



## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from PharmXchange.

## Tech accessories

PHARMXCHANGE has added Force Technology International's mobile and tablet accessories to its network of suppliers.

See more on [page three](#).

## Dukoral supply

CSL Seqirus has a small batch of Dukoral twin packs that are short-dated, and is requesting wholesalers to hold it on hand to supply pharmacies or clinics as needed.

CSL advises pharmacists to contact their wholesalers directly via email or phone to order this stock, expiring on 31 Mar, as the ordering portal may not reflect its availability.

CSL Seqirus will provide a credit for any short-dated Dukoral stock of this batch, that has been purchased and remains unused at the moment of expiry, to be claimed via a wholesaler.

At this stage, CSL anticipates that the new Dukoral stock will become available from the manufacturer early in the second quarter of this year, concluded a CSL Seqirus spokesperson.

# NSW prescribing trial gets the go ahead

THE NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet and Health Minister Brad Hazzard announced yesterday that pharmacists will soon be able to renew existing scripts for the contraceptive pill and provide care to patients suffering from Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) under a new clinical trial across all 2,100 community pharmacies in the state.

The prescribing trial for the treatment of UTIs is to begin on 01 Apr, with a trial for the renewal of oral contraceptive pill prescriptions to start on 01 Jul, which will allow pharmacists to extend an original script issued by a GP or nurse practitioner in the past two years.

Perrottet said this pharmacy plan would "transform healthcare" with people able to book online to see a pharmacist or simply walk in and get the care they need.



"It's harder than ever to get into a GP and that's why these changes will make a real difference to people who need to access a range of prescriptions and treatments.

"It's clear changes are needed at the federal level to help our GPs but NSW is not going to sit back and wait, instead we're fast-tracking these important reforms to give people the care they need now," Perrottet said.

The Pharmacy Guild's NSW branch President David Heffernan said: "Making primary healthcare more

accessible across the state is an urgent challenge.

"Patients are waiting far too long to see a doctor, and pharmacists are ready to play a part in the solution."

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) NSW President Chelsea Felkai said that the pilot will improve access to timely care for NSW patients, and reaffirmed PSA's support for the program.

Doctor organisations have consistently campaigned against expanding the pharmacist's scope of practice citing a lack of training and putting patient safety at risk.

The latest voice to protest is the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, who said these trials further fragment care for indigenous people.

## SHPA identifies barriers in practice

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has published an opinion on barriers and enablers to the implementation of hospital-initiated post-discharge medication reviews in Australia.

The report, published in the latest issue of SHPA's *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research* identified **barriers in both hospital and primary care**, including time pressures, limited resources, and low awareness of Home Medicines Review, and Residential Medication Management Review programs

in the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement.

The report updated program rules, and enablers included facilitation of hospital-initiated medication reviews via GP referral pathways, educational visiting, and onsite GP and aged care pharmacist roles.

The authors propose trial funding of Transition of Care Stewardship pharmacists in hospitals as a key driver of increased access to timely hospital-initiated medication reviews.

Learn more [HERE](#).

## Mpox vaccine

THE Immunisation Coalition has recommended that people attending the WorldPride 2023 festival be vaccinated against Monkeypox (Mpox).

Mpox increased substantially around the world last year, with 144 confirmed Mpox cases in Australia so far.

Pharmacists can encourage festival-goers attending WorldPride to do everything they can to minimise the risk of infection by ensuring they are up to date with the Mpox as well as the COVID booster vaccinations.

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## Dispensary Corner

A HOBART-based doctor has quietly helped hundreds of New Zealanders by sourcing life-saving drugs, but hardly anyone knows his name.

Dunedin woman Hazel Heal is one of those who had a second chance at life, as has musician Martin Phillipps of The Chills.

Dr James Freeman set up a not-for-profit buyers club to help source medication for patients who had a legal right to import medication for their own use.

The medications were for people suffering the likes of cirrhosis, liver failure and cystic fibrosis, who as part of the buyers club were able to access cheap generic drugs.

Due to the group's bargaining power, the treatments cost just a few thousand dollars, and some could be treated for free using the profit margins from the club.

"You would be right in suggesting our buyer's club is 'think global, act local, treat local'," Freeman said.

