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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.



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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news plus a front cover wrap from **SFI Health** and full pages from **TerryWhite Chemmart** and **Glucojel**.

See the difference

SFI Health has the Ther-Biotic range of therapeutic probiotics that your patients can rely on.

The range helps with gut health, IBS, vaginal health and stress and mood issues.

See more on the **cover page**.

Gain the edge

TERRYWHITE Chemmart is a brand with a difference due to its infrastructure and follow-up, implementation, and dedication of the support team, say those in the business.

For more information joining the TWC group see **page four**.

Stop Hunger Games of supply chain

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has pulled out all stops in an attempt to stop the expected move in the May Budget to allow 60-day dispensing for over 300 medicines (**PD 21 Apr**).

Pharmacy Guild branch committee members in posts on LinkedIn are urging "all pharmacists to talk to their local MPs before it's too late" with MP names and their constituencies listed.

Greenfield Pharmacy owner and Gold Coast Young Business Woman of the Year winner pharmacist Amy Ford scrutinised the move which on the surface she said appears as a "well-intentioned move towards patient convenience" but in reality is a "hasty decision with potential pitfalls" that include she said:

- Financial implications - the policy could strain patients and pharmacies as patients struggle to afford their medicines up-front, while pharmacies face reduced cash flow and increased inventory costs.
- Medication wastage - with

millions of dollars of unused medicines wasted annually, the 60-day dispensing proposal would potentially exacerbate wastage as increased quantities are unused due to changes in prescriptions or adverse effects.

- Patient monitoring - with reduced patient-pharmacist interactions under this proposal, patients would go in less often to fill their scripts. How can support and adherence monitoring be provided? Ford asked.
- Misuse risks - larger medication supplies may increase the risk of accidental overdose, misuse or diversion. Is the convenience worth risking patient safety? Ford said.
- Medication shortages - this is already a pressing issue in Australia, with a lack of viable alternatives sometimes.

The 60-day policy might exacerbate current shortages, putting a strain on patients' access to essential medications and

pharmacies' ability to maintain supply, Ford commented.

Speaking to *Radio 3AW Melbourne*, Anthony Tassone, Guild's Vic branch President admits he is "very concerned and worried" for the supply chain of medication if changes are made to medical prescriptions.

"We have enough difficulty at the pharmacy level supplying 30 days of a prescription medicine and going to 60 days could mean that even more patients will go without.

"We don't want to see *The Hunger Games* for the supply chain.

"We don't want to return to what happened at the start of the COVID pandemic and what resulted which was the TGA getting involved saying we need to manage how much we give patients at a time," Tassone said, adding there is a risk of hospitalisations and surgeries due to access to medicines.

Last week, the 01 Jul move was revealed in draft Budget papers that the Guild's dire predictions claim could result in 1,000 foreclosures.

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Seized & fined

THE TGA has issued nine infringement notices totalling \$66,600 to three Sydney-based companies and two associated individuals for the alleged unlawful importation of a combined total of 101,900 nicotine vaping products.

It is alleged that JL Partners (Aust), Wjwing, TSJ Logistics and two individuals (one a director of one of the companies and the other a director of all three companies), attempted to import nicotine vaping products (prescription medicines) that were not registered in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods and were not exempt from being registered.

The unapproved nicotine vaping products were intercepted by the Australian Border Force and will be seized and destroyed.

CW opens its 500th store

CHEMIST Warehouse has officially launched its 500th store in Australia with a recent opening in Croydon Central, Victoria (Shop 20/5 Kent Avenue, Croydon).

Co-founders Jack Gance and Mario Verrocchi, (pictured and centre) Croydon Central managing Partner Matt Selim cut the ribbon to commemorate the milestone achievement for the pharmacy group and officially kick off trade.

Chemist Warehouse hosted a family-friendly day of activity for local Croydon shoppers to celebrate the store opening including free giveaways, Chemist Warehouse games, AFL meet and greets with Collingwood's Tom Mitchell and Essendon Captain Zach Merrett, free coffees, popcorn, face painting and balloon making.

"The introduction of this store will grant the local community and visitors to the precinct with access to a wide range of brands and products across the beauty, health and lifestyle categories at



affordable prices, each and every day," said co-founder of Chemist Warehouse, Mario Verrocchi.

"Chemist Warehouse is committed to providing our customers around the country with easily accessible and affordable health, wellness and beauty solutions, at all times.

"We are thrilled to introduce our offering to Croydon Central and are extremely proud to be celebrating our 500th store opening, a huge achievement for our business."

Vax Action Week

THE Immunisation Coalition (IC) is launching its annual Immunisation Action Week (IAW) to raise awareness of seven common, but vaccine preventable, diseases.

IAW takes place between 24 to 30 Apr to coincide with World Immunisation Week.

A key feature of the week is raising awareness of seven prominent vaccine preventable diseases, with the highlight of the week being a free Influenza Vaccination Day on Fri 28 Apr, in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane for people 18 to 64 years of age.

