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Potential class action over antibiotics

AN INVESTIGATION is under way into a potential class action about the severe and often prolonged side effects caused by fluoroquinolone antibiotics, with a search currently on for people impacted by the drugs.

Law Partners Personal Injury Lawyers is looking into claims in Australia that fluoroquinolone antibiotics like ciprofloxacin, norfloxacin and moxifloxacin are known to cause disabling, long-lasting and potentially irreversible adverse reactions, including peripheral nerve damage, central nervous system effects, tendon rupture or damage and aortic aneurysm or dissection.

Ciprofloxacin, often referred to as 'Cipro', in the class of antibiotics called fluoroquinolones, are strong prescription antibiotics used to treat bacterial infections, including respiratory and urinary tract infections in Australia.

Rebecca Goldfinch, a single mother of three from Canberra,



who was prescribed ciprofloxacin after being diagnosed with an ear infection in Jan 2013, was admitted to Canberra Hospital after taking just two tablets and had burning pain in her legs and rubbery, weak tendons.

She remained in hospital for two weeks and after leaving, struggled to walk for six months, requiring a walking stick.

For the past decade, Rebecca's ongoing health issues have included weakness and pain in her muscles and tendons, spinal problems, headaches and balance issues.

Law Partners Associate Tasahra

Christian, who is overseeing the investigation, said if an adverse reaction to ciprofloxacin or another fluoroquinolone antibiotic has caused anyone to suffer injury, they may be eligible to join the potential class action.

"We want to help those who have been injured get the compensation they deserve.

"We urge anyone who has experienced severe complications after taking fluoroquinolone antibiotics to get in touch with us," Christian said.

In the US, there have already been individual and multi-district litigations against manufacturers of fluoroquinolone antibiotics.

In these cases, it was alleged that the fluoroquinolone manufacturers minimised the information on the risks associated with their drugs, and also that they were well aware of the risks, and failed to provide consumers and medical professionals with adequate warning, Christian added. *JG*

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature.

JAKs increase risk

PATIENTS with immune-mediated inflammatory diseases who are being treated with Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors may be at an increased risk of herpes zoster infection, according to results of a study published in *Frontiers in Pharmacology*.

"The mechanism underlying the association between JAK inhibitor therapy and increased risk of herpes zoster infection is not entirely clear," the authors wrote.

"The inhibition of JAK signalling may impair the immune system's ability to make antiviral cytokines which may be a contributing factor."



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Editor's Choice: Herbal aid for when things start to change

PHARMACARE Laboratories' Promensil PERI may relieve menopausal symptoms experienced by perimenopausal women including hot flushes, night sweats, irritability, moodiness, and restless sleep.

Promensil PERI (RRP: \$54.99) is a herbal medicine with patented extract ERr 731 from the roots of *Rheum rhaponticum*.

This plant-based ERr 731 extract has been available since 1993 and clinical trials have established its efficacy and safety for the relief of menopausal symptoms in perimenopausal women.

A daily 4mg dose of Promensil PERI's ERr 731 is effective in reducing menopausal symptoms.

The first of three key stages of menopause, perimenopause, refers to the start of changes in the menstrual cycle and hormone levels that trigger several menopausal symptoms until a woman's last menstrual period.

This menopause transition stage can last on average four to eight years, with interruptive symptoms impacting a person's ability to concentrate at work, manage interpersonal relationships, feel rested, and live life with vitality.



Louvre is the muse



THE Louvre Museum in France and Lancôme have teamed up for an unprecedented collaboration.

The beauty brand has released a number of skincare and makeup products inspired by nine masterpieces from the sculpture department, as well as the museum's lights and colours.

The star-studded campaign features Lancôme ambassadors Zendaya, Aya Nakamura, Amanda Seyfried and He Cong.

Celebrity makeup artist and Global Creative Director of Lancôme Lisa Eldridge wanted to draw emphasis to the stories and myths these masterpieces embody when creating the makeup collection.

Lancôme was inspired by the Venus de Milo, Victory of Samothrace, Corine, Diana of Gabies, Nympe with a Scorpion, Echo, Hygieia, Venus of Arles and, finally, Hermaphrodite.

The Louvre Museum is one of Paris' most recognisable landmarks, since it first opened its doors in 1793, and has remained a source of inspiration to the world's biggest artists.

"Through this collaboration, the Louvre, a contemporary art hub, helps write today's take on beauty," said the President and Director of Louvre Museum, Laurence des Cars.

Soft matte finish

BANANA Boat Ultra Light Face Sunscreen Fluid SPF50+ is formulated with hyaluronic acid and jojoba oil to provide 12-hour moisturisation with a soft matte finish.

