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AUSTRALIAN OWNED

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

Champion focus

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has unveiled its World Pharmacists Day 2022 (WPD2022) Champions initiative.

FIP is calling on pharmacists from around the globe to add their voices to the campaign to "champion" the profession on social media using the hashtag #WPD2022 (25 Sep).

The theme of WPD2022 is "pharmacy united in action for a healthier world".

FIP President, Dominique Jordan, urged pharmacists to join the campaign "to show their pride and support" for the profession.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Vic pharmacies need ORT incentives

FINANCIAL incentives and subsidies need to be offered to encourage pharmacies to participate in opioid replacement therapy (ORT) programs, Victorian Legislative Council member, Fiona Patton, believes.

Addressing the chamber on Wednesday International Overdose Awareness Day - Patton noted that ORT programs can be both life-saving and life-changing for patients who are struggling with addiction.

"The prescription of methadone and buprenorphine has been proven to reduce health, social and economic harms caused by dependence on either illicit or licit opioids, most importantly reducing illness and deaths and helping people to stabilise and lead more productive lives," she said.

"But these programs only work when pharmacies participate, so it is vitally important that we encourage pharmacies to provide ORT right across the state.



"Our pharmacies are pillars of our community, and let us not forget that they are also small businesses.

"Elsewhere across Australia other states offer financial incentives and subsidies that support pharmacies to dispense these life-saving medications.

"Victoria is a complete outlier in that it provides no support to pharmacies to provide ORT." Patton's call for improved

access to ORT coincided with the publication of the Penington Institute's *Australia's Annual Overdose Report 2022*, which revealed there were 2,220 drug-induced deaths in the country in 2020 - of which 75% were unintentional.

The report found that opioids were the most common drug group associated with unintentional drug-induced deaths (856).

NAC hosts 'asthma in spring' webinar

PHARMACISTS are being invited to register for the National Asthma Council's (NAC's) 'Asthma in spring' webinars.

The free hour-long session will focus on how to manage asthma and allergic rhinitis using the latest evidence-based guidelines.

NAC Asthma and Respiratory Educator, Narelle Williamson, said all health professionals in primary care need to be prepared to support patients who may be at increased risk of

thunderstorm asthma.

"Oct to Dec is when the amount of rye grass pollen and other allergic material such as fungi or dust in the air can significantly increase right across South-Eastern Australia, although seasonal triggers may vary according to rainfall and temperature patterns," she said.

"This becomes a significant risk for patients with asthma and or allergic rhinitis."

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Sanofi seeks to boost vax education

SANOFI Australia is providing grants of up to \$5,000 to eight not-for-profit organisations to support community understanding and uptake of vaccines among at-risk populations.

Sanofi Australia Head of Medical, and With Vaccines Community Grants program committee member, Dr Iris Depaz, said the funding would support "community-based initiatives that will help protect

vulnerable people from infectious diseases".

The grant recipients include:

- Australian Pompe Association;
- Diabetes Australia;
- Diabetes Victoria;
- Immunisation Foundation of Australia;
- Indonesian Diaspora Network;
- Lung Foundation Australia;
- The Water Well Project; and
- City of Whittlesea.



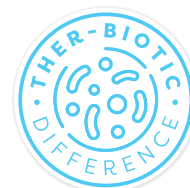
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No referral system “criminal”

PHARMACISTS need to have referral pathways to drug support services when patients are red flagged by real-time prescription monitoring systems, Victorian Shadow Minister for Mental Health, Emma Kealy, believes.

Speaking in the Victorian Legislative Assembly on Tue, Kealy raised concerns that the SafeScript system was leading patients to turn to illicit drugs when they were denied prescription medications.

Kealy described the failure to include a referral system as part of SafeScript as “criminal”.

“It is absolutely amazing to consider that over 1.2 million red flags have been raised in Victoria over the past two years,” she said.

“This is very, very concerning from the point that there simply has not been the back end of the system put in place in regard to SafeScript.

“The IT system has been rolled out, which is great, but we have not

seen the support mechanisms put in place.

“It has been so sad to hear from pharmacists who know that they are unable to dispense to somebody who has been given this red flag, but they have not been given any structure over where they then refer them - what alcohol and other drug support can they provide to them and what treatment options are available to them.

“Sadly, as a result, I have heard of instances where people have turned to the black market.

“We cannot just cut people off, just leave [them] to their own devices and let them go cold turkey without any support at all.

