

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news plus the **Winter Spotlight** feature.

HMS cessation

THE temporary COVID-19 Home Medicines Service (HMS) will cease on 30 Jun 2022, with all claims for services required to be lodged via the Pharmacy Programs Administrator Portal by 31 Jul.

The service, introduced in Mar 2020 at the onset of the pandemic, provided funding for pharmacies for home delivery of PBS and RPBS medications, removing the need for patients to visit a pharmacy with the aim of supporting and protecting vulnerable members of the community from exposure to COVID-19.

In addition, the final deadline for any exceptional circumstances claims under the program is 31 Aug, with the Department of Health thanking pharmacies for their involvement in the HMS program over the last two years.

Industry welcomes new Government

THE Australian pharmacy sector's peak organisations have congratulated Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Labor's success in last weekend's Federal Election, at the same time urging the new Government to continue ongoing reforms and fulfil election promises.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Acting National President, Nick Panayiaris, said the ALP had "long been a strong supporter of community pharmacy and recognises the important role that community pharmacists play in the healthcare sector".

"It's been a tough few years for the community pharmacy sector and the new Government needs to ensure these practices remain confident about their future so that in turn they can continue providing the services their communities depend on".

Panayiaris said further measures needed to be introduced to allow pharmacists to work to their full scope of practice.

"At present they are under-utilised, and by allowing them to provide the full range of services they are trained for will help ease pressure on doctors, hospitals and



NEW **Ferro-Max C**TM
with Vitamin C to aid absorption.*
Available from Symbion, Sigma, API and CH2.

For use when iron deficiency or iron deficiency anaemia has been diagnosed by your doctor and a therapeutic iron supplement is recommended. Always read the label. Follow the directions for use. If symptoms persist, worsen or change unexpectedly, talk to your health professional. *Vitamin C has been shown to enhance the absorption of iron when taken together.



emergency departments while keeping communities healthier."

The Guild is eagerly expecting Labor to follow through on its election promise to cut the general PBS co-payment to \$30.

"Making medicines more affordable for all Australians is a priority and we will work closely with Health Minister designate Mark Butler to help implement this measure," Panayiaris said.

"In addition, we will continue to look at ways and strongly advocate to improving medicine affordability for our patients...our patients and their wellbeing must come first."

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has echoed similar sentiments, congratulating Albanese as Australia's new Prime Minister and highlighting the "strong and productive" long-standing relationship the Society has with the ALP's health team.

PSA National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, said, "now is the time to ensure that access to health care remains universal, particularly for the most vulnerable of our population".

"Consumers need subsidised access to care – regardless of the health setting or health

professional they choose to seek care from," he said.

Freeman highlighted the importance of ensuring fair access to influenza vaccines, stating, "consumers still face out of pocket expenses for the administration of the influenza vaccination under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) if delivered by their pharmacists, whilst this same service is subsidised if done at a general practice".

"The Australian Labor Party has committed to working with PSA and other stakeholders to address this inequity in healthcare access."

Freeman went on to say the PSA is "pleased that the ALP has already acknowledged the central role that pharmacists play in medication management in residential aged care facilities, and their commitment to implement the 2022-23 Budget measure to improve medicine safety by funding onsite aged care pharmacists".

"PSA looks forward to working with the incoming ALP Health team on implementation of this commitment, which will also provide exciting new career opportunities for Australian pharmacists," he said.



Chemists' Own[®]

OWN your relief this winter

UP TO 35% DISCOUNT

To order contact your Arrotex OTC Territory Manager or call 1300 927 769
Deal pricing valid 1 April – 31 July 2022. Available via Turnover only.
Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

Pharmacists join our team!

We are offering positions where you truly get to make a difference in customers' lives.

- Workflows that allow time with the customers
- Flexible rosters available
- Amazing locations including: Sunshine Coast, Capricorn Coast, Whitsundays & Port Douglas

Apply now
recruit@lifelifecentral.com

LiveLife  PHARMACY



With fully integrated e-Prescriptions, dispensing has never been easier.

Contact us today to find out how to start dispensing with Dispense Works.
www.posworks.com.au | enquiries@posworks.com.au | 07 3277 9488

DISPENSE WORKS
PHARMACY SOFTWARE



Dispensary Corner

AS IF cigarettes weren't enough of a health hazard, they might just burn your house down too, if you were a Canadian unlucky enough to purchase a 20-pack of Viceroy Full between Sep 2021 and Mar 2022.

