set to start in the coming months, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen, believes.

Speaking on the latest episode of the Raven’s Recruitment’s *Your Pharmacy Career* podcast, Owen said, the Queensland Government was committed to the North Queensland Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot, which will allow pharmacists to prescribe and dispense medicines for a number of conditions.

“It’s never been a more exciting time to be involved with community pharmacy,” he said.

“This is an exclusive to community pharmacy [trial], no other pharmacists will be able to practice to full scope, whether it be in

Southern Queensland or hospital pharmacy.

“North Queensland community pharmacists will be the envy of the industry.”

Owen said pharmacists in the area from Mackay north to Cape York and across to the Northern Territory border, taking in Mount Isa and Emerald, will be invited to participate in a 12 to 16-month training program in the coming weeks, after which they will be able to work to their full scope.

He added that Australia currently lags behind other OECD nations in authorising pharmacists to work to the full extent of their training, and highlighted Alberta, Canada, as a jurisdiction where pharmacists can provide greater levels of patient care.

“They have autonomous scope of practice for prescribing in their clinical areas where they are



experts - whether that be diabetes, hypertension, sexual health - if you’ve got the skills and capabilities to be able to prescribe and dispense in that space, then you should be able to do that,” he said.

“Obviously, we’re just starting the journey to full scope in Australia, so we do have to start somewhere, and the start is the North Queensland full scope of practice trial.”

CLICK HERE to listen to the *Your Pharmacy Career* podcast.

Capital Chemist Group hosts Forum 16

CAPITAL Chemist Group partners descended on Murramarang Resort, near Batemans Bay on the NSW South Coast last weekend for an emotional event.

With several of the Capital Chemist pharmacies having played critical roles during the 2019/20 bushfire crisis, the group’s Business Manager, Andrew Topp, told *Pharmacy Daily* that the Forum 16 gathering had initially been scheduled to take place in 2020, as part of a program to support affected communities.

“After a couple of COVID-induced false starts it was great to be in the room together,” he said. “In fact it was a little

emotional.”

The event saw the launch of the Capital Chemist LGBTQ+ Inclusivity policy, to support staff to provide respectful and appropriate support to customers from diverse backgrounds.

Pharmacy business consultant, Bruce Annabel, provided insights into “KPIs that count”, with comedian and *Hard Quiz* host, Tom Gleeson, giving delegates a stern talking to, while paralympian, Scott Reardon, provided an inspirational presentation.

Having seen Forum 16 delayed due to COVID, the Capital Chemist Group will host Forum 17 in Canberra later this year.

HMR awareness low: NPS survey

RESEARCH conducted on behalf of NPS MedicineWise and patient advocacy groups, found that 64% of Australians have never heard of a Home Medicines Review (HMR).

The survey of 1,045 people also revealed that many respondents were unaware of the potential side-effects of medicines, and the issues that polypharmacy can create.

Representatives of NPS, the Older Persons Advocacy Network, Careers Australia and the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia said it was important that carers talk to doctors and pharmacists about these issues.

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