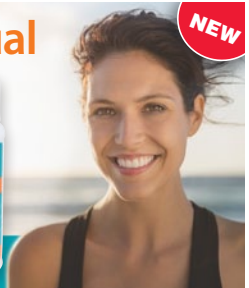


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Ozempic shortages hit Trulicity: TGA

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced that a global shortage of type-2 diabetes medication, Trulicity (dulaglutide).

The regulator reported that Eli Lilly flagged concerns about shortages of the drug in Jun, "due to an unexpected increase in demand", as a result of patients being moved to the medication as an alternative to Ozempic (semaglutide), which has been prescribed off-label as a weight-loss treatment.

The TGA said that Trulicity is expected to be "temporarily out of stock at wholesalers across Australia until late Oct".

"From Nov, Eli Lilly is expecting limited supplies until at least early 2023, and can't guarantee that pharmacies will receive enough stock from wholesalers to fill your script for Trulicity when you need it," the regulator said.

"We recommend that patients with type-2 diabetes who are unable to fill their script for Trulicity should contact their doctor immediately to have their treatment reassessed."

The regulator has also approved an overseas-registered dulaglutide product temporarily under section



19A of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* for use in Australia.

"This is the same as the Australian-registered Trulicity, however it comes from a supplier in another country and may be considerably more expensive," the TGA said.

"Also, while the Australian-registered Trulicity is subsidised on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), the overseas-registered product currently is not.

"Even though the supplier of this overseas brand that has been approved under section 19A can apply to have it subsidised under

the PBS, the TGA can't force them to do so."

Speaking with *ABC News*, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, said the Trulicity supply shortages were causing significant shortages for patients, prescribers and pharmacists.

"We don't have the answers patients deserve, there are waiting lists for any stock that is delivered," he said.

Tassone added that measures need to be implemented to provide greater protection of supply for PBS-listed medications.

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news plus a full page from *Melrose*.

Super support

AUSTRALIAN supplement brand, Melrose, is offering a "superblend" of five anti-inflammatory-containing natural remedies in one.

The high strength product combines the anti-inflammatory properties of golden chlorella, black pepper, ginger, turmeric and cinnamon.

See **page four** for more.

MDR briefing

MEDADVISOR (MDR) CEO, Rick Ratliff and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Ancila Desai, will present the company's Sep Quarter investor briefing on Fri.

Ratliff and Desai will provide an update on the company's progress during the first quarter of the 2023 financial year, followed by a question-and-answers session.

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Click here to learn more.

GPs slam media

A JOINT investigation into alleged Medicare fraud by doctors, conducted by the ABC's 7.30 and Nine Entertainment's newspapers, could "cause lasting damage to the nation's GP workforce", the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) believes.

RACGP President, Adjunct Professor Karen Price, said "the problem is not dishonest doctors, it is the complexity of the Medicare system", describing the ABC and Nine's reporting as "a kick in the guts for GPs".

"The vast majority of doctors do the right thing and certainly don't deserve to be slurred by sensationalist media coverage," she said.

"It is so important to be mindful of the toll Medicare complexity takes on GPs and how it impacts patient care."

Flooded pharmacy set to reopen

HOBART'S Bellerive Quay Pharmacy is set to reopen tomorrow after suffering severe flood damage in Jan.

Owner, Claire Sutton, said the store had to undergo extensive restoration after water poured through the pharmacy.

"This event has been extremely stressful for our team," she said.

"Ten months is a long time to be closed but the pharmacy regulatory environment means that it is very difficult to simply 'set up shop' even temporarily, in another location.

"We had to redirect most of our regular pharmacy customers to other pharmacies in the area.

"At least we were able to provide medication packs for some of our regular customers, those that are really reliant on this type of service, as we could undertake this activity in the upstairs of the pharmacy and provide delivery.

"We can't wait to open the doors and welcome everyone back again. We have taken the opportunity to



make some internal changes during the renovations, but our loyal customers will find the same great team providing the same friendly and professional service when our doors reopen."

Sutton noted that there has been ongoing discussion with local traders in the area and Clarence Council to ensure work commences as soon as possible to upgrade the current inadequate drainage

systems to avoid this kind of issue in the future.

"We know these kind of severe weather events will keep happening so the sooner this is fixed the better given the potentially devastating impact it can have on local businesses," she said.

