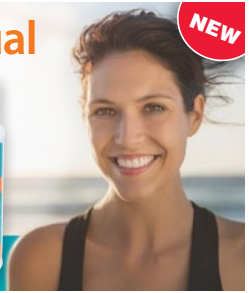


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Nova campaign

NOVA Pharmaceuticals is launching a three-month radio campaign to promote its Elactalyte electrolyte range on Nova 96.9.

For more information see [page five](#).

Viatrix is rebranding. All packaging will soon feature the Viatrix logo



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Click here to learn more.



No decline in vaccine volumes: Guild

DEMAND for vaccination services through community pharmacies is set to continue beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, believes.

Speaking at the Guild's Pharmacy Industry Roadshow in Sydney on Mon, Twomey noted that "since Apr this year community pharmacies have given more COVID-19 vaccines than every other provider added together".

In addition to the sector's increased role in COVID-19 vaccination, Twomey said community pharmacy now provides 24% of influenza vaccines.

"Flu vaccines and vaccination is probably the most real, tangible



[and] visible representation of our transition to full scope of practice," he said.

"I know there has been an awful lot of volume of vaccinations over the past 24 months, mainly because of COVID-19.

"Those volumes, don't expect them to disappear, because you are going to be, not the late-comer as we all were with COVID-19, you'll be the provider of first choice for protecting Australians and their families against vaccine preventable diseases."

Twomey added that the decommissioning of State and Territory vaccination hubs would

further increase demand for community pharmacy-based vaccine services.

He told attendees at the roadshow that over the last four years general practice's share of flu vaccines had declined.

Today's issue of PD

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

- Flordis
- Nova Pharmaceuticals

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Australia needs new ORT strategy

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is calling on Federal Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, to allocate \$348 million in his Oct Budget to support a revamp of opioid replacement treatment programs (ORT).

Guild National President, Trent Twomey, told delegates at Mon night's Pharmacy Industry Roadshow in Sydney, that the current ORT model made no sense.

"I do ORT in one of my pharmacies - I don't do it in all of them, but it's cheaper to get hooked on drugs in Australia than it is to get off them," he said.

"It makes absolutely no sense that we pay for someone to get hooked on OxyContin at \$6 a packet, but they have to pay \$35 a week to get off it.

"There is something fundamentally wrong with the design of policy in Australia, and the solution, dear Government, is not to make community pharmacists in Australia police people and have to monitor it with



real-time prescription monitoring."

The Guild's call for the Federal Government to fund a national Opioid Dependence Treatment Program, came as the Penington Institute released Australia's Annual Overdose Report 2022, which revealed opioids were the most common drug group associated with unintentional drug-induced deaths (PD 02 Sep).

Meanwhile Victorian Legislative Council member, Fiona Patten, has called on the State Government to provide financial incentives and subsidies to encourage

more community pharmacies to participate in ORT.

"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."

COVID/flu RAT

AUSTRALIANS could soon be able to test for COVID-19 and influenza A and B at home with a combination rapid antigen test (RAT).

Touch Biotechnology General Manager, Mazz Gencer, said the firm's RAT was the first multi-virus diagnostic tool to be approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

The Touch Biotechnology COVID-19 and Flu A/B Rapid Antigen Combo Test (Self-Testing) - Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods no 39559 - is expected to be available within six to 10 weeks, and provides results within 15 minutes.

The combination test is an in vitro immunochromatographic assay, with a single nasal swab specimen enabling the qualitative detection of COVID-19 and influenza viruses A and B.

NAPSA renews Guild partnership

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) has renewed its partnership with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia for a further 12 months.

The deal was signed by former NAPSA President, and current Guild President, Trent Twomey, and NAPSA's recently elected President, Flynn Swift, at last week's Pharmacy Connect

conference in Sydney.

"With COVID-19 in the pharmacy scene, having the Guild show its continued support for NAPSA helps build confidence in our students to know we are represented properly in such a hard time," Swift said.

"We look forward to what the next 12 months has to offer with collaboration with the Guild."

bDMARDs quick reference guide PBS listed information:

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Dispensary Corner

THROUGHOUT the COVID-19 pandemic pharmacy workers around the globe have been confronted with aggressive and violent behaviour.

While attacks on pharmacy workers are never warranted you do not expect to be targeted once you leave the four walls of the store.

However, Canadian pharmacy owner, Ramzy Shaker, was jumped by an anti-vaccination thug while he was waiting for a coffee at a local cafe.

The pharmacist was blindsided by his attacker who punched him in the face, before shouting, "I know you, you've been giving the vaccine to everyone".

The assault moved outside the coffee shop, with the man punching Shaker in the stomach and legs.

"I didn't even see the guy," Shaker said.

"I started to block the punches with my arm, which was really hurting, and he started punching me in my head.

"I was wearing the pharmacy shirt, and that was his motive - that I was giving the [COVID-19] vaccine."

The man was arrested at the scene when he tried to attack an off-duty police officer who had gone to Shaker's aid.



Competition key to driving biosimilars

MEASURES aimed at fuelling competition in the biosimilar medicines market could be critical to ensuring sustainability, Australian Biologics Academy Chair, George Tambassis, believes.

Launching the *Biosimilars: A global roadmap for policy sustainability* report in Canberra yesterday, the former Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President said urgent policy reform was needed to deliver a long-term sustainable biosimilar environment.

"A sustainable biologics market is one where all stakeholders, including patients, have reliable and consistent access to biological therapies," he said.

"However, this is highly dependent on the nature of the policy framework to support the uptake of biosimilars.

"Ultimately, Australia should aim for competition within the biosimilar market and incentives for patients, to ensure a sustainably functioning environment that allows the best value for innovation without compromising quality."

The report called on the Federal Government to ensure the alignment of financial incentives that benefit prescribers, pharmacists and patients.

It also recommended that policy changes should be implemented to increase multi-disciplinary decision-making regarding dispensing of biosimilars to ensure the best outcomes for patients and the best value for the health system.

Generic Biosimilar Medicines Association CEO, Marnie Peterson, said the organisation was looking forward to working with the



Government to co-design policies to boost biosimilar use.

"We know biosimilars can, and will, unlock significant savings for our overwhelmed health budget," she said.

"And we can go further with policies that provide even greater relief at the hip pocket of Australians already struggling with the rising cost of living."

DoorDash deals

FOOD delivery giant, DoorDash, is teaming up with pharmacy marketplaces, Chemist2U, PackaPill and Medmate, to provide "fast" delivery of over-the-counter and Schedule 4 medicines.

Discount pharmacy group, Pharmacy4Less, has also announced a deal with DoorDash to deliver medicines to patients' homes.



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