



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

SafeScript useful

SCHEDULE 4D and Schedule 8 medicines carry a high risk of misuse, abuse and dependence.

The Guild is encouraging pharmacists to inform prescribers when patients with prescriptions for S4D and S8 medicines are seeing multiple prescribers, as they may be unaware that the patient is doing so.

Medications such as opioids and benzodiazepines have a high risk to the health and wellbeing of the patient.

SafeScript NSW is a useful tool to identify issues with high-risk medicines, and the Guild is asking pharmacists and prescribers to register for it [HERE](#).

Winners for Life are stars in Forbes

LIFE Pharmacy Group has celebrated wins for the past year, and set goals for the group's members for the year ahead, at its annual conference in Forbes, held over three days last week.

This year's conference theme was 'Back in Business' with a focus on returning to their core offering post-COVID which is professional services and community engagement.

At the awards night (pictured: group photo), CEO Michael Flannery awarded Bev Mistry-Cable from Cooleman Court Pharmacy, the Life Pharmacy Group Star Award, for her ongoing management of stock shortages and for looking after the safety of the team by ensuring access to PPE throughout COVID.

Caitlin Smith was awarded Life Pharmacy Group - 2023 Retail Manager of the Year, for leading from the front and being eager and ambitious to learn more as a retail manager at Lanyon Pharmacy, ACT.



Smith stood out to win this award for the energy and dedication demonstrated over the past 12 months.

Shannon Nash from Life Pharmacy, Forbes, won the Life Pharmacy Group - 2023 Pharmacist-in-Charge of the Year award.

Nash had taken on extra responsibilities and shown leadership to her team and community during not one, but two devastating floods in Forbes at the end of 2022.

Last, but by no means least, the Life Pharmacy Group - 2023

Pharmacy of the Year award was presented to joint winners - Life Pharmacy Forbes, and Flannery's Pharmacy.

Both pharmacies showed resilience and amazing support to their local community during the Forbes floods, said Flannery.

"Personally, I'd like to thank you all for keeping the businesses safe and dry, things ticking over when there has been no or little power and going that extra mile (sometimes on a truck through the water) to ensure our patients have been looked after," he concluded.

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Always read the label and follow the directions for use. Bianco L et al., *J Am Geriatr Soc* 2012; 60:1180-1.



Future partners

VICTORIAN Pharmacy Brokers (VPB) and Attain are joining forces from 31 Mar, so as to continue to provide experienced and specialised pharmacy business sales advice.

VPB is a business brokering service operating in Victoria, Tasmania, and southern New South Wales whose Principal, Ken Green, has worked in pharmacy business sales since 1991 with Paul Meehan joining VPB in 2007.

Attain Business Brokers (Attain) was formed in 2008 under the guidance of Frank Sirianni, who has been in the pharmacy industry for over 40 years now.

Natalie Sirianni is the Director of Attain, which is also licensed to sell businesses in all states in Australia.

The owners of VPB and Attain are excited about their future and will continue to provide the highest level of service to the pharmacy profession during the process of buying and selling a business.

New take on keto

A PROJECT in South Australia's Coorong region led by Flinders University takes a fresh approach, by involving the Ngarrindjeri leaders with clinicians trained in Eurocentric-based medicine, to help tackle diabetes remission within its local community.

As a result of respectful collaboration, learn how co-developing an eating program based on a ketogenic diet works **HERE**.

PSA's first accredited one

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced that its first PSA-Accredited Pharmacist, Thao Phan, MPS-AACPA has completed their training.

Phan graduated with a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from Monash University in 2020, and practices as a community pharmacist in Cairns, Queensland.

Phan enthusiastically said "when the PSA announced that they were offering the credentialing program, I made the decision immediately.

"I would complete my accreditation with PSA, knowing they will accompany and support me in every step of the process.

"PSA has provided me with great support throughout my internship and the first year of my career as a pharmacist."

Phan said she found the Medication Management Reviews (MMR) stage 1 online course extremely helpful.

"It provided me with a detailed description of the steps involved and the skills needed to undertake MMRs.

"The knowledge I learned from these resources made it much easier for me to pass the assessments of the accreditation process," Phan explained.

"The Accreditation Team at PSA always provided timely and helpful



responses to all my enquiries.

"I would highly recommend PSA accreditation training to other pharmacists.

"I'm very excited to conduct my first review and help promote MMRs to more doctors and patients in the community," Phan concluded.

PSA National President Dr Fei Sim FPS congratulated Phan on being the first PSA Accredited Pharmacist and said she was proud to get such positive feedback on the program.

"Congratulations to Thao Phan, MPS-AACPA on being the first PSA-accredited pharmacist.

"We are so excited to see the PSA Accreditation Credentialing Program growing as the new Home of Accredited Pharmacists.

"We are incredibly proud to offer a complete package of high-quality education, training and ongoing career support for accredited pharmacists and those looking to pursue accreditation," Dr Sim concluded.

Newcastle uni to run prescribing trial

THE University of Newcastle has signed a deal to run and evaluate the NSW Government's pharmacy prescribing trial, *Australian Doctor* reported.

The tender documents note that the trial will include a "systematic collection of patient outcomes and experienced side effects",

although details on how they will be captured are not clear.

It said the key measures of success include "strengthened relationships between pharmacists and GPs" and evidence that pharmacy prescribing of antibiotics for UTIs won't contribute to antimicrobial resistance.

Two-month meds

THE Australian Medical Association (AMA) wants to increase the maximum dispensed quantities of selected PBS items from one month's supply to two month's supply, and implement the recommendations of the independent Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC).

AMA President Professor Steve Robson said: "The failure to implement this independent recommendation is costing both patients and the taxpayer.

"PBAC made the recommendation in 2018 after assessing the clinical safety and ongoing cost-effectiveness of the proposed change.

"The AMA supported the decision as sensible policy and it's clearly a win-win scenario."

Professor Robson said the PBAC decision fully addressed patient safety, with the two-month supply recommendation limited to a list of 143 medicines in circumstances where it is deemed safe by a doctor.

"This is one simple change that could be introduced tomorrow that would improve access to medicines while maintaining safety, by allowing two month's worth of medicines to be dispensed from a single script.

"By doing this, for these particular medicines, patients could get two month's supply from one co-payment," Robson concluded.

The AMA has written to Federal Health Minister Mark Butler asking the government to reconsider this recommendation.



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CH2
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Dispensary Corner

RECENTLY we reported on the newfound ability of ants to sniff out cancer (PD 31 Jan) - and today the wildlife wonder continues with revelations that squirrels can be taught to detect illicit drugs.

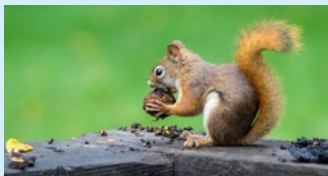
Police in southwestern China last week announced that they had "successfully trained" six Eurasian red squirrels to sniff out contraband, as part of a national initiative aiming to test the use of animals other than dogs in drug-busting operations.

The crack furry anti-narcotics squad was revealed by Yin Jin, a police dog handler in the city of Chongqing who told local media that the tree-dwelling rodents had done an excellent job because of their keen sense of smell.

He said squirrels are particularly suited to detecting illicit items concealed in packages because they are able to squeeze into compact spaces - an ability seen as vital amid an increase in contraband being allegedly sent via post.

Mr Yin said it may be some time before the squirrel squad is deployed on active duty, with further real-world drills expected to be conducted.

"Research like this requires innovativeness as well as the patience for a flower to bloom," he told the *Hechuan Daily*.



HEALTH & BEAUTY

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