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## Amoxicillin shortages set to continue

PHARMACISTS can expect to continue to see supply shortages of amoxicillin throughout Nov, with “no clear end date” in sight, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, warns.

Speaking on 7 News last night, Tassone noted that shortages of the antibiotic included “children’s formulations... and also tablets and capsules for adults”.

“This is very frustrating for patients, pharmacies and prescribers - particularly given how commonly amoxicillin is prescribed and that it is for acute illness,” Tassone said.

He told *Pharmacy Daily* that the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has granted approval for amoxicillin products not listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) to be distributed under Section 19A of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*, to combat the current shortages.

“But even these are in short supply now given the ongoing demand and scarce supply,” he said.

“In the meantime, pharmacies continue to work with prescribers collaboratively to recommend alternative amoxicillin products of



a different dose form or antibiotic product if there is no amoxicillin product available to ensure patients obtain the treatment they need,” he said.

“Pharmacies are encouraged to liaise with their local GPs to inform them of currently experienced stock shortages that are causing particular concerns for patient access.

“We hope that with the strategic agreements that have been struck between the Federal Government and Medicines Australia and the Generic Biosimilars Association of Australia (GBMA) with the obligation of increased on-shore stock holdings from Apr 2023 for a range of low cost but high volume

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listed medicines, that going forward such stock shortages will be less frequent and shorter in duration.”

MEANWHILE, Tassone warned that ongoing supply shortages of diabetes medication, Ozempic (semaglutide) could continue into 2023, following the highly publicised spike in off-label prescribing of the drug for weight-loss patients.

### Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features three pages of news.

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## Ingle Farm stores share RSotY title

**SOUTH** Australian-based pharmacy group, National Pharmacies' Retail Store of the Year (RSotY) title is being shared by the group's Ingle Farm Pharmacy and Ingle Farm Shopping Centre Pharmacy.

National Pharmacies CEO, Vito Borrello, said the awards ceremony - held at the Adelaide Convention Centre last month - provided an opportunity for the organisation and its key partners to celebrate "a year of successes".

"Our employee and supplier awards are a fantastic opportunity for us to acknowledge good service and to celebrate and grow the important relationships we have forged with our suppliers," he said.

"As with our employees who every day live our company values, our suppliers are integral to the success of National Pharmacies and vital to the significant role we play within the community.

"Acknowledging the efforts of



everyone who works so hard is fundamental to our success."

Global pharmaceutical giant, AstraZeneca claimed the organisation's top honour, taking the Ethical Supplier of the Year Award, for its commitment to clear communication during a year of supply chain challenges.

Health supplements brand, HerbsOfGold was named as

National Pharmacies' Supply Chain Supplier of the Year, for its consistent service and excellence, with GSK spin-off company, Haleon, taking out the Retail Supplier of the Year Commercial Terms title.

National Pharmacies' Henley Beach Optical outlet was named as the group's Optical Store of the Year Award winner.

## PPA opens scholarships

**STUDENTS** from rural and remote locations or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who are studying pharmacy or intending to study pharmacy in 2023, can now apply for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme (ATSIPSS) and Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme (RPSS).

Applications for both scholarships opened on 01 Nov and will close on 31 Jan 2023.

Applicants are advised that RPSS funding is only confirmed for one year, with a value of up to \$10,000.

At least three ATSIPSS scholarships will be offered for 2023.

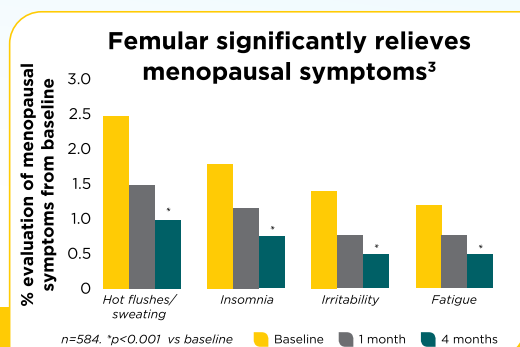
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2. IQVIA, national sales data Switzerland, sell-in (Pharmacy, Drugstore, Self-dispensing Doctors), turnover (ex-factory) in CHF, MAT June 2021.



