

Mon 31st Oct 2022



Today's issue of PD

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

DoB requirement

PHARMACISTS in NSW will be required to record a patient's date of birth (DoB) in their dispensing software when dispensing prescription medications from tomorrow.

NSW Health announced that from 01 Nov all prescriptions for schedule 4 and S8 medications will require the patient's DoB.

"Where a patient's DoB does not appear on a prescription the pharmacist must obtain this from the patient, or their agent, and record it," NSW Health said.

However, the pharmacist will not have to return the script to the prescriber for alteration, ensuring patients retain access to vital medications.

New subvariants fuel COVID-19 cases

VICTORIA is facing yet another wave of COVID-19 infections, fuelled by two new Omicron subvariants, BQ1 and XBB, the State's Chief Health Officer, Brett Sutton. warns.

Weekly data released by the State Government showed that 8,537 cases were reported in Victoria last week, a 25% increase on the previous seven days, while the number of patients in hospital with the virus climbed to 172.

"These indicators show we are at the start of another COVID-19 wave," Sutton said.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, the resurgence of the virus highlighted the need for pharmacies to be prepared to for increased demand for COVID-19 antivirals, and to provide access to vaccines to eligible patients.

"With the recent increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases in Victoria there have been anecdotal reports from our members and pharmacies of an increased demand for prescription oral anti-viral medication.

"Pharmacies not only in Victoria but across the country have done a great job in ensuring timely access for patients with COVID-19 antivirals navigating stock shortages and the significant financial investment that comes with them, as each unit costs more than \$1,000 to purchase.

"There are sale or return policies currently in place both for Paxlovid through Community Service Obligation (CSO) wholesalers and with Lagevrio through the manufacturer, MSD.

"It's another timely reminder of the importance for the public to come forward and receive their fourth dose of the COVID-19 vaccination if they're 30 years or over, or otherwise from a eligible patient group being at greater risk.

"More and more pharmacies are administering the new Moderna bi-valent vaccine that may offer



greater protection against the Omicron variant."

Melbourne-based pharmacist, Carlo Salanitri, from Chemist Warehouse Preston, told *3AW* that "there has been an increase in presentations of prescriptions for COVID antivirals across our network" over the last week.

"Our pharmacists are reporting they've seen quite a large increase in [antiviral] prescription presentations," he said.

INTRODUCING





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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.¹

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.

BEFORE PRESCRIBING, PLEASE REVIEW PRODUCT INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM HTTPS://MODERNACOVID19GLOBAL.COM/EN-AU OR FROM MODERNA AUSTRALIA ON 1800 344 018.

Reference: 1. Spikevax Bivalent Product Information, September 2022.



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KEEP UP TO DATE



Pharmacy

Bakker Tasmania's third PatY winner

TERRYWHITE Chemmart Rosnv Park's Terri Bakker (pictured) has become the third Tasmanian to land the Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year (PatY) Awards.

Bakker was crowned the 2022 PatY winner at the Pharmacv **Assistant National Conference** in Brisbane on Sat, seeing off competition from more than 170 PatY nominees.

Bakker's win followed the Rosny Park pharmacy's Excellence in Community Engagement Award win at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP) in Mar (PD 24 Mar).

Presenting the award, Guild National President, Trent Twomey, described Bakker as a "visionary".

"Terri should be incredibly proud of this achievement," he said.

"It was clear during the National Workshop that Terri is articulate, confident and has the capacity to take on big tasks, which is a prerequisite of the PatY winner,



as they become the ambassador for pharmacy assistants across the country."

As PatY winner, Bakker has claimed more than \$10,000 worth of prizes, including \$5,000 in cash, a Guild training package, return flights and accommodation for next year's APP and the 2023 Pharmacy Assistant National Conference.

Bakker will also be invited to join the judging for next year's PatY National Workshop.

MEANWHILE, St James Newstart Pharmacy in Western Australia's Bianca Busby took home the National Glucojel Super Star Award.

The National Glucojel Super Star Award recognises outstanding customer service amongst the PatY State Winners.



Dispensary Corner

FEARS that drug dealers in the US are targeting trick or treaters as future clients this Halloween are wide of the mark, a North Carolina pharmacist, Dr Catherine Lewis Wente, says.