Sutton noted that while insurance had helped cover the rebuilding costs, the past 10 months had been an emotional time for the team.

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Krammer, H et al. *Zeitschrift Für Gastroenterologie*. 2021;59(2):125–34. Funded by Microbiotica GmbH.





Dispensary Corner



IT'S a case of second-time lucky for son-of-a-pharmacist, and incoming British Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak.

Having missed out on landing the top job over the course of a lengthy leadership race, which saw former British Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss, win the Tory Party leadership contest in Sep, Sunak has secured the position just a day after confirming he would stand for the role.

Throughout his campaign to replace Boris Johnson as the PM, Sunak highlighted his ties to the pharmacy profession, pledging to be "very pro-pharmacy" if elected to lead the Conservatives.

While Sunak opted to pursue a highly profitable career in banking, rather than working behind a dispensary, he persistently told anyone with a notepad or dictaphone how his experience of working as a teenager in his mother's pharmacy influenced him.

"It really informed who I am actually, these are the values that I was brought up with, strong family, community service, small business," he said.

"That shaped me to being the person I am today, these are my roots and it is those values that I want to bring to government."



Cortis to lead SA VAD

SOUTH Australian pharmacist, Lauren Cortis, will lead the State's Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) pharmacy service when euthanasia is legalised there on 31 Jan 2023.

Cortis will lead a team of three senior pharmacists and a pharmacy technician, who will be based at Adelaide's Repat Health Precinct, and will be responsible for the safe supply of euthanasia medications to eligible patients, *In Daily* reported.

Having joined SA Health earlier this year as the lead pharmacist in the End of Life Care team, Cortis was involved in developing the State's medication protocols.

"The pharmacy service will be the single supplier of the medication for all patients accessing voluntary assisted dying throughout South Australia," she said.

"We will be also responsible for educating the patients, their caregivers and the contact person who's responsible for returning any unused medication once the person has died – or if they decide not to

continue with the pathway.

"We will also be the central support for medical practitioners – helping them adapt to this new area of practice."

SA Health Minister, Chris Picton, said the State was using similar frameworks to those used in Victoria and Western Australia, where VAD laws are already in place.

"We've learnt from Victoria and WA how important it is to have people whose job it is to help people through the pathway, through the legislation, because it can be a complex piece of legislation to navigate with all the 70 different safeguards that are part of the legislation here in SA," he said.

"These care navigators will assist people wanting to go through this scheme, making sure that they appropriately go through all the elements of the legislation before the voluntary assisted dying drug is administered."

NSW Health Minister to leave politics

HAVING led NSW through COVID-19, the State's Health Minister, Brad Hazzard, has confirmed he will not contest next Mar's election.

The 71-year-old, who is one of the longest-serving MPs in the NSW Parliament, recently voiced support for expanding pharmacists' scope of practice through a pharmacy-based urinary tract infection (UTI) pilot, similar to Queensland's successful trial (*PD* 05 Oct).

Speaking at a Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch Dinner in Jun, Hazzard noted that the pandemic had highlighted "the

natural capacity of community pharmacists to do so much for the community" (*PD* 24 Jun).

"We all know there's always a challenge of GPs not necessarily wanting pharmacists to do that extra [bit of healthcare] that they can do," he said.

"[But] COVID has made it really clear that pharmacists can do it."

Announcing his impending retirement from political life last night, Hazzard said, "as NSW Health Minister it has been the best of times and the worst of times", praising the "incredibly talented medical and non-medical staff" in the State's health system.

Guild Update



Tasmanian Pharmacy Conference

THE Tasmanian Pharmacy Conference, being held 12-13 November, will focus on the opportunities, possibilities and potential for community pharmacists to work to their full professional scope in our current rapidly changing environment.

The conference will feature a range of speakers who can show you how you can make sure your pharmacy is perfectly positioned to grow and take advantage of increased healthcare opportunities to expand your business.

The clinical sessions will provide opportunities to increase your knowledge and understanding of a range of issues relevant to current pharmacy practice.

Director and Co-founder of The Demographics Group, Simon Kuestenmacher will take you on a fast-paced and entertaining journey through the demographics of Tasmania and the changing role the local pharmacy network might have.

Pharmacies have a big role to play in combating medical misinformation. Could patients benefit from easily accessing medical information through the pharmacy network via telehealth?

Find out more at the conference website by clicking [HERE](#).

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