



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

Not sun smart!

THE Cancer Council and the Australian Government have partnered to launch a new sun safety video campaign, reminding men to be more 'SunSmart' this summer, *Mumbrella* has reported.

The campaign launched alongside Cancer Council data that showed Australian men aren't being safe in the sun, despite being twice as likely to die from melanoma.

The data showed men were more likely than women to have recently been sunburnt at an outdoor swimming pool or sporting facility (11% vs 7%), or their workplace (7% vs 3%), and that only 45% of men agreed that sun protection is part of their daily routine.

'Online cowboy prescribers' are risky

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is calling for better patient safety and regulation of solely online prescribers and apps.

The Queensland Branch President Chris Owen (pictured) said, "we are seeing more and more online scripts written with virtually no consultation between a patient and GP."

"The problem is two-fold; the self-declared GP crisis means patient safety is being compromised as people flock to online apps and prescribers.

"There is no connectivity between these online apps and a patient's regular GP and the patient's current medications.

"As pharmacists, we want the best possible outcome for patients, enhanced levels of medicine safety so we can reduce harm and we strongly encourage face-to-face consultations with primary healthcare providers," Owen said.

The Pharmacy Guild supports telehealth as a good option



for patients when they cannot physically present to their GP.

However, the dilution to an online app with little or no contact with a healthcare professional is compromising patient safety, Owen added.

"The regulators have to stop these online prescribing cowboys," said Owen.

Sunshine Coast pharmacist James Lester said he has experienced the high-risk issues for patients and the wider community, resulting from these online prescribers and apps.

"Just this week, I came across an online script, from a doctor not

located on the Sunshine Coast where my pharmacy is, requesting a dangerous quantity of a drug for an individual.

"Clearly, given the quantity requested, the intention was misuse and possibly trafficking in illegal drugs, post manufacture.

"Whilst checking the validity of the script, I struggled to find an immediate contact for the prescribing doctor to flag my concerns over the potential misuse of such a large quantity of a medicine with a significant street value," Lester said.

"While there is some convenience for patients who use an app or online prescribers, the risk of doctor shopping and finding an online cowboy is increasing, especially for monitored medicines.

"As a pharmacist, we are dedicated to working with patients to ensure they are well-informed on the safe and correct use of their medicines, we don't want to see people harmed," Lester concluded.

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Dispensary Corner

PEOPLE don't usually see the pipes that funnel their sewage to the pumping station. But that's exactly what residents on a new estate in Northamptonshire, UK, are now faced with as soon as they open their front doors.

The giant poo pipe was installed mere metres from the new builds due to a leak in the underground sewerage network. It's understandably upset some of the locals who've just moved into the Wendelburie Rise development in Wellingborough, where homes are on sale from £272,000.

One resident said: "We had a letter just saying 'sorry for the works' and were given a hamper to say sorry, but that doesn't change the fact that we've got this outside of our house. "We have people plowing up the front of our house to try and park to deliver things. "It's not great but I understand it needs to be done."



CDC's summer of safety

AUSTRALIA has the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, according to the Cancer Council. The Chemist Discount Centre's (CDC) Suncare and Hydration Health campaign provides consumer advice on how to stay hydrated and protect the skin from the damaging effects of the sun, especially for people taking medications which can cause sun sensitivity.

Until the end of Feb, CDC is offering a free 'Protect yourself and your little ones this summer' advice booklet which supports the Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide advice, and has been developed to support suncare and hydration conversations and advice provided by the CDC pharmacy teams. The fun and interactive POS materials - 'How damaging is the sun today?' with a UV index dial where staff can update the UV index each day - should create awareness, CDC concluded.



Pictured: CDC Qld Westpoint pharmacy's display.

Dispensing changes for PBS products

THE Department of Health is making changes to the listing of the below-mentioned PBS products to allow pharmacists to dispense volumes smaller than a whole bottle.

The changes affect oral solutions that contain morphine hydrochloride trihydrate 2mg, 5mg, 10mg per ml, 200ml; and oxycodone hydrochloride 1mg per ml, 250ml.

Prescribing software will reflect the PBS schedule on the date a prescription is written. Scripts of morphine oral solution written as of yesterday, may be written for any quantity from one to 200 (up to 400 for palliative care patients). Similarly, scripts of oxycodone oral solution written from 01 Feb may be written for any quantity from 01 to 250 (or higher for authority scripts). The quantity must be a whole number, and reflect the millilitres that should be dispensed.

\$40m for BioSF

THE NSW Government has launched a \$40m biosciences fund to support startups in the biological sciences space. Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology Alister Henskens said the Biosciences Fund (BioSF) should provide a platform for NSW's best minds and most agile new businesses to solve pressing issues in areas such as health and the environment.

"This new program will provide financial and entrepreneurial support for startups developing cutting-edge technologies, helping navigate the often difficult transition between early-stage development and commercial success," Henskens said. He added, "the \$40m fund will boost the NSW Government's support of innovative researchers, startups and entrepreneurs in the biological sciences space over the next four years. "We want to foster fresh ideas and innovations that will address challenges in energy, health, the environment and waste, and grow successful businesses that create new jobs and industries that will help secure a brighter future for NSW," Henskens said. The BioSF will consider applications **HERE**.

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