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AU-2023-05-0120



Tue 25th July 2023

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Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a front cover wrap from Duro-Tuss, and a full page from TerryWhite Chemmart.

Measles alert

NSW Health has put out a measles alert after two confirmed cases were reported for international flight passengers who visited Randwick and Rose Bay in Sydney.

The three pharmacies visited include TerryWhite Chemmart Gaslight Rose Bay on Sat 15 Jul between 11am and 11.45am, Priceline Randwick, 49-51 Belmore Rd, on Thu 20 Jul from 2.15pm to 3pm; and Blooms the Chemist, Royal Randwick, 26/73 Belmore Rd, on the same day from 2.30pm to 3.15pm.

Pharmacy staff and customers are asked to check for symptoms till 07 Aug.

777 stands against 60DD

PHARMACY 777 at Albion Park, NSW, is standing up against 60-day dispensing by supporting the Guild's Save Your Pharmacy campaign.

Proprietor and partner
Stefan Vrankovic shared with
Pharmacy Daily, "we have
been in ownership for just
10 months and this dramatic
change is going to make our
survival very difficult as we have a
big debt over our heads".

"We're open 13 hours a day and offer services such as sleep apnoea, compounding, wound management, & Webster packing.

"We have six pharmacists rostered on daily, and then to cut our funding so dramatically, you can imagine what that does to us."

Vrankovic said he will need to start charging for advice, home deliveries, Webster packing and much more that he currently offers for free.

"The Government says this policy will save patients money, but by impacting pharmacy, we can't continue to offer the services we do



to patients, something has to give."
Vrankovic said his business would
"survive" as they "will adapt and
restructure", but at "what cost!".

"It's a Budget-saving exercise because there is no thought behind the health impacts for the patient."

He added that there seems to be little appreciation that pharmacists are clinically trained professionals and "were trained by the book to give out high-risk medications every 21 days, now all of a sudden that goes out the window, and this can lead to medication misadventures".

"It makes no sense to me."

Pictured: The Pharmacy 777 Albion Park team.

A 10 for self-care

THE Australian Self-Care Alliance launched its Self-Care Charter yesterday, which sets out 10 care principles that consumers need to live well and create better health outcomes for themselves and their families.

The Self-Care Charter may also give pharmacists some ideas for their own self-care routine.

To learn more CLICK HERE.

Dry cough relief

DURO-TUSS Relief Dry Cough Liquid has marshmallow to help relieve throat irritation due to an associated dry, unproductive cough.

The medicine can be used for customers aged 3+ years.

See more on the cover page.

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APC seeks input on draft

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has announced that stakeholders can now provide their feedback on the draft *Performance Outcomes* for the education programs that will credential pharmacists to work in aged care and conduct medication management reviews.

This is a companion to the recently published *Accreditation*Standards for credentialing of aged care and medication management review.

Public consultation is open to all stakeholders and interested parties until Mon 07 Aug.

Pharmacists can now see the draft *Performance Outcomes* and consultation details, **HERE.**

"The safety and protection of older Australians, along with quality healthcare and support for families and carers, is the main focus of this development process," CEO Bronwyn Clark said.

"We are seeking feedback on the Performance Outcomes framework



that describes the competencies and expected performance of pharmacists undertaking medication management services in various settings including in residential aged care."

The APC is gathering feedback through various methods including an online survey, email, and written submissions.

For any enquiries about the development of the *Performance Outcomes* framework, **CLICK HERE**.

Joint recycling of blister packs waste

VIATRIS Australia and National Pharmacies have expanded their strategic relationship which will help to broaden access to the first medical blister pack recycling program in South Australia, Victoria, and NSW.

The blister pack recycling program was piloted in Dec and in its first eight months has collected approximately 1.5 million blister packs, which is 2.2 tonnes of material.

With the further adoption of the program across National Pharmacies stores in South Australia, Victoria and NSW, the program will divert an additional 25% (approximately 2 million blister packs) by the end of this year, which is 2.9 tonnes of material from landfill.

Plastic and aluminium will be separated and re-purposed as construction materials and thermal blocks.

National Pharmacies Chief Executive, Vito Borrello said



"the initiative, which is available across 44 pharmacy stores, has further strengthened our commitment to become more environmentally sustainable, and it's important for us to demonstrate leadership".

