

Tue 13th Sep 2022



Sigma update

SIGMA Healthcare will release its Half Year Results on 26 Sep, having rescheduled the announcement following the declaration that 22 Sep will be a National Day of Mourning. **CLICK HERE** for more.

Let's talk about HPV

A webinar for pharmacists

Wed 28th September, 7.00 - 8.15pm AEST

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN! Click here

> Currently applying for accreditation

Sponsored by CSL Segirus. Sept 2022. ANZ-GAR9-22-0016

Get rego ready: Board

PHARMACY students who are set to complete their university training within the next three months and have their internship year arrangements signed off, can now apply to the Pharmacy Board of Australia for provisional registration.

Students can now set up an account with the Board using the online service portal, which they can use to upload required documentation including proof that they have met the registration standards, certified copies of photo ID, completed and signed application for approval of supervised practice, and paid fees.

"Applying before you finish study means we can start assessing your application while we wait for your graduate results," the Board said.

"Provisional registration with the Pharmacy Board of Australia (the Board) is required before you can start working under supervision as a pharmacist."

The Board noted that it cannot



complete the applications until it receives the student's graduate results from their university.

"If you've submitted everything you need to prove you've met the requirements for registration, we aim to finalise your application within two weeks of receiving your graduate results," the Board said.

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from TerryWhite Chemmart.

PATY contenders

TERRYWHITE Chemmart is celebrating the efforts of its SA and Tasmanian Pharmacy Assistant of the Year (PATY) state winner, who will contest the national title next month. See **page four** for more.

Viatris is rebranding. Many bottles will now be available in blister packs



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Ramsay deal off

INVESTMENT firm, KKR, has dropped its bid to acquire Ramsay Health Care.

KKR made an initial nonbinding bid for Ramsay in Apr (*PD* 20 Apr), before making an alternative proposal on 25 Aug.

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) the healthcare provider received a letter from KKR "late yesterday evening" regarding the group's latest offer.

"The latest correspondence received from the consortium refers to its review of Ramsay's Full Year 2022 results announcement, and notes that it is not in a position to improve the terms of the alternative proposal," Ramsay said.

KKR added that if the Ramsay Board was willing to reset its valuation and consider a new proposal, the consortium would move quickly to discuss mutually acceptable terms.

ATAGI bivalent advice

MODERNA'S bivalent COVID-19 vaccine (Spikevax Bivalent Original/Omicron BA 1) is being recommended as an alternative booster dose for patients aged 18 years and older, by the Australia Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

The bivalent vaccine received provisional approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) last month (**PD** 31 Aug).

"While booster vaccination with a variant-containing vaccine may not necessarily 'match' the circulating variant, it is anticipated to induce a broad immune response to current SARS-CoV-2 variants," ATAGI said.

"The Moderna bivalent vaccine is only registered for use as a booster vaccine and contains 50mcg of mRNA, comprising equal quantities encoding the spike protein from the original SARS-CoV-2 virus and Omicron BA.1 variant.

"The Moderna primary course requires 100mcg doses and therefore the Moderna bivalent



vaccine is not considered suitable for primary vaccination.

"There are no data as yet on the immunogenicity of this bivalent vaccine in a primary series.

"The Moderna bivalent vaccine generates a modestly higher level of antibody response against multiple SARS-CoV-2 Omicron subvariants (approximately 1.6-1.9 times) including BA.1 and BA.4/BA.5, and a similar antibody response against the original virus, compared with the Moderna original booster vaccine."

COVAX fraud charge dropped

WESTERN Australian police will no longer pursue fraud charges against a woman who allegedly attempted to bribe a pharmacist to falsify her COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) records (PD 11 Nov 2021).

Krystle Maigan Westwood reportedly offered a Geraldton pharmacist "an unspecified amount of money" to fraudulently administer a COVID shot.

The pharmacist declined the bribe and asked the 34-year-old to leave the pharmacy, and she was subsequently arrested.