Seven vaccine preventable diseases the IC is shining a light on are Shingles, HPV, Meningococcal Disease, Pertussis, Influenza, Pneumococcal Disease, and COVID-19.

The locations of the free flu vaccinations clinics and the list of special guests are [HERE](#).

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Dispensary Corner

THE effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to subside, with the latest indication of a return to normality coming in the resurgency of Japan's "Crying Sumo" competition. Previously an annual fixture, the event which takes place right across the country, involves competitors wearing elaborate scary masks attempting to make infants cry, in a ritual believed to bring the children good health. It's the first time it's been held in four years, with *AFP* citing the excited mother of an eight-month-old taking part. "We can tell a baby's health condition by listening to the way they cry," she enthused. "Today she may get nervous and not cry so much, but I want to hear her healthy crying." A total of 64 babies took part in a gathering hosted by the Asakusa Tourism Federation, with a spokesperson downplaying suggestions that the ritual is cruel. "In Japan we believe babies who cry powerfully also grow up healthily," he said. The official Tokyo travel guide at gotokyo.org also highlighted the event, saying it is "an annual tradition that's especially popular among parents hoping to raise strong and healthy children".



Parkinson's smart packs

TODAY in Australia, more than one person every hour will hear the words 'you have Parkinson's' for the first time.

As Apr is Parkinson's Awareness Month, medication management company Webstercare has developed, in partnership with Parkinson's NSW, its Webster-pak 6 Dose (Parkinson's) solution, accommodating up to six dosage times in one convenient medication pack.

The distinctive fuchsia-coloured folder stands out to alert the user of specific dosage times, offering greater flexibility to increase treatments as the disease progresses and the therapeutic window narrows.

Gerard Stevens AM, medication expert, and inventor of the Webster-pak explained that "Parkinson's medication management is critical, as missing a dose or taking the wrong medication can lead to serious consequences such as increased tremors, muscle rigidity, and even hospitalisation.

"However, the use of Webster-paks can help patients and caregivers avoid medication errors

and ensure medication compliance."

Pharmacist Rosemarie Mundy from Priceline Pharmacy Hamilton said, that the use of Webster-paks can be an effective tool for managing medications in patients with Parkinson's.

"The extra dosage times accommodate the high-frequency medication intervals required

for complex medication regimens, like Parkinson's disease," Mundy said.


"Medication dosage times can be fully customised by the prescriber to meet patient requirements, allowing individuals to control their treatment, and not be fixed to standard dosage times."

Mundy said Parkinson's Webster-pak is particularly useful in aged-care facilities where there are "often numerous medication rounds to be made which can make it very challenging to deliver medication on-time every time.

"Feedback from the pilot was that the bright colour helped a lot as a visual prompt to give those medications first and at exactly the right time."

Learn more [HERE](#).





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Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Amit Saha, Innovation Manager, LaCorium Health.**



Silicone Therapy for scar treatment

SILICONE therapy is a widely used treatment modality for scar management. Silicone gels, gel sheets, creams are commonly used in scar therapy. These products have been shown to improve the appearance and texture of scars, reduce scar thickness and minimise itching and discomfort associated with scarring.

Silicone therapy works by providing a moist environment that helps to hydrate the scar tissue and reduce the production of collagen. This can help to soften and flatten the scar, reducing its appearance. Additionally, silicone therapy can help to reduce the redness and discolouration associated with scars.

Silicone gels are a popular form of silicone therapy. Silicone gels can be applied directly to the scar and can be used throughout the day. Formulations with a single silicone or a combination of multiple silicones are widely available in the marketplace. Some are even fortified with vitamins like A, C or E to provide additional scar-healing benefits.

We're dedicated to care for you and your team

“ Five years ago I was looking for a partner that had proven themselves over the years, and I needed a brand that was prominent and differentiated from other pharmacy brands. TWC ticked all the boxes.

With TWC, everything is just easy

The infrastructure at TWC is better than any other group that I've been with, but it's more than that, it's the follow-up, implementation, and dedication of the support team to follow everything through. The health programs are great, enabling us to access new clinical services. The vaccination support couldn't be better.

I'm feeling very confident about what the future holds. ”

Chris Theodore

TWC North Brighton, VIC, joined in 2019



Want to grow your business? Call today:

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Jade Blackman

This new brand is disgusting 🤢

Melanie Crossin

Melanie Crossin - Sydney would rather eat arm pit

Angel-Rose Kohn

Kim Jarratt agree, they're almost inedible!

Harold Knight

They are vile 🤢

Tracy McCarroll

Yuck. Awful texture. Bring back Glucojel please!!

Tanya Wiggins - Penrith

They are awful!!! Bring back the Glucogels

Maria Siogren

Some of these flavours are feral and horrible. Wont buy them again



Lisa Wilson



Nelly Goss

Go back to old jellybeans, these are 🤢

Shelley Stanger

They are terrible. As a diabetic that buys jelly beans all the time they are awful 🤢

Wendy Brown

These are disgusting and not worth buying compared to the other brand. Worst decision swapping brands

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