Speaking to WRAL News, Lewis Wente, dismissed reports that drug traffickers are planning to drive addiction by handing out "rainbow fentanyl" to kids who knock on their doors as part of the ghoulish festival.

While dispensing product samples has long been a traditional marketing strategy, Lewis Wente, suggested that giving fentanyl-laced lollies to kids was unlikely to generate new customers for dealers, adding the drug "isn't cheap".

Despite the low risk of druglaced snacks, trick or treaters are advised to stay local this Halloween.

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Hunt lands new role

FORMER Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, has been appointed as the foundation Chair of Monash University's Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health's Advisory Council.

Monash University Chancellor, Simon McKeon, welcomed Hunt's appointment, saying he would bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in international healthcare policy and research to the position.

"Hunt is a passionate advocate for mental health and, as the former Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, his vast experience in healthcare policy will ensure the Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health remains one of the world's leading research institutes," McKeon said.

Having announced his retirement from political life ahead of this year's Federal Election, Hunt said the position at the Turner Institute would allow him to continue to work in the mental health area.

"I was delighted to be invited to assist the Turner as they build on their research and community role," Hunt said.

"They are already international



be one of the world's foremost centres for prevention and treatment of brain and mental health conditions.

"The Turner has set out a vision focused on applying their research to clinical practice.

"This approach can make a real difference to the lives of those with mental health challenges.

"Mental health is a long standing deep, personal passion.

"It stems from the family experiences I had growing up where my mother struggled with bipolar."

Hunt added that he wanted to concentrate his philanthropic work on mental health through the Turner Institute.







Weekly Comment

Reducing Facial Redness

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is Amit Saha, M-Pharm, MBA, MPS-



Pharmacist and Group Technical Manager, LaCorium Health.

ROSACEA is a common inflammatory skin disorder that can seriously impair quality of life. Treatment starts with general measures which include gentle skin cleansing, photoprotection and avoidance of exacerbating factors such as changes in temperature, ultraviolet light, stress, alcohol and some foods. For patients with a more serious form, specific topical treatments include metronidazole, azelaic acid, and brimonidine as monotherapy or in combination is recommended.

Laser therapies may also be beneficial. But before commencing any of the above, an alternative approach with selected herbal combination might be beneficial. There are number of natural ingredients such as Gotu Kola (centella), Rooibos tea, Boswellia or Aloe vera which are known for their anti-inflammatory and soothing benefits to red, irritated skin. Gotu Kola may also repair veins and broken capillaries which is a key attribute for treating redness associated with rosacea.

Oil containing GLA and omega 6 fatty acid such as evening primrose and linseed may also help. Dermal's new Redness Relief Cream uses a clever combination of soothing herbs, fortified with an antioxidant complex and is clinically tested to reduce redness similar to a 15% azelaic acid containing product.

TGA warns against using Melanotan

AUSTRALIA'S medicines regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), is warning consumers looking to boost their tan to avoid Melanotan products.

In a statement issued on Fri. the TGA noted that Melanotan-I and Melanotan-II were not approved for marketing in Australia, stressing the products were not melatonin.

The TGA said young people were particularly vulnerable to the marketing of the "imagineenhancing" products, "as they seek 'miracle' solutions to body and performance pressures".

The regulator reported that the Melanotan products were associated with side-effects including darkened skin, increased moles and freckles, nausea, vomiting, involuntary stretching and yawning, and spontaneous erections.

The TGA also warned advertisers, including social media influencers, that it will take action against businesses and people who breach the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989, with fines of up to \$888,000 for individuals and \$4.44 million for corporations.

Pharmacy

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Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

Del Piano, et al. 2010, Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology, Vol. 44, S30-S34.; Reid, G, et al. 2003, 'Oral use of Lactobacillus rhamnosus GR-1 and L. fermentum RC-14 significantly alters vaginal flora', FEMS Immunology & Medical Microbiology, Vol. 35, No. 2, pp.131-134. Funded by Procter and Gamble, NSERC and Kidney Foundation of Canada; Diop, L, et al. 2008, 'Probiotic food supplement reduces stress-induced gastrointestinal symptoms in volunteers: a double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized trial', Nutrition Research, Vol. 28, No. 1. Sponsored by Lallemand SAS.