“It is a critical failure in the rollout of SafeScript, because it is so much more than just an IT system.

“It is absolutely an alert system, but we need to make sure we have the support at the back end to make sure individuals who are



battling with addiction to pain medication have got the support to reduce their use of that pain medication or be given alternatives and not be forced to just go cold turkey.

“To have a SafeScript system and then not put the wraparound services in place - which this government promised - is absolutely criminal.

“It is dangerous, and it is why we see people dying.”

Zejula PBS listing

THE Federal Government has approved the listing of Zejula (niraparib) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for the treatment of women with newly diagnosed advanced ovarian cancer who have a BRCA mutation.

Zejula offers once daily dosing in the form of capsules and is a poly ADP-ribose polymerase inhibitor (more commonly known as a PARP inhibitor), which works by stopping proteins in our body from repairing ovarian cancer cells, causing them to die – which then helps to control the cancer.

With close to one-in-four women diagnosed with ovarian cancer having a BRCA mutation, the listing will provide a treatment option for approximately 400 women annually.

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Dispensary Corner

WITH the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) giving its website a redesign to make it more user-friendly, there are calls for the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) to overhaul its site.

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) National President, Dr Karen Price, vented her frustration with the agency on Twitter this morning.

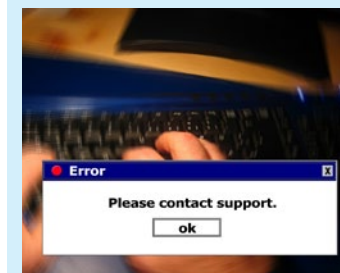
"Your process and website is pretty shabby for online renewal with eleventh million click and now locked out it seems - despite verified password," she said.

"So much for saving time with technology... [I'm] just trying to give you money."

Price noted that she did not have "a lot of time to muck around" filling in online forms.

"I do think tech solutions should be tested thoroughly at the user interface... [a] radical service-based idea," she said.

Another doctor noted that he had received multiple emails from AHPRA reminding him to pay his registration renewal, which were followed by an email saying the emails had been sent by mistake, then more payment reminder emails.



Pharmacists key to Indigenous care

BREAKING barriers to integrating non-dispensing pharmacists into primary healthcare services has the potential to improve outcomes for Indigenous patients, research from James Cook University reveals.

The study, published in *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy*, found that embedding pharmacists into Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs), through the Integrating Pharmacists within ACCHSs to Improve Chronic Disease Management (IPAC) project, improved medication-related services.

However, the authors noted that personal health service and community factors could be both enablers and barriers to integrating pharmacists into ACCHSs.

They noted that other staff members initially had difficulty overcoming the stereotype that pharmacists "just supply medications", while some felt that their role was being threatened by the integration of a pharmacist.

However, as staff gained a better understanding of the pharmacist's role those issues faded, and clinical team members, including GPs reported that the non-dispensing pharmacists became "a source of

quality recommendations".

The authors noted that pharmacists were able to have a greater impact when they were integrated as part of a well-staffed ACCHS, while those in under-staffed services found it more difficult.

Providing pharmacists with cultural orientation training was identified as another enabler to integrating pharmacists into ACCHSs.

However, a number of non-dispensing pharmacists reported having difficulties performing their role as a result of the significant travel requirements associated with servicing large geographical areas in rural and remote Australia.

"We were only there [at the health service] really one day a week," one pharmacist said.

"The rest of the week we were actually going out working within the communities...you carried all your boxes into Hiluxes [4WD vehicles] and a couple of RNs [registered nurses] and myself... would go out into the community... the time to communicate one on one with people, that was difficult, to have adequate time."

The authors said that adequate resources were required to facilitate the integration of



non-dispensing pharmacists into ACCHSs.

"Non-dispensing pharmacists can be more effectively utilised if services and existing staff (especially Aboriginal Health Workers) are supported to integrate the pharmacist within their service, there is role clarity, and the capabilities of pharmacists are understood by healthcare staff and patients," they said.

"Pharmacists can be better prepared if they receive appropriate induction, including cultural training and orientation to the health service and the local community."

Anthelios spray

LA ROCHE-POSAY is boosting its sunscreen range with the launch of Anthelios Invisible Spray Sunscreen SPF 50+.

The product offers "very high UVA/UVB broad-spectrum protection for sensitive skin", and features a new face and body formulation that includes a refined sunscreen texture that does not leave white marks.

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