## \$5m for flood recovery

THE Lismore community has shown great resilience in the face of disaster over the past few years, including the flooding in 2022, bushfires in 2019-20, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognising this hardship, the Australian Government and the NSW Government will each contribute \$2.5m in targeted support for eligible primary healthcare providers to ensure that they can continue to provide quality primary healthcare to Lismore locals.

The funding will be distributed in grants for pharmacies, general practices, allied health (including mental health), dental practices, private specialists, pathology providers, drug and alcohol treatment services, and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in Lismore.

Grants of up to \$150,000 will be available, with provisions to consider applications from providers with exceptional circumstances above that threshold.

"Supporting primary care providers to recover benefits the entire Lismore community, ensuring locals can continue to see their own GP, dentist, mental health



professional or pharmacist," shared Federal Health Minister Mark Butler.

NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard added "the NSW Government's \$2.5m will help local healthcare providers deal with the ongoing effects of the flood.

"I visited Lismore soon after the floods and know it has been really awful for the community."

Out of 67 local primary care providers surveyed following the disaster, 58 practices reported some flood damage.

Funding for the grants will be provided to the North Coast Primary Health Network, Healthy North Coast.

Further information on how to apply for a grant can be found through Healthy North Coast **HERE**.

Eligible providers are encouraged to contact Healthy North Coast as of today.



## Weekly Comment

Welcome to *Pharmacy Daily's* weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Enza DiMauro, Automation specialist and Regional Sales Manager, Omnicell Australia.**



### Benefits of Automated Dispensing Systems

**EXPERIENCE** in pharmacy automation for over 13 years has shown the level of confidence in benefits brought by Automated dispensing and inventory management systems has grown considerably.

Pharmacists truly understand the value of utilising robots for the management of their dispensary medication.

Pharmacy is dominated by administrative tasks and streamlining these processes through automation helps remove this burden, freeing up pharmacy staff to manage the ever-increasing demands on community pharmacy.

With pharmacists becoming a bigger part of the healthcare system, automation provides the opportunity to increase focus on patient care and services.

It allows pharmacists to deliver personalised consultation and drive sales of over-the-counter products and complimentary medication.

With increased demands on pharmacy from the pandemic, its time to future proof your pharmacy to ensure you are ready for what comes next.

## Go smoker free

A MONASH University study, crunched data from about 12,700 Australians to forecast the likelihood of people quitting smoking within different household types.

The study showed that over 10 years, in cases where smokers lived with non-smokers, the number of people smoking would fall by 43% - see more **HERE**.

## Cronos name change to Vitura Health

**CRONOS** Australia has changed the name of the company to Vitura Health Limited.

Since its merger with CDA Health Pty Ltd, the company has worked to integrate the two businesses into one cohesive company.

The board believes that this integration will be deepened by the group adopting a new name that reflects the vision, values,

and aspirations of the merged company, rather than being tied to a name that more closely reflected the Cronos Australia pre-merger business.

After overwhelming support from its shareholders, and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission altering the details of the company's registration, the change of name is effective now.



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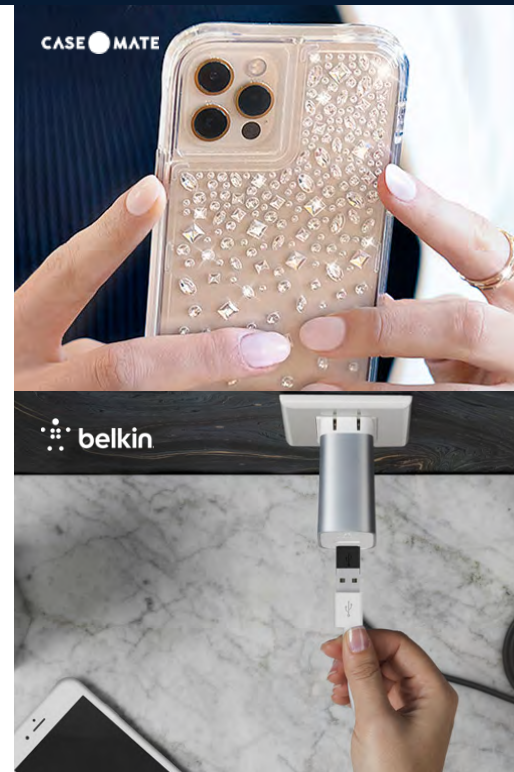
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