Westwood had been due to stand trial, having entered a not guilty plea, however, police prosecutor, Beau Jones, told Geraldton Magistrates Court that the charge had been dropped following negotiations, *The West Australian* reported.

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Dispensary Corner

PATIENTS living in Middelburg, South Africa, are being warned to make sure they're visiting an approved pharmacy, after a fake pharmacist was arrested on allegations of unlawfully supplying prescription medicines.

Policed reported that the 24-year-old suspect was busted at a premises in the area where medications were also discovered.

"We would like to warn people to stop gambling with their lives when it comes to issues of health," a police spokesperson said.

"The public should be extra careful when it comes to being medically treated or receiving any medication from suspicious individuals.

"Being ignorant can place someone's life in danger and members of the public should rather use the public health facilities or legitimate private health facilities than taking an easier route which can be detrimental to their health."

Professional service survey

PHARMACISTS are being invited to participate in a survey to map the implementation of professional services in community pharmacy.

Researchers aim to develop a guild for implementing services based on the survey.

CLICK HERE for more.

Rethink health mentality

POLITICIANS and bureaucrats need to adjust their economic mindset when it comes to funding health services, Federal Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care, Senator Anne Ruston, believes.

Speaking at Pharmacy Connect earlier this month, the newly appointed Shadow Minister said that while she did not have the answers to solve all the challenges facing the health sector, she wanted health practitioners to work to their full scope of practice.

"When you look at the massive size of our health bureaucracy, sector and health network, we really do need to look at how we can make sure that it is maximising and operating to its full capacity, and is working in its entirety to the extent of its scope of practice," she said.

"That it is operating as a united whole instead of a whole heap of sectors and silos that are not maximising integration and the outcomes for the patient.

"The economist in me is always looking at the economic solution, [and] I would've thought that a healthy economy would rely on a healthy population.

"Therefore, we should be looking



at medicine as an input and an investment, not as a cost.

"If my assumptions so far in looking at how governments deal with many of the sectors of our health economy is [right] we look at it as a cost centre instead of looking at it as an investment, and that's where things like preventative health measures must form part of what we do in future."

Ruston told delegates that she wanted to engage with pharmacists to know how the sector can make a difference to improve universal access to healthcare.



Kidney health red socks run

KIDNEY health is putting out the challenge to Australians to run like a life depends on it.

The Red Socks Run starts on Saturday, 1 October and Kidney Health Australia is encouraging people to sign up for the free virtual challenge to run, walk or ride 60km over the month of October to combat kidney disease.

Participants can do the Red Socks Run in their own time and place and can sign up as an individual or as part of a team. They'll be supporting the life of someone living with this debilitating and deadly disease.

There are more than 27,000 Australians living with kidney failure and over half of those need dialysis treatment to survive.

On average they spend 60 hours per month strapped to a machine to clean their blood.

The Red Socks Run helps to fund life-changing treatments and vital support services for those living with the disease.

To find out more and sign up for the Kidney Health Red Socks Run, visit redsocksrun. org.au.











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Celebrating our state winners!









Congratulations to all our TWC finalists

NSW

Dani Davis from COFFS HARBOUR Robyn Farrell from CADDENS CORNER Mary Darmody from NORTH RICHMOND

SA

Torey Foureur from WOODCROFT TOWN CENTRE
Ruth Nilsen from MARION SHOPPING CENTRE
Teresa Ninnes from HAYBOROUGH
Sharon Worster from HILTON

TAS

Sharon Llewellyn from KINGSTON TOWN Maddison Marshall from LATROBE Mel Nicolle from LATROBE Sarah Walker from NEWSTEAD

QLD

Chantelle Day from ARANA
Julie Simmons from NARANGBA

WA

Maxine Bentley from COLLIE Courtney Crowe from COLLIE

VIC

Kathryn McAlister from MADDINGLEY



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