

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from Flordis.

## Nextstellis launch imminent

MAYNE Pharma is aiming to launch its combined oral contraceptive, Nextstellis (estrogen and progestin) in Australia in the coming months.

In a presentation to the Wilsons Rapid Insights Conference today, the company reported it aims to have the product in pharmacies during the first quarter of the 2023 financial year.

Nextstellis was approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in Nov 2021, with Mayne hoping it will challenge Bayer's dominance of the \$60 billion combined oral contraceptive market.

The company said it will promote the medication through an expected national GP and specialist sales team, and the provision of an "active sample program".

## SafeScript NSW to roll out statewide

PHARMACISTS across NSW are being invited to register to access the state's real-time prescription medicine monitoring system, SafeScript NSW, ahead of a statewide launch on Mon.

Addressing a webinar co-hosted by NSW Health and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) last night, SafeScript NSW Clinical Analyst, Stephen Ling, said emails will be sent out to NSW-based pharmacists in the coming days with links to the program's self-registration portal.

The system will monitor all Schedule 8 medicines, opioids, benzodiazepine, psychostimulants prescribed for ADHD and narcolepsy, and sleeping aids - zolpidem and zopiclone.

Ling told delegates that once they have registered they will be able to enable SafeScript NSW in their dispensing software to receive notifications when dispensing monitored medicines.

"SafeScript NSW will operate in the background, until you dispense a monitored medicine, when pop-up notifications will display based on information held about the patient in SafeScript NSW," he said.

"Only prescribers or pharmacists who are using integrated clinical

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software will receive pop-up notifications on their desktop software.

"Prescribers and pharmacists not using integrated software can still access the SafeScript NSW portal to check the patient's prescription and dispensing history."

While manual access to the system will be available for pharmacists, Ling stressed, "only users with the right security credentials, and who are involved in a patient's care can access a patient's monitored medication history in SafeScript NSW".

"Patient searches by prescribers and pharmacists are logged and will be audited to monitor unauthorised or inappropriate access," he said.

Ling added that it was important for pharmacists to remember that alerts triggered by SafeScript NSW are not instructions not to dispense.

"The decision [to dispense] remains with you, because you're the person in the best position to make that decision," he said.

"SafeScript NSW will provide you with additional information and context to help you to be better informed whichever decision you make.

"But you do remain best placed to consult with the patient and their prescriber to determine whether these medicines remain the safest option based on the individual patient's history, needs and circumstances".

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## Guild NT Director

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia Northern Territory Branch has appointed Keely Quinn as its new Director. Quinn brings a broad range of experience in governance, training and industrial relations.

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## City stores need help

**VICTORIA'S** State Government is being urged to implement a plan to get office workers back to Melbourne's CBD to ensure the viability of small businesses, including community pharmacies. Addressing the Victorian Legislative Assembly on Tue, David Southwick, expressed concerns over the Government's lack of planning to revive the city centre following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. "Not enough is spent on small business," he said. "Again money is limited in terms of the recovery, and then the government and the ministers have said, 'You know what? COVID is over. We're not supporting you anymore'.

"Well, those businesses are struggling. "If you look at the public sector, there is no plan to get the public sector back - no plan whatsoever. "We were down talking to a pharmacist only a few weeks back that supports the Telstra building and the Department of Health. "That pharmacy is lucky to see many people that work in those buildings there once a month. "When you talk to him and you say, 'Well, what's happening? What would you like?', he says, 'You know what? Even if I got workers back three days a week, I'd be able to run my business. My business is running on a day-to-day proposition because the government has got no plans to get workers back'. "Again, what are we doing in terms of recovering? What are we doing to incentivise? What are we doing to ensure we get a nightlife and we get weekend support? What are we



doing for many of these shopping strips, the retailers, to ensure that we breathe life into them?

"We desperately need a plan for small business, and it is not just those businesses, it is the families that run them. "It is the jobs that they create."

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, told *Pharmacy Daily* that "the trading environment in the Melbourne CBD is an ongoing challenge".

"Pharmacies have been there for their patients and communities throughout the pandemic, and whilst small business grants from the Victorian Government and Melbourne City Council have been welcomed, they are not going to provide the long-term solution," he said.

"Whatever can be done to encourage members of the public to safely return to the city for work and other purposes should be encouraged."

## Isturisa approved

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved Isturisa (osilodrostat) for the treatment of adult patients with endogenous Cushing's syndrome. **CLICK HERE** for more.



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\*\*To view T & C's click here

## TWC honours suppliers

**TERRYWHITE** Chemmart (TWC) acknowledged the "incredible" efforts made by suppliers to support the network at its 2022 Supplier of the Year Awards in Melbourne on Mon.

Announcing the winners, TWC Executive General Manager, Nick Munroe, praised the commitment and adaptability of all the group's supplier partners.

The Ethical Supplier of the Year award went to Sanofi Ethical, with Johnson and Johnson (J&J) taking the Retail Supplier of the Year title, while PharmaCare was recognised with the Best Pharmacy Support honour, and Ego Pharmaceuticals was named as the winner of the Strongest Promotional Support category.

Munroe noted that over the course of the last 12 months TWC's suppliers have adjusted quickly to changes in the business landscape to support the growth of the network.

"Without a doubt, our continuing network and sales growth would not be possible without the support of our supplier partners, and we are pleased to be able to recognise the excellence that comes from the teams at Sanofi, J&J, Pharmacare and Ego as part of this year's



awards," he said.

"The recognition is not just for the work they put in, but it's for the exceptional results they continue to deliver."

"J&J have been working in a collaborative and strategic manner with our teams to deliver strong sales results for our network by providing a unique point of difference that is focused on the health and wellbeing of our customers.

"And working with Sanofi Ethical has not only been easy but rewarding - they bring true innovation to our dispensaries through their ongoing commitment to support and world class education across multiple categories."

**Pictured**, Sanofi Ethical's Simon Martin and Tracy Wayne, with TWC Category Development Manager, Krystal Tresillian and TWC Head of Ethicals, Matt McLoughlin.



### Dispensary Corner

**THIEVES** who raided a Scottish pharmacy on Tue morning, are being urged to consider the health implications of consumer medications they stole.

Ayrshire Police reported that a "quantity of medication" had been pilfered by the burglars, and warned that the products pose "serious health risks" if ingested without medical approval.

Detective Constable Ross Keenan was unable to specify the type or strength of the stolen medications, but provided the sage advice urging members of the public "to only take medication if it has been prescribed by their doctor and administered by a pharmacist".



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\*Reference: 1. Lang C, et al., *Planta Med* 2015;81:968-974. Supported by Engelhard Arzneimittel GmbH & Co. KG.