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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from **GS1**.

Update barcodes

GS1 recommends taking a fresh look at your pharmacy's scanning equipment and technology as 2D barcodes on products are growing in healthcare.

See more on the **back page**.

Limited supply

NOVO Nordisk has informed the TGA that the supply of Ozempic (semaglutide) in Australia remains limited.

They expect the supply to remain limited until the end of Jun (**PD 16 Feb**).

Patients who are prescribed Ozempic should contact their doctor to have their treatment reassessed, the TGA said.

Gobsmacked says RACGP

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has today expressed outrage at what it's describing as a "hidden clause" in the 7th Community Pharmacy Agreement, despite the matter being clearly spelt out some years ago in *Pharmacy Daily* when the 7CPA was unveiled (**PD 15 Jun 2020**).

It's the latest salvo in the battle between doctors and the pharmacy sector over potentially extending dispensing timeframes, with RACGP President Nicole Higgins claiming to be gobsmacked at the "secret" inclusion of the clause which was highlighted in News Corp newspapers today.

"I suppose given the power of the Pharmacy Guild I shouldn't be surprised that this clause exists, yet I am still gobsmacked.

"At a time when Westpac and the Pharmacy Guild have reported that spending in pharmacy has increased by 33.7% to almost \$124m in Jan, on top of the billions

paid to pharmacy through the Community Pharmacy Agreement, you would think that pharmacies shouldn't need a funding guarantee.

"Not to mention the extra money being funnelled in at a state and territory level for the prescribing experiments and the profits that these schemes will generate.

"Pharmacies already have protections around ownership and location laws that reduce choice and access to cheaper medicines for patients.

"This clause gives them a boost when sales are down because people are well.

"Could you imagine doctors being given a bonus payment by government when people don't need to see a doctor?"

Dr Higgins said that the Government needed to stand firm as "the Pharmacy Guild will fight tooth and nail against this".

The Pharmacy Guild has declined to comment at the time of printing.

NAC asthma chart

THE National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) today released a new chart *First Aid for Asthma chart for combination inhalers with Formoterol*, that provides guidance for the use of preventer and reliever combinations in an emergency.

The new First Aid for Asthma (FAFA) **chart** is based on combination inhalers with formoterol (Symbicort, Fostair, DuoResp, BiResp) and outlines how to use one of these inhalers if this is the person's usual reliever.

Respiratory physician and Chair of the FAFA Working Group, Prof Peter Wark, said, "combination inhalers are now a viable alternative way of treating asthma, for those with mild and moderate disease who are aged 12 and above, and there is very good evidence that it is more effective and safer than using a reliever alone."



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Capital Chemist rises above to win

CAPITAL Chemist recently won the Community Champion Award given out by the charity, Rise Above - Capital Region Cancer Relief, and celebrated its 20th anniversary supporting the organisation.

This year, Capital Chemist will also donate its one-millionth dollar to Rise Above, initially known as the ACT-Eden Monaro Cancer Support Group.

Capital Chemist's Group Business Manager Andrew Topp said Rise Above's mission statement is to reduce the emotional and financial burden on families who have a member undergoing cancer treatment.

"Rise Above provides very specific support to patients with cancer - funding for cancer medications, groceries, petrol, and electricity accounts," Topp said.

"Through Rise Above's medication support packages, Capital Chemist pharmacies directly see the impact of their donations."

Rise Above was founded in 1985



by local woman Yvonne Cuschieri, initially seeking funds to support teenagers with cancer wishing to attend a CanTeen national camp, and it grew organically from there.

Cuschieri died of cancer in 2021 but her legacy continues.

Capital Chemist's Community Program Manager Melita Flynn said, "this organisation embodies the concept of grassroots community support.

"As part of that very same community, we are so proud to

contribute to our friends at Rise Above, witnessing first-hand the immeasurable benefits provided to families under duress."

Rise Above is one of the founding partners of the Capital Chemist Community Program, which for the last 20 years has seen funds raised distributed to around 40 community organisations.

Pictured: Capital Chemist's Community Program Manager Melita Flynn and Rise Above CEO Wayne Simpson.

Dialysis units

NEW renal dialysis units will be installed in six remote locations, enabling First Nations people with severe kidney diseases to receive lifesaving treatment closer to their communities.

The new dialysis chairs and associated infrastructure will be installed in:

- South Australia - Coober Pedy and Yalata;
- Western Australia - Balgo; and
- Northern Territory - Atitjere (Harts Range), Borroloola, and Ti-Tree.

Purple House will deliver the new sites.

They represent the first round of sites selected for up to 30 dialysis units for First Nations patients, which will be provided over the next four years at a cost of \$45m.

The Federal Govt is funding the new units for \$13.13m with more locations to come.

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Dispensary Corner

NEW York has appointed its first rat czar this week, tasked with cracking down on one of the more unappealing aspects of life in the Big Apple.

The appointment of Kathleen Corradi comes four months after the city posted a tongue-in-cheek advert seeking “somewhat bloodthirsty” candidates for the role.

Rats are regularly seen in US’ largest metropolis, often spotted scurrying between subway tracks and sniffing around garbage bags on sidewalks.

One of the critters shot to internet stardom in 2015 when it was filmed walking down the stairs of a subway station with a full slice of pizza in its mouth.

