

PHARMACY CAREERS SUMMIT

If you are looking for your dream intern role, then this is the must-event for you.

Eleven of Australia's leading community pharmacy banner groups will all be together, on one day, in one place, virtually, and with over 40 representatives available to talk to you.

No virtual event has ever had this many banner groups! It is an amazing show of support for those looking to learn more about careers in pharmacy.

With over 30 industry experts presenting, across 14 sessions, the event is also great if you are considering studying pharmacy or you are a current or potential owner of a community pharmacy.

To be part of this exciting, free, virtual event, secure your free place and [register now!](#)

FREE Virtual Event of the Year | 7th July 2023

#PCS23AU #pharmacy



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NAPSA



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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a front cover from **Pharmacy Careers Summit 2023**, and a full page from **Nova Pharmaceuticals**.

A real drawcard

THE Pharmacy Careers Summit 2023 is the biggest virtual gathering of 11 banner groups and over 30 presenters to talk to interns and pharmacists to help them secure possible roles or find new direction in their careers.

The **Pharmacy Daily** and Raven's Recruitment event is not to be missed.

To register **CLICK HERE**.

Rehydrate well

NOVA Pharmaceuticals is offering 25% discount on its Elactalyte effervescent electrolyte tablet range and pharmacies will also receive a \$20 e-gift card.

See more on **page four**.

Wizard Pharmacy merger

FORMING a powerful collaboration under the new national-operating entity Wizard Professional Services are three Western Australian-based companies, Wizard Pharmacy Services, Razor Group, Razor Technology and HealthPoint Digital (**PD** Fri Breaking News).

Wizard Pharmacy Services, the company behind the pharmacy brand Wizard Pharmacy, will unite with Razor Technology, an IT solutions provider, Razor Group, a specialist business services company empowering business owners to reach their financial and business operating goals, and HealthPoint Digital, a health solutions information provider.

By combining their respective strengths, Wizard Professional Services aims to create a comprehensive suite of offerings across areas such as IT solutions, bookkeeping, workforce management, business intelligence and a complete pharmacy franchise operating model.

Wizard Professional Services CEO Lyndon Dyson said as we



are "looking for further cost efficiencies across the business units, we engaged EY's Strategy & Transactions division to assist in facilitating the vertical integration of the four business units which has enabled us to focus on a new Wizard Franchise fee structure that will be extremely competitive in the market".

COO Sally Parker added that the merger "will allow us to support franchise partners even deeper as we bring operational and financial data together quickly and effectively".

Commenting on Wizard's one-stop shop, GM Clinical Services Jeffrey Lam said, "this fully integrated end-to-end service for pharmacy assists in counteracting the 60DD effects".

PPA's big pay win

PROFESSIONAL Pharmacists Australia (PPA) members at National Pharmacies have voted in favour of a new pay deal that sees their wages increase 10.2% from 01 Jul, and includes a 5.2% rise backdated to 01 Jul 2022 and a further 5% increase 01 Jul 2024.

Pharmacists have also negotiated a new and improved classification structure that recognises pharmacists' competencies, experience, and responsibility and provides proper career pathways from interns to professionals.

The agreement will also see the introduction of a paid parental leave scheme whereby eligible employees will receive a 'top-up' of pay for 18 weeks between the minimum wage paid under the Federal Government scheme and the employee's ordinary earnings.

Members have also won several other significant improvements to their enterprise agreement, **HERE**.

Grab Pharmacy Connect's early bird rate

WITH less than one month to go until early bird registration closes for the annual Pharmacy Connect national conference, delegates are reminded that they have until Fri 28 Jul to register and save.

Commenting on the timing of Pharmacy Connect with regards to the recent Labor Government budget announcements and the impact on community pharmacy, conference conveyor Kos Sclavos said, "pharmacists could not afford to miss this year's event",

and encourages those working in the pharmacy sector to register now to not miss out on the early bird discounted rate.

"The situation is very fluid and the allocated time slots in the conference program to cover this critical topic will ensure you are in the best position to be kept informed to make relevant decisions...so make the most of the early bird registration," he said.

Register for Pharmacy Connect, **HERE**, which will be held alongside the PA conference.

Opioid-treatment medications on PBS

FROM now people with opioid dependency will have their medication on the PBS.