Due to "increased fire hazard concerns", Health Canada has recalled more than 256,000 packs of the durries as a result of not meeting the performance standards, because they must burn their full length "no more than 25% of the time".

The health agency is urging smokers to "immediately stop using the recalled products", which may start a fire if dropped onto furniture, bedding or other textile products.

Fortunately, as of 10 May, there have been no reports of incidents or injuries.

UK HRT subs

UK PHARMACISTS have been authorised to restrict the quantity or substitute alternative Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) products, due to ongoing shortages of some items.

The British Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) has advised of new protocols, specifying the conditions under which pharmacists can either offer a reduced quantity of a prescribed HRT drug, substitute it with a specified alternative, or provide a reduced quantity of a specific alternative product.

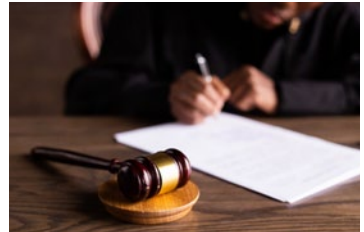
The new Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) also include "specific patient counselling points which must be taken into account when deciding whether supply in accordance with an SSP is suitable" - more details at shsbsa.nhs.uk.

\$40k fine for ivermectin import

A PERSON from New South Wales has been issued 15 infringement notices worth a total of \$39,960 by The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for the alleged importation of the prescription-only medicines, ivermectin and doxycycline.

It is alleged that the individual, who did not have a valid prescription, nor the authority or an exemption to import the medicines, brought in over 2,500 ivermectin tablets and nearly 10,000 doxycycline capsules over the course of a single month.

This quantity far exceeds what is allowable under the Personal Importation Scheme, and additionally, at the time of



import, the medicines were not listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

The TGA has recently warned consumers over fake ivermectin, and strongly advised against self-medicating and self-dosing with the anti-parasitic treatment, following several studies demonstrating that the medicine is ineffective against COVID-19 (*PD* 31 Mar).

Govt issues monkeypox outbreak alert

AUSTRALIA'S Chief Medical Officer, Sonya Bennett, has issued a statement urging awareness of the monkeypox virus, which has emerged in two returning travellers in NSW and Vic.

Authorities in both states are working to rapidly identify contacts, while international cases have been reported in the UK, Spain, Portugal, France, the USA and Canada.

Monkeypox is a "rare viral zoonotic disease that occurs primarily in tropical rainforest

areas of Central and West Africa," Bennett said, with the ailment mostly transmitted to humans via infected animals.

Human-to-human transmission can occur through close contact with lesions on the skin, body fluids, and contaminated materials such as bedding.

Significant close contact with an infected person who is displaying symptoms is usually required for transmission, with the Government continuing to monitor the situation.

Take Ferro-grad C[®] first



Australia's most widely used brand to treat diagnosed iron deficiency in 10 years#

Always read the label. If symptoms persist, worsen or change unexpectedly, talk to your health professional. Follow the directions for use.

For use when you have been diagnosed as iron deficient and your doctor has recommended a therapeutic oral iron supplement.

#Most widely used brand of therapeutic oral iron supplement, based on cumulative total of IQVIA sales data in the last 10 years.

Ferro-grad C contains ferrous sulfate 325 mg (equivalent to 105 mg elemental iron) and sodium ascorbate 562.4 mg (equivalent to 500 mg Vitamin C). Ferro-grad C is a Viatriis trade mark. Copyright © 2021 Viatriis Inc. All rights reserved. Viatriis Pty Ltd. Tel 1800 314 527. FGC-2021-0158. Prepared November 2021.



LocumCo cash

PHARMACY students are being offered 10 scholarships of up to \$1,000 each by LocumCo, to encourage more trainee pharmacists to undertake a rural placement as part of their degree.

Applicants must be members of the National Australian Pharmacy Students Association (NAPSA) with applications open until 30 Jun - [CLICK HERE](#).

AFT set to pay dividend

AFT Pharmaceuticals has reported a strong increase in profit for the year to 31 Mar, with an overall result increasing to NZ\$19.8 million for the 12-month period.

The company cited strong growth across all regions and new products, as well as increased royalties and licensing income.

Revenue was up 15.2% to NZ\$130.3 million, with Australia and NZ delivering increases despite the impact of COVID-19 slowing sales growth, particularly in the third quarter of the financial year.

Licensing income surged following the licensing of Maxigesic IV in the USA, with AFT MD Hartley Atkinson saying "in line with our expectations, we have benefited from a traditionally stronger second half of the year as COVID-19 became endemic around the world, and we benefited from previously delayed and new product launches in the second half of the year".

