

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

## PA22 countdown

THE clock is ticking for delegates wanting to attend the 2022 Pharmacy Assistant National Conference (PA22) in Brisbane next week.

With seven days to go until the conference returns for the first time in three years following a COVID-19-induced hiatus, organisers are promising a jam-packed education program.

Sessions will cover wound care in pharmacy, the evolution of blood pressure measurement and more, with Winter Olympic legend, Steven Bradbury, scheduled to make a motivational address.

**CLICK HERE** to access the full program.

## Monkeypox eligibility expanded in NSW

PEOPLE at risk of contracting monkeypox will have easier access to vaccinations in NSW, after an expansion of eligibility criteria, the addition of more vaccination sites and a self-managed online booking system.

NSW Health has announced the change to allow more people to get the JYNNEOS vaccine, including gay, bisexual men and men who have sex with men, as well as anyone who has sex with these men including women and

## CWH targeting Guild's sweet spot

**GOLD** Cross is facing a jelly bean war, with discount pharmacy giant, Chemist Warehouse (CWH) removing Glucojel products from its stores in favour of a private-label product.

In a message to pharmacy owners, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia noted that profits generated by its Gold Cross subsidiary through the sale of the pharmacy-only jelly beans supported the organisation's "advocacy work".

"CWH recently gave Gold Cross an ultimatum," the statement said.

"Either we granted them exclusive trading terms that we were not in a position to extend across the entire retail pharmacy network, or they would launch their own private-label alternative.

"We stand behind every community pharmacist in Australia so we refused.

"CWH has followed through by

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deleting Glucojel from its stores and launching their private-label product."

It is not clear how big a financial impact CWH's decision to withdraw Glucojel from its stores will have on Guild funding.

A Guild spokesperson declined to provide further comment on the jelly bean stoush, which has emerged after CWH's parent company CW Holdings reported

a pre-tax profit of close to \$550 millions, having seen annual revenue for the year to 30 Jun 2022 topping \$3 billion for the first time.

The *Herald Sun* reported that rumoured efforts to float CWH on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) or to sell to an overseas buyer, have been hindered by the business's negotiations with the Pharmacy Council of NSW.

## FDA smokes out e-cigarette makers

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has filed complaints seeking permanent injunctions in Federal district courts against six manufacturers of electronic cigarettes.

The defendants are alleged to have failed to submit premarket applications for the items, and have continued to "illegally manufacture, sell and distribute their products despite previous warnings from the FDA that they were in violation of the law".

It's the first time the FDA has initiated proceedings to enforce the US Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act's premarket review requirements for new tobacco products.

Impacted suppliers include E-Cig Crib in Minnesota, Soul Vapor in West Virginia, Super Vape'z in Washington, Vapor Craft in Georgia, Lucky's Vape & Smoke Shop in Kansas and Seditious Vapours LLC which trades as Butt Out in Arizona.



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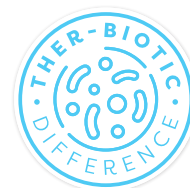
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## NSW polities back full scope push

**REPRESENTATIVES** from both sides of NSW politics are backing calls for pharmacists to practice to their full scope.

Speaking at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch's annual Parliamentary Dinner last night, Minister for Regional Health and Mental Health, Bronnie Taylor, and Shadow Health Minister Ryan Park, stressed the need for pharmacists to play a greater role in the State's health system.

"My personal belief is pharmacists are the most under-utilised profession in the NSW health system, and that has to stop," Taylor said.

"We need to increase the scope of practice of pharmacists and I will continue to make sure that we keep pushing those doors open to make sure that we can do that.

"It's been really exciting to see the demonstrated evidence come out of the Queensland (urinary tract infection) trial - I think that's

really important [to have evidence], because we all come from a science background - I still am a registered nurse.

"What we should do locally, and what we can do safely, we absolutely should, and if it's going to provide our patients, our consumers - the people who live in our communities, with better health outcomes then that's what we need to push through."

Addressing delegates at the dinner, Shadow Health Minister, Ryan Park, said that the COVID-19 pandemic had provided "the opportunity to begin a serious look at increasing the scope of practice of pharmacies and pharmacists".

"This is something I believe legislators should look very carefully at," he said.

"We are in a very challenging period in terms of access to primary healthcare in this State.

"It's a challenge both in the cities, but also a big challenge in regional



and rural communities.

"Having spoken to many regional and rural pharmacists, they've made it very clear to me... that pharmacists have the ability to do more, they want to do more, because they want to help the community.


"Those things are important, not just to pharmacists, they're important to the community and they're important to the health system."

## TGA approves teen booster

**PHARMACISTS** could soon be administering booster doses of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine (Spikevax) to patients aged 12 years and older, pending advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

The vaccine, which has previously been given the green light to be used to prevent COVID-19 in people aged six months and older, and as a booster for adults over the age of 18, has now been granted provisional approval for use as a booster for teenagers, by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

"The decision to provisionally approve the vaccine was informed by expert advice from the Advisory Committee on Vaccines," the regulator said.