“New York may be famous for the Pizza Rat, but rats, and the conditions that help them thrive will no longer be tolerated - no more dirty curbs, spaces, or brazen burrowing,” Corradi said in a statement.

The former teacher and expert in waste management will be paid US\$155k a year, according to the *New York Times*.

The City officials have spent millions of dollars trying to cull the rats and there is even a Rat Academy to teach locals rodent prevention methods.



Hold to ironclad promise

PHARMACY Guild National President Trent Twomey says he will hold major political parties accountable on their commitment to maintain existing pharmacy ownership and location rules.

Speaking at this year’s APP conference on the Gold Coast he said, “we seek ironclad assurances from the political parties that the ownership and location provisions will be maintained and before last year’s election both the Coalition and Labor committed to this, and we intend to hold them to their commitments”.

Twomey also said the pharmacy industry has grown in strength in the past two years and that a ‘decade of change’ is underway.

“We are all experiencing a ‘decade of change’ - in workforce, in scope of practice, in patient requirements

- indeed in patient expectations, in medicine pricing, in the type of medicines in market, in pharmacist and pharmacy assistant training, in Government regulations, in Government funding and indeed in Governments,” he said.

MEANWHILE, nominations are now open for the 2023 Australian Patients Association’s Most Outstanding Community Pharmacist Award.

This award highlights healthcare excellence and recognises best practice by healthcare providers.

Nominations are open to members of the public, including patients and their families, as well as healthcare professionals.

Previous winners include Brad Butt (2019) and 2022 winner of the Guild’s Pharmacy of the Year, Josh Lee (2021) and Ruth Parker (2022).

SA's vaping rules

SOUTH Australians have one month to voice their opinion on proposed changes to tobacco control and e-cigarette legislation in the state.

The proposal comes as the SA Health strengthens its “tobacco and e-cigarette legislation due to the well-established risks associated with smoking, passive smoking of second-hand smoke, and e-cigarettes containing toxic chemicals that can pose a risk from passive inhalation”.

Under the draft changes, tobacco vending machines would be banned, increasing of penalties and expiation fees for breaking the law, introducing new smoke and vape-free areas and more.

The expansion of smoke and vaping-free areas will come into effect in the following areas, if passed:

- Within 10m from schools and childcares;
- Within 50m of patrol flags on beaches and within 5m of jetties;
- Within 5m of “non-residential building entrances”, such as shopping centres and commercial buildings;
- Within 5m of non-residential building entrances, such as entrances to shopping centres, government and commercial buildings;
- Within 5m of public and private hospitals as well as health facilities, such as aged care centres;
- Within outdoor public swimming facilities; and
- Within 10m of under-18s sporting events.

Feel the burn, get ready to race the hill

THE Humpty Dumpty Balmoral Burn is back for 2023 to continue the Humpty Dumpty Foundation’s work to improve the health outcomes for sick kids in hospital.

The Sydney run is on Sun 28 May and this year the Balmoral Burn has more than 20 different race categories including the return of the Celebration Run.

Now in its 21st year, the Humpty Dumpty Balmoral Burn has raised more than \$31m to date.

Created by Wallabies player and Humpty Dumpty Balmoral Burn Ambassador, Phil Kearns AM, the Balmoral Burn is 420m worth of uphill burn.

Every dollar raised will help the charity provide essential,



and often life saving, medical equipment and health initiatives to around 500 hospitals and health services right across Australia.

Register at www.balmoralburn.com.au to participate in this year’s racing event as an individual, family, school, sporting team, community group, with your pet, or as even a pharmacy corporate team.



System recommendations for Pharmacies

Camera-based scanners and standards capability

The use of '2D' barcodes has been increasing organically within healthcare for many years, with a significant focus on traceability and batch management driving this change. With the introduction of new regulations by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), an increased focus on product authentication, inventory management and supply chain

2D barcodes is needed to support the requirement for more data on pack. Being sure that all systems can handle these barcodes is a must for the future. This means there is a need to look at scanning equipment and systems to ensure that can manage the barcodes and the data they hold.

What's in the barcode?



(01) 0 9312345 531370
(17) 201231
(10) ABCDEF123456
(21) 10022337269ABCDEF

(01)09312345531370

(01) The Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) formerly the EAN. A 14-digit system capability is a must to be able to process this correctly

(17)201231

(17) The Expiry Date in a 6 digit machine readable format of YYMMDD. It can be presented within a system or for staff in a more human friendly field

(10)ABCDEF123456

(10) The Batch/Lot Number of up to 20 Alpha Numeric characters

(21)10022337269ABCDEF

(21) The Serial Number of up to 20 Alpha Numeric characters

The barcode is a GS1 DataMatrix. Its format and the data within it are all based on standards used globally

What do your technology solutions need?

All systems need to be able to interpret the data from these barcodes. You can check your systems, report issues and source advice by [visiting here](#)

Need Advice?

E healthcareteam@gs1au.org **T** 1300 227 263

Do you have camera-based scanners?

Though a camera or Charged Coupled Device (CCD) based scanner can still read a traditional linear barcode, unfortunately they will not read 2D barcodes. With any upgrades to scanners, a change to camera-based scanners is recommended. Visit our [Solution Provider Directory](#) for potential suppliers.