The government said rather than paying up to \$200 a month in out-of-pocket costs, patients will pay the PBS co-payment of up to \$30, or \$7.30 for concession card holders.

These co-payments will also contribute towards the PBS Safety Net threshold.

The government stated that "this amounts to a \$377 million investment in community

pharmacies and will provide much-needed cost of living relief for tens of thousands of patients - four out of five Australians receiving treatment for opioid dependency are on income support".

"Transition arrangements will apply until 30 Nov, which will ensure that private clinics, non-PBS pharmacies, and other dosing sites can still provide these medicines to patients while they transition to a PBS-approved pharmacy."



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*Circana MarketEdge, MAT to 05/02/23, AU Grocery Pharmacy, Hand Cream Category



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PBS drug listing

KERENDIA (finerenone) is now PBS listed, with the drug used to delay the progressive decline of kidney function in adults with chronic kidney disease associated with type 2 diabetes (with albuminuria or protein is found in the urine).

It is used in addition to standard medicines for the condition.

Bayer's Kerendia works to block hormones (such as aldosterone and cortisol) from attaching to their receptors (known as mineralocorticoid receptors) in the kidney and blood vessels.

Blocking the over-activity of these receptors may prevent the inflammation and scarring that cause kidney disease to progress.

Kerendia can cause side-effects with the most frequent adverse events being high potassium levels, low sodium levels, and low blood pressure.

New 01 Jul payments

THE new 01 Jul rules have taken effect which means manufacturers of more than 2,900 brands of medicines are required to hold a minimum of four or six months' worth of stock onshore in Australia.

Govt payments to community pharmacies have increased by 7%, meaning "significant increases in payments for services like dispensing, handling, administration and infrastructure," said Federal Health Minister Mark Butler (**PD** Breaking News today).

The 7% indexation "boost to pharmacy payments is nearly double" the 3.6% indexation of Medicare rebates that also took effect on 01 Jul, he said.

For a standard script, such as atorvastatin, pharmacies will receive an extra \$0.85, taking the fee to \$12.99 per script.

An average pharmacy in the following locations will receive, as a major metropolitan area \$41,229.98, a large regional centre \$43,118.72, rural towns

\$26,857.00 to \$51,746.92, a remote community \$18,742.23, and a very remote community \$12,448.82.

The govt said the "doubling of the total annual budget" for the Regional Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance means that a pharmacy dispensing 50,000 scripts a year in the following locations will receive, as a large rural town (eg Armidale NSW, Bribie Island Qld, and Broadwater WA), an increase of \$3,000 to a total of \$6,000; a medium rural town (eg Margaret River WA, Port Pirie SA, Echuca Vic), an increase of \$10,360 to a total of \$21,965; a small rural town (eg Lang Vic, Mount Seymour Tas, Adelong NSW), an increase of \$17,720 to a total of \$37,930; a remote community (eg Queenstown Tas, Katherine NT, Auburn Qld), an increase of \$25,080 to a total of \$53,895; a very remote community (eg Currie Tas, Thursday Island Qld, Denham WA), an increase of \$32,440 to a total of \$69,860.

Zantac trial in US

THE first US trial over claims that discontinued heartburn drug Zantac causes cancer is now expected to take place in California state court in Nov, reported *Reuters*.

Plaintiffs in the litigation claim that Zantac causes nine forms of cancer, including colorectal, breast and bladder cancer.

Thousands of lawsuits over Zantac have been filed in California against GSK, Sanofi, Pfizer and Boehringer Ingelheim, which all sold the drug at various times.

In 2019, some manufacturers halted Zantac sales over concerns that its active ingredient, ranitidine, degraded over time to form a chemical called NDMA (N-Nitrosodimethylamine).

While NDMA can be present in low levels in food and water, research has found it causes cancer in larger amounts, *Reuters* reported.



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We're taking on the future together.

Over three days we'll tackle immediate challenges like 60-day dispensing and the opportunities of technology to streamline pharmacy operations and engage consumers to manage their health.

Program:

- **Sun 27 Aug:** Optional activities & evening welcome function
- **Mon 28 Aug:** Full-day conference sessions with inspiring keynote sessions
- **Tue 29 Aug:** Full-day brand streams - Chemist Discount Centre, Pharmacy Alliance/Alliance Pharmacy, Advantage Pharmacy, Pharmacy Catalyst; plus Gala and Awards Dinner
- **Wed 30 Aug:** Half-day conference leadership, budgeting, planning, developing a high performing team



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Dispensary Corner

A SOFT robo-glove can help stroke patients relearn to play music, say the researchers who developed it.