 **spikevax™ bivalent**  
original / omicron  
(elasomeran / imelasomeran)  
COVID-19 Vaccine

## COVID-19 HAS EVOLVED BUT SO HAS SPIKEVAX VACCINE<sup>1</sup>

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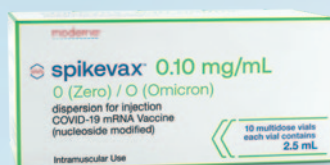
- Safety profile consistent with SPIKEVAX Original<sup>1</sup>
- Now available as a booster for adults ≥18 years<sup>1</sup>



For more information call the Moderna Medical Information team on **1800 344 018** or visit [www.modernatx.com.au](http://www.modernatx.com.au)

**moderna**

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Moderna's SPIKEVAX BIVALENT Original/Omicron COVID-19 vaccine has provisional approval as a booster for active immunisation to prevent COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2 in individuals 18 years of age and older.<sup>1</sup> The use of these vaccines should be in accordance with official recommendation.<sup>1</sup>

**PBS Information:** This product is not listed on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) or the PBS.

▼ This vaccine 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](http://www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems).

BEFORE PRESCRIBING, PLEASE REVIEW PRODUCT INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM [HTTPS://MODERNACOV19GLOBAL.COM/EN-AU](https://modernacovid19global.com/en-au) OR FROM MODERNA AUSTRALIA ON 1800 344 018. PRODUCT INFORMATION AVAILABLE [HERE](#).

**Reference:** 1. Spikevax Bivalent Product Information, August 2022.



Scan for ATAGI booster recommendation



Scan to access Dosing Guide

## Dispensary Corner

ANY excuse to promote healthy eating is good - such as showcasing long-lived lettuce in the UK, perhaps?

A wilting example of the salad vegetable has attracted global attention after the overnight resignation of British Prime Minister Liz Truss.

The online sensation is part of a stunt by London's *Daily Star* newspaper, which last week set up a live webcam on a lettuce wearing a blonde wig to see if it would have a longer shelf life than the beleaguered politician.

To Truss's humiliation, the lettuce won, with the newspaper updating the display (pictured) with a crown and playing the national anthem to celebrate.



The lettuce was immediately inundated with messages of congratulations via the YouTube chat box, including "Lettuce Rejoice", "Lettuce for PM", "Lettuce 1 Truss o" and the witty "Truss sunk by an iceberg".

But perhaps the most intriguing response came from the leafy green itself, which issued a statement saying "I came into office at a time of great e-kale-nomic instability, but after an unbe-lef-able campaign I am thrilled to have been crowned victorious in these chard times".

## No funded JEV shots in Vic pharmacy

VICTORIAN pharmacists are being left on the bench unable to assist eligible patients in accessing Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) vaccines, through a State-funded vaccination program.

The Daniel Andrews Government announced plans to distribute free JEV shots to patients in flood-affected parts of the State, yesterday.

However, the program does not currently include remuneration for the community pharmacists to administer the jab.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, told *Pharmacy Daily* that the organisation would continue to lobby the State Government to engage with the sector to support the vaccine rollout campaign.

The decision not to utilise pharmacist immunisers contrasts with the South Australian Government's JEV vaccination



campaign (PD 18 Oct).

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) South Australia and Northern Territory Branch President, Veronika Seda, welcomed the decision, saying it would improve access to the vaccines.

"While 90% of JEV infections are asymptomatic, the virus can cause a rare and potentially life-threatening infection of the brain," she said.

"It is vital that we encourage the uptake of JEV vaccines in affected areas."

However, the SA Government's \$20 per shot fee for pharmacists has been seen as "insufficient".

MEANWHILE, the Victorian Government has announced it will deploy 20 pharmacists and 200 hospital staff to flood-affected regions in an effort to relieve exhausted health workers, the *Herald Sun* reports.

## UK medicines wholesaler sentenced

THE owner of a London medicines wholesaling business has been given a 20-week suspended sentence as well as 100 hours of community service after pleading guilty of importing and distributing medicines worth more than 2.9 million without holding the correct licenses.

The UK medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) alleged that in 2017 and 2018 36-year-old Amr Mosa from Wimpole Pharmacie Limited in London's West End imported a range of items including Herceptin, Avastin, Humira, Kadcyła, Soliris, Stelara, Sutent, Velcade, Xvega and

Enbrel from Egypt to the UK.

He then allegedly on-sold them from the UK to a company based in Germany.

Mosa's company was granted a licence to distribute medicines within the European Economic Area; this did not authorise the distribution of cold chain products and nor did it allow items to be imported into the UK from outside of the EU.

In Aug 2018 the European Medicine Agency's Rapid Alert Notification system had flagged a batch of medicines supplied to Germany by Wimpole Pharmacy, which had originally been stolen from hospitals in Italy.

## FIP trend report

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has published a new study looking at major current trends in global pharmacy.

*Trend analysis report amid the COVID-19 pandemic 2021-22* contains directions identified by each of FIP's sections, covering areas such as transformation in pharmacy education, expanding scope of practice, environmental and cultural concerns, pandemic and disaster preparation, data systems and automation, and health security, economic and distribution concerns.

CLICK HERE for the report.