The company noted that the tablet form of Maxigesic is now

sold in 46 countries, including most major European markets, while AFT is hopeful of regulatory approval for Maxigesic tablets in the USA later this year.

The AFT R&D pipeline continued to expand with key projects including new variants of the Maxigesic family of medicines, AFT's NasoSURF patented nasal drug nebuliser, as well as other activities in dermatology, a topical analgesic and gastro-intestinal health.

A new dividend policy, reflecting the confidence of the company's Board in AFT's ability to build on its decades-long record of uninterrupted sales growth, will see the business pay a dividend of 20-30% of normalised net profit after tax on an ongoing basis.

A maiden dividend to shareholders is expected to be declared for the 2023 financial year with Chair David Flacks saying the move is a "strong statement of confidence in AFT's future".



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Amit Saha, M-Pharm, MBA, MPS Group Technical Manager, LaCorium Health.**



Science of Scratching

YOU can feel pain on your muscles, joints and other internal organs, but your skin is the only part of your body that can feel both pain and itch.

Feeling of itch is a unique sensation from that perspective. Itch can be triggered by something outside your body such as dryness, or by something happening inside such as eczema, psoriasis or allergies. Though it feels good, scratching actually triggers mild pain on your skin.

The feeling of pain while you scratch distracts your brain from feeling the itch. It can make you feel better in that moment, but it is only a temporary solution & 1 in 5 people say scratching makes them itch somewhere else on their body.

Depending on the cause of your itchiness, your skin may appear normal, red, rough, or bumpy. Repeated scratching can cause raised thick areas of skin that might bleed or become infected.

While self-care measures such as moisturising daily, using gentle cleansers and bathing with lukewarm water can provide you some degree of relief, long-term relief requires identifying and treating the root cause of itch. Common treatments are medicated creams, moist dressings, and oral anti-itch medicines.

Win with Dermal Therapy



Dermal Therapy and Pharmacy Daily are this week giving away a \$50 Woolworths gift card each day.

Dermal Therapy Lip Balm enriched with Manuka Honey is a highly concentrated formula containing a synergistic blend of ingredients designed to heal and hydrate severely dry and chapped lips, keeping them smooth and healthy. Enriched with MGO 400+ Manuka Honey providing a healing, hydrating and soothing effect.

Click to find the answer [here](#)

Q: Dermal Therapy Lip Balm enriched with Manuka Honey offers intense healing & anti-inflammatory action. Yes/No

For your chance to win, send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

**To view T & C's click here

Dermal THERAPY

TRIPLE ACTION RELIEF

Balanced blend of Colloidal oatmeal, Canadian willowherb & Menthol to calm, relieve & soothe dry, itchy skin

Relieves itchy skin in minutes

Suitable for sensitive skin

SLS, Paraben and Petrochemical Free

pH balanced

FOR LARGER AREAS OF SKIN

FOR SPOT TREATMENT

Pharmacy Daily's Winter spotlight is your guide to all the essentials - from products to assist with coughs and colds through to keeping you hydrated and vitamin boosted - ready for this year's Winter season. To feature here email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Chemists' Own Sore Throat Spray FORTE

RRP from \$14.99

Provides relief of painful conditions of the mouth and throat including; tonsillitis, sore throat, radiation mucositis, aphthous ulcers, pharyngitis, swelling, redness and inflammatory conditions, and post-orsurgical and periodontal procedures. Sugar-free.

The Chemists' Own Cough, Cold & Flu range is on Winter promotion with up to 35% discount on all SKUs. Contact your Arrotex OTC Territory Manager to find out more. Promotion ends 31 st July 2022.

Always read the label and follow the directions for use..

Stockists: 1300 927 769 or contact your Arrotex OTC Territory Manager
Website: www.chemistsown.com.au



BioCeuticals ArmaForce Recover COMING SOON

RRP \$49.95 for 60 tablets

BioCeuticals ArmaForce Recover has been formulated to assist with your customers recovery from illness.

This immune system supporting formula contains herbal medicines traditionally used in both Western and Chinese herbal medicine to support immune system health.

- For more information call 1300 650 455 or visit www.bioceuticals.com.au/armaforce
- Always read the label. Follow the directions for use. If symptoms persist talk to your health professional.

Stockists: call 1300 650 455 or visit www.bioceuticals.com.au/armaforce
Website: www.bioceuticals.com.au