The "soft smart hand exoskeleton" gives feedback to wearers who need to relearn tasks that require manual dexterity and coordination, for example after suffering a stroke.

The present study focused on patients who need to relearn to play the piano as a proof-of-principle, but the glove can easily be adapted to help relearn other daily tasks, say its researchers.

Lead author Dr Maohua Lin, an adj prof at the Department of Ocean & Mechanical Engineering of Florida Atlantic University shared that machine learning was used to successfully teach the glove to 'feel' the difference between playing a correct versus incorrect versions of a beginner's song on the piano.

Here, the glove operated autonomously without human input, with preprogrammed movements.

The song was 'Mary had a little lamb', which requires four fingers to play.

"While wearing the glove, human users have control over the movement of each finger to a significant extent," said senior author Dr Erik Engeberg, a prof also in the same team.

"The glove supplies hand guidance, providing support and amplifying dexterity."

The authors foresee that patients might ultimately wear a glove on each hand.

A laugh to raise a million

PRICELINE Pharmacy's latest fundraising campaign running till 26 Jul aims to raise \$1 million, with all proceeds to go to its Sisterhood Foundation's charity partners, Motherless Daughters Australia, Perinatal Anxiety & Depression Australia and Raise Foundation.

The campaign will see Ambassador Chrissie Swan call on comedians Dave Hughes, Nikki Britton, Claire Hooper and Lizzy Hoo to join her as she hosts a one-night-only charity comedy show on 16 Aug at Melbourne's Comedy Republic.

Customers will go into a draw to win a VIP double pass to the comedy charity show worth \$2,000, including return flights and accommodation.

Two team members from the top fundraising stores will also receive a VIP experience to the show.

Patron Ita Buttrose (pictured) shared, "I am confident that their efforts in store will help the



Priceline Sisterhood Foundation reach its donation goal of \$1 million this year," she added.

Pharmacy General Manager Andrew Vidler says store involvement each year is "always competitive and key to the success of the Sisterhood Foundation".

Sponsors include Sanofi, L'Oréal, Pharmicare Laboratories, Procter & Gamble, Allergan and AFT Pharmaceuticals.

Pharmacist banned for defrauding PBS

A "RECKLESS" pharmacist who "defrauded the PBS \$42k for fake claims for fertility drugs", has been banned for five years.

The WA State Administrative Tribunal said David Brewster, 66, who has had previous dealings with regulators over his professional conduct, has spent seven months behind bars.

The owner of Hollywood Pharmacy in Nedlands, WA, submitted PBS claims for 83 prescriptions of Puregon, Pregnyl and Gonal-F pens for 18 patients.

The claims, totalling \$42,358, included hard copies of the original prescriptions and repeats, written by fertility specialists, but for 70 of these

prescriptions, the pharmacist was "reckless" in that he failed to check the medications had actually been dispensed, the WA Tribunal found.

"In fact, the fertility medications were not supplied to the relevant patients," it said.

"Additionally, the relevant patients did not require the fertility medications at the dates of supply noted on the claim forms.

"This was for reasons including pregnancy, not continuing with IVF treatment, supply predating IVF treatment, their prescriptions were not filled, they had ceased taking the medications or they had ceased ovulation induction treatment," Tribunal has found.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Catherine Koetz, Director - Healthcare, GS1 Australia**



Barcode concerns

WITH so many challenges continuing to face community pharmacy and the wider pharmacy sector, it is easy to miss some of the changes that are slowly occurring in the background.

In Jan 2023, a new standard for the barcoding of medicines came into effect and we are already seeing an increased number of 2D DataMatrix barcodes appearing on medicines' packs.

The main reason for the introduction of the new barcode is to help with the overall visibility and traceability of medicines across Australia, but more importantly, they also support other areas of the supply chain and patient and consumer safety.

Though most dispensing software and scanners can use these barcodes in the dispensing process, we know that there are still some challenges in ensuring that the barcodes can scan the first time every time and in ensuring that the main identifier in the traditional barcode (commonly known as the EAN) is the same as the one in the new 2D one -if you come across barcode issues report it **HERE**.



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