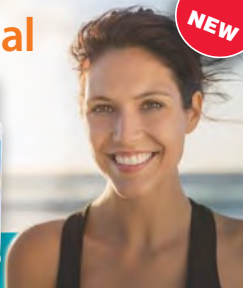


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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus full pages from:

- BioCeuticals
- Prolox

Aims for net zero

BIOCEUTICALS is committed to net zero emissions by 2030 by directing its efforts to the three key pillars of sustainability which include a healthy planet, healthy communities and healthy people.

See more on **page three**.

Targets over 50s

PROLOX is an over-50s skincare range that includes the optimal levels of lipid oil and other plant-based ingredients to nourish and protect fragile, sensitive and compromised skin.

See more on the **back page**.

Over 6,000 seen in trial

WOMEN are bypassing their GPs and going straight to pharmacists when it comes to treatment for urinary tract infections or resupply of the pill, according to the latest figures that reveal this was the case for over 6,000 women thanks to the NSW Pharmacy Trial.

The number of participating pharmacists has also surged from 100 when the trial began to 900 in Sep and again to more than 1,100, representing 60% of pharmacies across the state.

The latest Govt figures show the scheme has been hugely popular with almost 5,800 women accessing treatment from their pharmacist for a UTI and 269 seeking a resupply of their oral contraceptive pills.

The Minns Govt has now approved shingles - a reactivation of the chickenpox virus - to be added, along with impetigo, a highly contagious skin condition often affecting infants and children. Impetigo disproportionately

impacts Indigenous and Pacific islands' children, with repeat infections leading to an increased risk of Acute Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease.

Shingles can affect one in three adults in their lifetime.

Pending ethics approval, pharmacists will be able to offer treatments for both conditions from Mar next year.

Guild NSW branch President David Heffernan said NSW patients would benefit even further when the Minns Govt adopts the "full scope trial" similar to that under way in Qld, where pharmacists were able to treat and prescribe medications for 23 health conditions.

"It's saving patients time and money which is crucial when bulk billing rates are falling and during a cost-of-living crisis," he said.

NSW Health Minister Ryan Park added that thousands of people going into pharmacies and getting treated "is a good outcome and it's good policy." *JG*

China cases surge

THE Chinese Govt on Sun told local authorities to increase the number of medical clinics that can handle a surge in respiratory illnesses in the country, *DW* has reported.

The call comes after China's National Health Commission two weeks ago reported a large increase in pneumonia cases, mostly in children.

Last week, the public disease surveillance system ProMED reported that some Chinese hospitals were "overwhelmed with sick children."

This outbreak was said to be mainly in the capital, Beijing, but also in the northeastern Liaoning province and other areas in China.

Several experts have pointed to winter's arrival, the end of COVID restrictions, and a lack of prior immunity in children as the reasons for the surge in infections, however, WHO has asked for further information.

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Dispensary Corner

PETS have a positive influence on mental health and this month dogs in Nepal were decked out with marigold garlands and bright vermilion paint to celebrate a day dedicated to them as part of a Hindu festival.

Kukur Tihar, the second day of the five-day Tihar festival, is reserved for worshipping dogs as agents of Yamaraj, the god of death, and for appreciating their absolute loyalty and companionship to humans.

Businessman Sujit Dongol, who celebrated the festival at home, told *AFP* that his dog was part of the family.

"He is a companion to everyone and is always happy and playful like a child," he said, holding his one-year-old American Bull Dog in his arms.

"We feel happy worshipping a dog that lives with us."

Dog lovers also offer treats and toys to their pets and street dogs during the celebration.

The Armed Police Force held a special ritual to honour and worship their canine force, which is often used during natural disasters and in the detection of explosives and drugs.

"It is a special day," said Ramesh Pokharel, chief of the Animal Health and Dog Handler section of the Armed Police Force.

"Our dogs have helped us a lot, so the security personnel feel happy to celebrate this," added Pokharel.

Welfare groups have said special treatment should not be limited to just one day, and should be all year round.

Travel health training on

AUSTRALIAN pharmacists are being encouraged to enrol in the Australasian College of Pharmacy's accredited Travel Health Course ahead of the upcoming travel season this summer.

The free course for members provides pharmacists with a comprehensive understanding of travel health services, risk assessment, vaccine-preventable illnesses, and more.

Recent increase in travel has provided a significant opportunity for pharmacists to help patients prepare for travel by providing pre-travel advice and vaccination, and managing any health concerns while travelling and upon return home, the College stated.

The Travel Health Course has been accredited for 7.5 hours of Group 1 CPD (or 7.5 CPD credits) suitable for inclusion in an individual pharmacist's CPD plan which can be converted to 7.5 hours of Group 2 CPD (or 15 CPD credits) upon successful completion of relevant assessment activities.

Victorian pharmacists participating in the Victorian Community Pharmacist State-wide Pilot are strongly encouraged to undertake the course, which allows



this expansion in their scope of practice, the College commented.

Pharmacists can become College members for the reduced rate of \$250 and enrol in the Travel Health Course, as well as enrol in the recently launched Oral Contraceptives Course and Medication Administration Course.

The Travel Health Course provides pharmacists with an understanding of what travel health is and what constitutes travel health services; assessing a patient's risk while travelling; clinical presentation and complications with insect-borne illness; and transport-related conditions including jet lag, motion sickness and venous thromboembolism, explained the College - learn more [HERE](#). JG

Third endometriosis clinic in Sydney

SYDNEY'S third endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic has opened in the suburb of Rouse Hill, providing women with expert, multidisciplinary care and a one-stop option for diagnosis, intervention, and treatment.

Endometriosis affects at least one in nine Australian women with devastating impact on the daily lives of those with the condition and their families.

Pharmacists in the top three as

the most trusted of healthcare professionals can do more as research has shown that one in two women experience extreme pelvic pain and half of them do not discuss their symptoms with a doctor, despite significant impacts on work or study.

The new clinic is inside Rouse Hill Town Medical and Dental Centre bringing the total number of endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics to 22 across Australia.

Strict bail orders

PHARMACIST Ben Huynh has been banned from setting foot inside his business, Cabramatta East Day Night Pharmacy, as part of strict bail conditions slapped on him by police just hours after authorities raided his Dural home over allegations he was involved in defrauding the PBS (*PD* 23 Nov).

According to *The Australian*, prosecutors will allege in court that Huynh submitted false claims for medications under the PBS that were neither prescribed by a doctor nor dispensed to a patient.

Huynh's bail conditions, sighted by the *The Daily Telegraph*, said he is not to enter the Cabramatta store "or go within 200m of that area".

He is also banned from leaving NSW, must surrender his passport, not enter any international airport, and not contact or go near any prosecution witnesses.

Huynh's bail was continued last week when he fronted Sydney's Downing Centre Local Court charged with one count of obtaining a financial advantage by deception - a charge which carries a maximum jail term of 10 years on indictment.

As part of his conditional liberty, Huynh will also be required to live at a nominated address, believed to be the \$20m palatial home at Dural that was raided by authorities earlier this month as part of their investigation.

The same residence in Sydney where police officers seized a BMW and three Ferraris, police reported.



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