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Today's issue of PD

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

- Molnlycke
- Sigma Healthcare
- Wakey Wakey

Wound care

MOLNLYCKE is making changing wound dressing less painful and traumatic with its Mepilex range.

See **page five** for more.

Energy boost

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For more see **page seven**.

NHPO sees surge in complaints

COMPLAINTS to the National Health Practitioner Ombudsman (NHPO) jumped by 42% to 823 in the 2021/22 year.

Ombudsman, Richelle McCausland, said the increase in complaints appeared to be driven by people raising concerns about regulatory responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Health Practitioner Boards' statements regarding health practitioners' obligations around vaccination.

"My office is seeing the ongoing effects of the pandemic on community members and health practitioners, and we remain focussed on assisting with concerns about how AHPRA and the Boards have handled matters, including notifications and registration matters," she said.

The NHPO Annual Report 2021/22 revealed 28 complaints about the pharmacy profession



were made to AHPRA in the 12 months to 30 Jun, with 13 complaints about the sector being received by the NHPO - up from seven in 2020/21.

The medical profession saw the number of complaints to the Ombudsman more than double from 266 in 2020/21 to 575 in 2021/22, accounting for close to 70% of all complaints received by the NHPO.

While the number of complaints about the medical and pharmacy

professions were on the rise in 2021/22, the nursing and midwifery, psychology and dental professions saw declines in the number of complaints to the NHPO, with the chiropractic sector seeing complaints slump from 11 in 2020/21 to two in 2021/22.

The NHPO report revealed that Victoria provided the greatest number of complaints (203), ahead of NSW (148), with the Northern Territory accounting for the least (eight) .



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Contraceptive counselling a good fit

PROVIDING contraceptive advice would fit well with pharmacists' existing roles, but the lack of funding for such services is a significant barrier for the profession, research from Monash University reveals.

A study published in *BMJ Sexual and Reproductive Health* found that while community pharmacists provide contraceptive information and counselling, they "lack the necessary resources and support to be able to consistently provide quality, person-centred care".

Of the 366 pharmacists surveyed, 85% agreed that "contraceptive counselling fits within their current professional activities and emphasised benefits to their patients, including improved access to contraceptive decision support (80%), as being key motivators of counselling".

"A lack of payment mechanisms (66%), training opportunities (55%) and technical assistance tools (54%) were the most important barriers,"

the authors said.

"Self-rated knowledge and confidence were highest for combined oral contraceptive pills and lowest for the copper intrauterine device (IUD).

"When tested, pharmacists were very knowledgeable about method, dosage, frequencies and costs, and relatively less knowledgeable about side-effects and IUD suitability for adolescents."

Lead author, Pip Buckingham, told *The Australian* that with pharmacists in North Queensland and NSW set to be authorised to prescribe contraceptives as part of trials in both jurisdictions, it will be "really important that pharmacists are aware of the sensitive nature of contraception and the many reasons a person may need emergency contraception".

"We need to make sure that all contraceptive care, whether it's provided by a pharmacist, GPs, nurses or any other health professional, is underpinned by



relevant principles like patient-centred care, trauma-informed care, reproductive justice," she said.

"This is just as important as improving accessibility.

"Unlike other health professionals, pharmacists currently provide health-related advice and counselling without remuneration, which mean they may have to prioritise remunerated tasks such as prescription dispensing to maintain the pharmacy practice."

Tackling AMR critical: ICMRA

THE International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA) warns that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is "an ever increasing threat" to health systems.

The ICMRA described tackling AMR as one of its "strategic priorities".

"ICMRA recognises that AMR is a complex, multifaceted problem and calls for better coordination across all sectors, including public health, animal health and the environment, through a 'One Health' approach," the organisation said.

"A concerted and collaborative effort is essential to address this threat to global health, economies and security effectively."

The group has called for regulatory flexibility to help bring new therapies to market.

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Fiji Kava US deal

AUSTRALIAN-FIJIAN natural medicine brand, Fiji Kava, is set to distribute its dietary shots through the Vitamin Shoppe in the US in Apr 2023.

Fiji Kava CEO, Anthony Noble, said the ready to drink format of dietary shots was "extremely popular" in the US, noting it would be "key to unlocking consumption in the mass market" over the next 12 months.

Aussies sign FIP's AMR commitment

INTERNATIONAL Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) President-elect, Paul Sinclair, is one of three Australian pharmacists to sign the organisation's commitment to antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The University of Sydney School of Pharmacy's Professor of Medicines Use Optimisation, Parisa Aslani, and Flinders University's College of Public Health Strategic Professor in Cancer Research, Ross McKinnon, also signed the pledge alongside

the former Pharmacy Guild of Australia National Vice President, and 12 other signatories.

The FIP AMR commitment includes various actions for education, practice, scientific research and workforce developments.

"These commitments will also enable themes to be actioned across nationals and regions," the signatories said.

"FIP will ensure the sustainability of interventions to achieve antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) as far as possible.

"FIP commits to increase the awareness of AMR, to strengthen AMS and to support evidence-based interventions."

The commitment will see FIP leverage its social media and digital channels of communication to promote safe and responsible



use of antimicrobials to raise public awareness and understanding of AMR.

FIP will also advocate for the inclusion of AMR in national medicines and pharmacy policies, urging authorities to share data on AMR, antimicrobial consumption and use, to provide better estimates of the burden of AMR, to inform guidelines, advocacy and stewardship.