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## Dispensary Corner

**PHARMACISTS** all learn about the life cycle as they obtain their qualifications - but the concept is not usually taken as literally as the owner of a funeral home in France who has just introduced the country's first "bicycle-hearse" (pictured).

The move is apparently a response to demand for increasingly environmentally friendly funeral options, with *Euro News* saying the so-called "Corbicyclette" is a mash-up of the French words for hearse and bicycle.

It's been created by Isabelle Plumereau, owner of "The Sky and the Earth" mortuary in Paris, who said the specially equipped cargo bike can carry full-sized coffins, as part of a "new ritual for families that I accompany, especially at the cemetery".

Plumereau said the creative innovation "allows for a slow, silent procession, to the rhythm of the steps of the people who walk behind and who make the procession".

The concept also apparently exists in the US, UK, Germany and Denmark, but her version uses the latest technology including electric assistance so it can tackle steeper grades.



## Boost pharmacogenomic training

**PHARMACOGENOMIC** education in Australian pharmacy programs has room for improvement, researchers believe.

In a paper published in *Exploratory Research in Clinical and Social Pharmacy*, researchers from the University of Queensland School of Pharmacy, found that while most registrable pharmacy programs in Australia incorporated pharmacogenomic content as part of their curricula, "the scope of training is limited".

The authors noted that pharmacogenomics has been "a rapidly growing field which promises personalised, more effective medications tailored to genetic information".

"The application of genomic data to improve patient outcomes is becoming increasingly prevalent," they said.

"Given this change, it is important that pharmacists are equipped with the appropriate skills needed to implement pharmacogenomics into

clinical care.

"We found that more than half of the programs included basic genetics teaching within their curricula.

"Approximately the same number of programs incorporated pharmacogenomics content into other science-related courses, or as a standalone course.

"Upon further analysis into the specific teachings of each course, the extent of pharmacogenomic training appears to be limited in scope.

"If pharmacogenomic-based medication management is more commonly incorporated into clinical practice, future pharmacists in Australia may require further training to implement related services in clinical care.

"Revision of pharmacy degree curricula and continuing professional education is therefore required.

"We suggest, as a first step, to incorporate pharmacogenomic



concepts into National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia."

While noting that "the sparse amount of pharmacogenomic evidence for changes in clinical outcomes is a major barrier to implementation", the authors said, "it's likely to be only a matter of time until the pharmacist workforce is called upon to provide such pharmacogenomic services".

"This suggests that training the pharmacist workforce in advance would be prudent," they said.

## APP2023 to evolve, engage and explore

'EVOLVE, engage and explore' is set to be the theme of the 2023 Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP2023) on the Gold Coast next Mar.

Launching the event's program today, former Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Kos Sclavos, said that after looking at pharmacy's role in the COVID-19 pandemic in recent years, APP2023 will shift the focus to "preparation for the Eight Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA), the profession's scope of practice and the pharmacy workforce".

"The Opening Plenary will

showcase and recognise awards of excellence including the Pharmacy of the Year Award, the MIMS/Guild Intern of the Year and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year," he said.

"The Alan Russell Oration on Thursday afternoon will bust the myths on pharmacists practising to their full scope and explore the benefits of full scope of practice for your patients, your business and your workforce."

The 2023 program also includes a pre-conference workshop and an immunisation course.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## FIP has heart

**THE** International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has published a new handbook for pharmacists on cardiovascular diseases.

The 111-page document highlights how pharmacists can play a key role in the screening, prevention and modification of risk factors, as well as providing advice on how to keep or achieve a healthier lifestyle.

The easy accessibility of pharmacies means a "maximal benefit" could be expected from their interventions - view the handbook at [fip.org](http://fip.org).