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Today's issue of PD

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

- Floridis
- Winter Spotlight feature

Menopause relief

HELP patients find relief from the symptoms of menopause with integrative medicine specialist, Floridis's Femular. See **page four** for more.

Ease winter woes

DISCOVER products that help tackle coughs and sore throats, with today's Winter Spotlight.

Prospan Chesty Cough Relief helps to soothe and relax the airways, thinning and loosening mucus to clear congestion.

While Arrotex is offer discounts of up to 35% on products in its Chemists' Own Cough, Cold and Flu range.

See **page five** for more.

States race to provide free flu shots

SURGING influenza cases have prompted several State governments across the country to roll out free influenza vaccination programs, similar to the scheme launched by the Queensland Government last week (**PD** 24 May).

Pharmacist immunisers in South Australia were given the green light to join the State's scheme immediately over the weekend, with the NSW (**PD** breaking news) and Western Australian governments setting a 01 Jun start date for their free jab programs.

Unlike the Queensland model, which use Guildcare software to record and reimburse pharmacies for delivering the free shots, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) NSW Branch President, Chelsea Felkai, told *Pharmacy Daily*, that the NSW program will facilitate the uses of both the MedAdvisor and Guildcare platforms, an approach that is expected to be mirrored in other jurisdictions.

"It's going to make it a lot easier for pharmacists," she said.

"PSA has worked hard to ensure it is as easy a process as possible,

using similar systems as the COVID-19 vaccine campaign."

Under the NSW program pharmacies will be paid \$25 for vaccinations provided to patients aged five to 64 years, which will include reimbursement for the vaccine and an administration fee.

A \$16 service fee will be paid for providing NIP-funded vaccines to patients aged 65 years and older, or if the store has accessed flu shots through the Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC).

Felkai noted that the free vaccination programs being set up across the country may put pressure on wholesalers' supplies.

"If pharmacies are struggling to access stock, they are encouraged to contact NSW Health to obtain vaccines," she said.

In a letter announcing the SA scheme, the State's Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr Emily Kirkpatrick, thanked both the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia for supporting the program.

"Due to the potential severity of the influenza season, overlaid with



increased COVID cases over the winter period, the SA Government will provide access to free influenza vaccinations to the general community from 29 May 2022 until 30 Jun 2022," she said.

"This will occur through a subsidy scheme between SA-based pharmacists and GPs with SA Health to ensure free access to flu vaccinations to those individuals not already eligible under the National Immunisation Program."

"Information on how practices and pharmacies can claim the subsidy for privately purchased influenza vaccine stock will be made available in coming days."

The Victorian Government is expected to announce a similar measure before Wed 01 Jun.

PM lands at Blooms the Chemist store

PRIME Minister, Anthony Albanese's first stop after touching down in Australia after last week's Quad meeting in Tokyo, was to visit his local pharmacy.

Blooms The Chemist Marrickville proprietor, Andrew Ioannou, was surprised by the arrival of his high-profile patient at the dispensary on Fri morning.

"The PM said he'd literally gotten off the plane and had to stop by our store to pick up a few items," Ioannou said.



"He is a regular of ours, so it wasn't a total surprise to see him - the difference was, last time he was in here, he was just our local MP... now he's our Prime Minister as well."

NAC launches new asthma resources

TWO important asthma education resources have been launched on the National Asthma Council (NAC) Australia website following demand from health professionals to help them stay informed about new medications and treatment options.

The first is a new chart *Selecting and Adjusting Asthma Medication for Adults and Adolescents* that provides a visual reference to medications for each level of the popular "Selecting and adjusting medication for

adults and adolescents' diagram" from the Australian Asthma Handbook.

The second resource is an updated version of *The Asthma and COPD Medications chart*, which offers a guide to the main types of asthma and COPD medications available in Australia, as well as including all the latest inhalers available in the country, and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme reimbursement status of each medication as of Apr 2022.

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Pharmacy prices expected to rise

PHARMACISTS are expecting pharmacy valuations to rise over the next 12 months, the latest *Attain Pharmacy Market Sentiment Survey* reveals.

The latest edition of the survey found almost two-thirds of respondents believe stores will increase in value in the coming months with more than 17% anticipating they will "increase significantly".

The sixth iteration of the report, conducted in Mar and Apr, ahead of the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA's) decision to increase the cash rate from 0.1% to 0.35%, found less than 8% of pharmacy owners and aspiring buyers, believe prices will fall in 2022 - compared to 11% who felt the market would dip, when surveyed in Nov 2021 (PD 10 Jan).

The latest data also revealed a decline in the proportion of pharmacists looking to buy a pharmacy (44%) compared with the Nov 2021 edition of the survey

(57%), while 47% of owners said they would be looking to sell a pharmacy in the next five years, up from 40% in the previous survey period.

A further 4% of owners told Attain that they were planning to bring in a junior partner, rather than selling out of their business completely, down from 18% in Nov 2021.

When it came to explaining reasons why pharmacy owners were considering selling their store, 90% cited "personal and family circumstances" - up from around 85% in the previous survey period.

Challenges finding employee pharmacists was the second most common reason prompting owners to look to sell (39%), while less than 10% of respondents, suggested the Community Pharmacy Agreement cycle was a factor motivating them to step away from a store - down from just under 30% in Nov 2021.

Attain Director, Natalie Sirianni, said the survey results showed that the pharmacy business sales



market remains "quite strong and indicates that this will likely continue".