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Pharmacy manager busted stealing

FLORIDA-BASED pharmacy manager, Kerolos Ibrahim, is facing the full force of the law after being caught stealing medicines from the pharmacy he worked in.

The 31-year-old has confessed to pilfering more than \$141,000-worth of medications CBS 12 News reported.

Investigators revealed that CCTV footage showed Ibrahim taking multiple drugs from the dispensary and putting them aside in a plastic bag.

He was later seen driving

off with his stash of stolen medicines.

Investigators subsequently received a warrant to search Ibrahim's home, where they found the drugs.

Authorities reported that the pharmacy manager was cooperative and provided a sworn statement confessing to his crimes.

Police said they did not believe that Ibrahim used customer information during the crime.

However, they noted the investigation was ongoing.

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Dispensary Corner



DETROIT-BASED pharmacist, Zaman Alshafey, is under the US Department of Justice's microscope after ordering more than 300,000 bottles of a promethazine cough syrup over a three-year period.

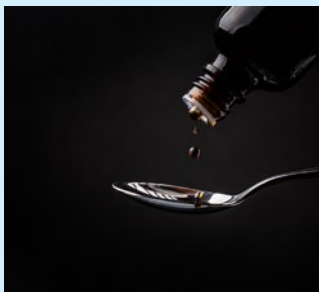
The 35-year-old has been accused of selling the medication on to drug dealers to produce a highly addictive drug known as "lean" or "purple drank", which users say has "tranquilising and euphoric effects".

Local broadcaster, WJBK, reported that police found stacks of money hidden in the walls of Alshafey's home during a raid in 2021.

Prosecutors claim the pharmacist flogged pint-sized bottles of the medication to street-level dealers from his Medpro Pharmacy in Dearborn.

Alshafey then used a proportion of his earnings from sales of the drug to purchase promethazine in bulk from wholesalers to keep the syrup flowing onto the streets.

The pharmacist is now facing changes including money laundering, wire fraud and illegally dispensing prescription cough medications.



PHC role for pharmacy

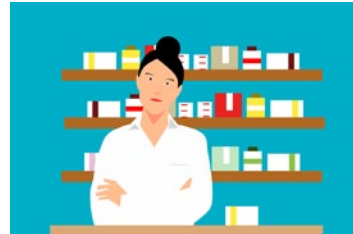
HEALTHCARE systems could benefit from integrating community pharmacists into primary healthcare (PHC), researchers believe.

A study published in *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy* found that "healthcare systems under resource pressure and with questions of long-term sustainability would clearly benefit by the incorporation of highly accessible community pharmacies through horizontal integration and at the micro level with clinical and service integration".

"In addition, working on the intensity constructs and enablers would allow a more sustainable integration," the authors said.

"Nevertheless, the historical, political, financial, and professionally conflictive contexts would need to be overcome with appropriate policy and incentives."

The authors, including University of Technology Sydney Professor Emeritus, Charlie Benrimoj, noted that "until recently, most governments viewed community



pharmacies only as providers of medications".

"In many countries community pharmacists are becoming increasingly patient oriented by providing professional services such as vaccination, medication adherence management, medication management review, minor ailments management or smoking cessation," they said.

"These changes have been mainly driven by governmental policies, with the main objectives being to encourage the population to enter the health care systems at an appropriate level of care and to optimise the rational use of medication, thereby increasing safety, efficacy and efficiency."

Transplant Australia's donor drive

TRANSPLANT Australia is calling on Federal, State and Territory Governments to take steps to boost organ donor registration numbers.

The group is urging authorities to collaborate under the Federal Government's National Strategy for Organ Donation, Retrieval and Transplantation to return the option to say 'yes' to organ donation when applying or renewing a driver's licence.

Transplant Australia Chief Executive Officer Chris Thomas said it was clear the COVID Pandemic impacted on Australia

well beyond the tragic deaths, extended lockdowns and economic cost.

"The year 2018 was a record-breaking year for donation in Australia with 554 donors saving the lives of 1,544 Australians. It represented the hard work of the DonateLife Network and the Organ and Tissue Authority over the past decade in reforming donation across Australia," Thomas said.

"Unfortunately, donation since then has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic."

Guild Update



Go to APP2023 and go on holidays!

NEED a break? Fancy a tropical getaway? All you have to do is simply register for the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference & Trade Exhibition (APP2023) and you and someone special could be off to the Maldives!

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Conference Convenor Kos Sclavos says he is thrilled to announce that two holidays are up for grabs with each prize valued at more than \$10,000.

"Eligible entrants can enter now, but if you attend APP 2023 you can double your chances of winning by completing an onsite entry at the APP Fun Zone in the Trade Exhibition," Mr Sclavos said.

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1. White R. A Multinational survey of the assessment of pain when removing dressings. Wounds UK, 2008. Find out more at www.molnlycke.com.au Mölnlycke Health Care Pty Ltd, Level 4, 12 Narabang Way, Belrose, NSW 2085. Ph: 1800 005 231 Mölnlycke Health Care AB. Mölnlycke, 12 Narabang Way, Level 4, Belrose, NSW, 2085. Phone 1800 005 231. New Zealand Orders & Enquiries 0800 005 231. www.molnlycke.co.nz The Mölnlycke, Mepilex and Safetac trademarks, names and logos are registered globally to one or more of the Mölnlycke Health Care Group of Companies. ©2022 Mölnlycke Health Care. All rights reserved. AUWC_000339





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