Viatris Australia Country Manager, Sylvain Vigneault, added, "the extension of this program allows Viatris to continue to sustainably deliver quality medicines and health solutions, as well as advance our responsible operations".

Pictured (L-R): Vito Borrello, Pharmacist in Charge at National Pharmacies Henley Beach, Carmel Papastamatis, and Sylvain Vigneault.



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¹Koetter U, et al., *Phytopher Res.* 2007;21:847-851. ² Fussel A, et al., *Eur J Med Res.* 2000;5:385-390.

³ Lataster MJ, et al., *Notabene Medici.* 1996;4:182-185.





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Dispensary Corner

THE scientific advancements in HIV treatment were brought to life through the work of 12 artists from around the world who are living with the disease.

As distinguished scientists gather in Brisbane for the 12th International Conference on HIV Science, the HIV Science as Art exhibition will take place at Metro Arts, metres away from the conference centre.

Each of the 12 eminent scientists (who were presenting at the conference) have been matched with an artist living with HIV to create a collaborative artwork over a 90-day period (Mar-May).

All selected artists received a commission to create an original piece of work in conversation with their companion scientist that reflects the concepts of their scientific work.

The final works, which will include everything from fashion design, painting, & photography to sculpture, will be for sale alongside catalogues, high-quality art prints, and postcard sets, the organisers explained.

All proceeds will be used to support programs and services for people living with HIV in the Asia Pacific region.

Participating scientists include DrYa-Chi Ho (Yale University), Dr Claudia Cortez (University of Chili) and Dr Ryan Whitacre (Graduate Institute, Geneva) and the artists include Tim Tate (USA), Kairon (Ren-Kai) Liu (Taiwan) and Dani Marti (Spain/Australia).

HIV Science as Art is funded by a number of organisations.

Teva Pharma joins GBMA

ISRAELI-FOUNDED Teva Pharma Australia joined the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) recently.

Independent Chair Jane Halton shared, "Teva's supply chain delivers to patients globally and is committed, as we are, to do more to protect Australian patients against preventable medicine shortages, while delivering fiscal relief to the health budget and protecting patients against the rising cost of living".

Teva Vice President, APAC Cluster Head and General Manager ANZ, Jim Margaritis, said, "Teva has significant overseas experience linking public health initiatives to the savings generated by costeffective treatments, and looks forward to contributing to GBMA's efforts in implementing policies that support both patients and their clinicians".

Halton added, "while we stand before a significant shift in medicine policy, more can be achieved, as biosimilar medicines remain an untapped resource that could be utilised to offset budget initiatives aimed at supporting patients".

CEO of the GBMA Marnie Peterson said protecting patients against the rising cost of living and avoidable medicine shortages further underscored the shared objectives of Teva and the GBMA.

"Teva, like all GBMA members, has marked a milestone in GBMA's five-year Strategic Agreement, creating stockholding buffers of four to six months," she said.

Class action against cosmetic surgeons

close to 1,000 patients have joined a class action against retired cosmetic surgeon Dr Daniel Lanzer and associates, alleging botched results, lasting physical deformities, nerve pain and numbness, *AusDoc* has reported.

The procedures include liposuction, Brazilian butt lifts,

gynaecomastia procedures, tummy tucks, otoplasty, fat transfers and facelifts performed by a number of doctors in Dr Lanzer's chain of clinics.

In the past month, 13 new patients registered bringing the total to 972, shared Melbourne-based Maddens Lawyers.

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Time to connect to the national PDS

AS WE are now well into the new financial year, the Guild is reminding members to connect to the national Prescription Delivery Service (PDS), if they haven't already done so.

The national PDS came into effect on o1 Jul and pharmacists must be connected by 30 Sep this year to enable their pharmacies to dispense eligible electronic prescriptions.

Pharmacists who haven't already registered to the national PDS are being urged by the Department of Health and Aged Care to do so urgently with eRX, who is the PDS provider, to allow enough time to transition to the new service.

The department says the national PDS system will lead to long-term funding to enable more efficiency and innovation, provide clearer governance and reduce complexity of the prescription delivery ecosystem.

Eligible prescriptions through the PDS will also see the ending of the 15-cent electronic prescription fee.

To register for the national PDS go to the provider eRx's website **HERE**.

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