Perfect for daily use, this fast-absorbing, ultra-lightweight formula is fragrance-free and non-comedogenic, and offers very high UVA/UVB protection from the sun.

It retails for \$19.95.



Healthy radiance for skin without irritation



SEVENTY percent of women say they have sensitive skin; however, many existing brightening products contain ingredients that aren't suitable for this skin type.

Fellow of The Australasian College of Dermatologists Dr Leona Yip said, "for those with sensitive skin it is necessary to avoid actives or high

concentrations of ingredients as it can cause irritation or breakouts.

"However, these ingredients are often found in popular brightening products and cannot be used or should be used with caution."

A new and exclusive range to Chemist Warehouse from Cetaphil, is offering customers with sensitive skin brightening products with ingredients that aim to add radiance without irritation.

Cetaphil's Bright Healthy Radiance range (RRP: \$19.99 - \$49.99) is hypoallergenic with fragrance-free formulas utilising ingredients that may brighten skin in 14 days, while simultaneously defending against the five signs of skin sensitivity - dryness, irritation, roughness, tightness, and a weakened skin moisture barrier.

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Dispensary Corner

MEMBERS of the Amish community have been “shunned” by their church after the recent test of an emergency alert system outed them as having procured forbidden mobile phones, UK’s *Independent* has reported.

The alarms - part of the nationwide emergency alert drill that the US govt carried out on 04 Oct - drew the attention of community elders in Ohio.

Eli Yoder, a former member of the Amish community, took to TikTok where he explained how three of his friends had gotten into trouble, after the devices he gave them were discovered.

“Now, three of them replied to me and said, ‘Hey, I’m gonna have to lay low for a while, I just got shunned’ and I said, ‘how’s that happened?’

“They said, ‘that emergency alert that went off? Yeah, we had our phones on vibrate, and it still went off.’”

In Amish culture, shunning means a person is no longer allowed to eat with members or take rides with them.

First RAP Blooms ahead

BLOOMS The Chemist Management Services has launched its inaugural Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), with the vision to build a future where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities can access culturally appropriate good health and wellbeing.

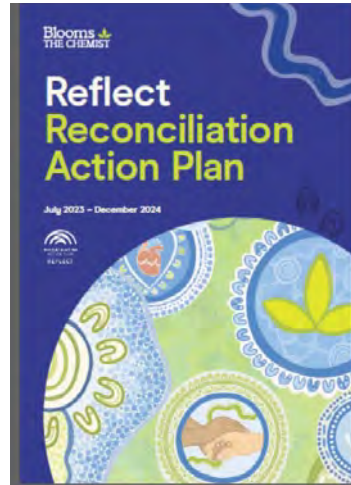
The RAP signifies the company’s commitment to developing better cultural awareness within its business, with appropriate education provided to team members across its network to further support positive health outcomes for First Nations people.

Blooms CEO Emmanuel Vavoulas said, “the introduction of our first RAP Plan is an immensely proud moment for us as a business”.

“We exist to help build a future where everyone, everywhere, has access to good health and wellbeing,” he added.

Over the last year, Blooms has worked with Sharon and Neenah Gray of Winangar Guru, a 100% indigenous-owned consultancy specialising in Reconciliation Action Plan development, to create a RAP that is tailored to the Blooms The Chemist network.

“We will work alongside and be led by Australia’s First Peoples to help find ways to



close the gap in life expectancy and disproportionate numbers of chronic illnesses within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities,” explained Vavoulas.

“We are determined to implement lasting change within our business and the communities we service for 2023 and beyond.”

Blooms The Chemist also stated it is working to ensure local communities are equitable, “so no matter where Australians are located, they can receive expert health advice and more from their local Blooms The Chemist staff,” commented Vavoulas. *JG*

10-year ‘clear’ plan

THE 10-year National Mental Health Workforce Strategy will guide coordinated action over the next decade to ensure Australians can get the mental healthcare they need.

With demand for mental health services outstripping supply and a workforce unevenly distributed, the Govt hopes its strategy sets out a “clear plan to attract, train, maximise, support, and retain a diverse workforce”, that can meet the current and future needs of all Australians.

This includes opportunities to grow the rural and remote workforce & increase First Nations people’s representation and other priority populations.

Pharmacist and Assistant Minister Emma McBride said, “the backbone of our mental healthcare system is the dedicated professionals who work in it, but recent challenges have stretched our systems of care, and the mental health workforce.

“This strategy outlines how to get the right mix of professionals in the right place and is critical to making support affordable and accessible.”

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