"There is very positive market sentiment for the pharmacy business sales market from both buyers and sellers," she said.

"It is important to note that this survey data is from before the recent RBA interest rate increase, so it will be interesting to see how the survey responses change in the next iteration."

Biosimilar confidence up

PHARMACISTS' confidence in switching patients to a biosimilar medicine is rising rapidly, Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) CEO, Marnie Peterson, says.

Speaking at the launch of the 2022 Biosimilars Awareness Week this morning, Peterson, said that since 2018, "the confidence amongst community and hospital pharmacists increased dramatically, by 77% and 90% respectively".

GBMA Independent Chair, Professor Jane Halton, said with biologics contributing to the rising costs, "driving more and more biosimilars onto the PBS is mission critical to not only offset the escalating cost of subsidising these innovative medicines, but to help the fiscal repair of our overwhelmed health budget."

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(nucleoside modified)

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PROTECTION**

 **>500 million doses¹**
administered worldwide
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**A booster shot can
be given to adults
aged ≥18 years**

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vaccination with SPIKEVAX
or another approved
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**ATAGI recommends
a winter dose**

≥4 months after the initial
booster for those at higher
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**The Moderna
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vaccine can be
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PBS Information: This product is not listed on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) or the PBS.

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▼ This vaccine is provisionally approved and is subject to additional monitoring in Australia. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse events at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems.

References: 1. Moderna Data on File. 2. Spikevax Product Information, 18 February 2022.

3. <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/getting-your-vaccination/booster-doses#winter-dose>. Accessed 25 March 2022.

Moderna Australia Pty Ltd. Level 6, 60 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW 2000.

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Dispensary Corner

FOR those of us who weep uncontrollably as Shoeless Joe Jackson leads a team of ghostly baseball players out from rows of corn in the *Field of Dreams*, it's okay to cry.

University of Canberra Professor of Psychology, Debra Rickwood, suggests that rather than being a sign of weakness, those who sob their way through tearjerkers are actually displaying emotional strength.

Writing in *The Conversation* this morning, Rickwood noted the research has shown that compelling stories can cause the release of the hormone, oxytocin, enhancing emotional responses.

"Crying in response to a movie reveals high empathy, social awareness and connection – all aspects of emotional intelligence," she said.

"As such, it is an indicator of personal strength rather than weakness.

"Sobbing openly may be a particular sign of strength, as it shows that a person is unafraid to display their emotional reaction to others."



PSA honours WA's finest

MANAGEMENT consultant, Phuong Nguyen, has been named as the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) 2022 Western Australian Pharmacist of the Year, at the organisation's WA State Conference at the weekend.

Through her role with PwC Australia's Health and Wellbeing team, Nguyen has played an integral role in the State's health system's digital transformation and COVID-19 planning.

While working in a consultancy role since 2020, Nguyen has maintained a strong connection with community pharmacy, working at weekends in a local store.

She also offers her support to aspiring pharmacy students through the University of Western Australia's mentorship program.

PSA WA Branch's Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness committee member, and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital pharmacist, Aaron Chan, was named as the winner of the 2022 WA Early Career Pharmacist of the Year title.



Curtin University's Shaylee Mills, was awarded the PSA WA 2022 Intern of the Year Award.

The Quairading native is currently completing her internship at Kimberley Pharmacy Services in Broome, and is aiming to pursue a two-year diploma in rural generalism.

The PSA also recognised the significant contribution SouthWest Hospital Pharmacy Director, Chris Shenton, has made to the profession, presenting him with the WA Branch's Lifetime Achievement Award.



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.**



The magic of Manuka

THE importance of honey for medicinal purposes is well documented in some of the world's oldest literature. Honey is well known and studied for its antimicrobial properties.

Manuka honey is a dark monofloral honey made in Australia and New Zealand by bees that pollinate the native leptospermum scoparium bush.

It is currently gaining much attention for its antimicrobial activity. One of the major antibacterial components of Manuka honey is a compound called methylglyoxal (MGO).

MGO comes from the conversion of another compound in Manuka honey known as dihydroxyacetone (DHA), a high concentration of which is found in the nectar of Manuka flowers. The higher the concentration of MGO, the stronger the antibacterial effect.

Not every 'honey' skin or lip care product contains active honey that can provide meaningful antibacterial or healing property. Before choosing the right product, it is essential to have active manuka honey with at least 400+ MGO rating.

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References: **1.** Lopatka L *et al*, *Journal of Menopause* 2007; 2:16-21. **2.** Schellenberg *et al*, *Evidence-Based Comp and Alternative Med* 2012. Funded by Max Zeller Soehne AG. **3.** Drewe J *et al*, *Phytomedicine* 2013; 20:659-666. Funded by Max Zeller Soehne AG. **4.** IQVIA, national sales data Switzerland, sell-in (Pharmacy, Drugstore, Self-dispensing Doctors), turnover (ex-factory) in CHF, MAT June 2021.

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 years Winter season. To feature here email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Prospan Chesty Cough Relief

RRP \$18.55 for 100mls

RRP \$22.95 for 200mls

Prospan is clinically proven* to help relieve chesty coughs, in adults and children from 2 years of age. With five different cough-clearing actions, Prospan's unique EA 575 extract helps to:

- Thin & loosen mucus
- Clear stubborn chest congestion
- Soothe & relax the airways
- Calm the chest
- Relieve inflammation

Offer your customers a clinically proven* 5-action formula for chesty coughs with Prospan.

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Website: www.prospan.com.au

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



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

