

PHARMACY CAREERS SUMMIT 2024

FREE Virtual Event | 5th July 2024

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The annual Pharmacy Careers Summit promises to be the biggest employment gathering of Pharmacy Banner Groups in Australia this year!

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, a cover wrap from Pharmacy Careers Summit 2024, plus a full page from Dispense Assist.

Careers Summit

REGISTRATIONS are open for the annual Pharmacy Careers Summit, which will provide career opportunities for students, interns and pharmacists - see the cover page for more details.

Dispense Assist

PHARMACIES can sign up for a free trial of Dispense Assist, a low-cost solution that can help with dispensing for dose administration aids, compounding, medicinal cannabis, e-prescriptions, and more - find out more information on the back page.

Heart rehab program reduces death risk

AUSTRALIANS who have experienced a cardiac incident can lower their risk of death by completing a cardiac rehabilitation (CR) program.

A new study published in the journal *Heart, Lung and Circulation* found the specialised programs, which combine support, exercise and education, reduced risk of death and hospital readmission by 38% within the following 12 months.

However, these programs aren't being used to their full potential, with only a third of eligible participants referred to cardiac rehabilitation and of those, only 36% started the program.

The review showed patients who were female, older or suffered from other conditions such as cancer, stroke or obesity were less likely to be referred, while depression and long waiting times deterred patients from starting.

COVID complacency hits all-time high

NEW research has revealed the lax attitude of most Australians towards COVID-19, with more than four in five (83%) only somewhat, or not at all, concerned about the impact of the virus in their community.

The troubling findings, which were captured in Pfizer Australia's fourth COVID Community Sentiment Index, showed that Aussies are more complacent than ever about COVID-19 compared to previous years.

The prior three iterations of the COVID Community Sentiment Index showed around two in three Australians (61% in Nov 2023, 66% in May 2023 and 61% in Nov 2022) felt less concerned about the impact of the virus in their community than a year earlier.

According to the survey of 1,000 Australians, which was conducted last month, 27% of Australians who are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19 reported they were not at all worried about their personal risk.



The research also highlighted a lack of awareness surrounding oral antiviral medicines, with more than a third of Aussies (35%) unaware that they can help reduce the risk of serious illness from COVID-19, while more than half (54%) didn't realise they need to be started within five days of symptoms arising or testing positive.

Additionally, more than half (54%) of Australians at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19 have not checked their eligibility for oral antiviral medicines.

"For most people, COVID-19 is no longer front of mind but all of us

on the frontline are still seeing the significant impact of the virus on the more vulnerable members of our communities," said Dr Krishan Thiru, Medical Director at Pfizer Australia and New Zealand (pictured).

He went on to suggest that patients at higher risk of serious illness should be encouraged to put together a COVID plan with their GP as soon as possible, get tested if they suspect COVID-19, and be ready to act fast and implement their plan if they test positive.

The findings follow new data from the Federal Government, which shows that a seven-day rolling average of 117 Australians a day were admitted to hospital with COVID-19 and 37 people were in intensive care units with COVID-19 complications, as of 01 Mar 2024.

Australians are encouraged to check if they are at higher risk of developing severe illness from COVID-19 and their eligibility for oral antiviral medicines at health.gov.au or knowplango.com.au. JM



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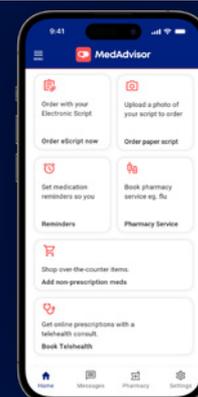
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Dispensary Corner

SOME may assume that *Married at First Sight* contestant Eden Harper has full lips as a result of filler.

But this week, she revealed the trauma behind the freak accident that left her face partially paralysed.

"My lips are definitely my biggest insecurity and the thing that gets me down the most when I look in the mirror is the scar above my mouth and the lack of movement in my mouth," she told *Daily Mail*.

"I fainted when I was 21 or 22, and I landed on glass and it split my whole face open and that's where the scar on my face is from," she explained.

"I had a few gashes, but the most notable was probably the size of a stretched out 20 cent coin from above my nose past the end of my mouth, and in order to stitch up the hole, the surgery lifted my whole mouth upwards and it's given me that giant upper lip look that I have."

Harper said the injury killed a muscle in her mouth and froze all movement in the lower half of her face.

"(The accident) was my confession letter on the show, which didn't make the cut, but it was probably the hardest six months of my life because my face was in a bandage for six months and I just thought every time I looked in the mirror I'd burst into tears," she said.

Harper decided to reveal the details of her surgery due to the ongoing speculation about the cosmetic procedures she may have undergone.

Parkinson's set to triple



THE number of Australians living with Parkinson's is projected to more than triple by 2050, a new report from Parkinson's Australia has revealed.

Published to coincide with World Parkinson's Day yesterday, *Ecosystem of Parkinson's in Australia Report: Part 3* looks at the incidence and prevalence of the disorder around the country.

There are currently 150,000 Australians living with Parkinson's, according to the research, with almost one in 10 under the age of 65, and another Aussie diagnosed every 27 minutes.

"Parkinson's is the second most common neurological condition in the world and impacts more than one million Aussies, yet it remains one of the least understood conditions," said Olivia Nassaris, CEO of Parkinson's Australia.

"Our research underscores the urgent need for increased awareness, support, and research into Parkinson's."

"With incidence and prevalence rates set to skyrocket in the coming years, it's imperative that we take proactive steps to address the challenges faced by individuals living with Parkinson's and their families," she added.

At the same time as releasing the report, Parkinson's Australia announced the 2025 Parkinson's

Australia National Conference will take place at the Canberra Convention Centre on 06-08 Apr, marking its first national in-person conference in a decade.

The three-day event will bring together leading experts, healthcare professionals and individuals living with the disease.

To find out more and book tickets, **CLICK HERE.** JM

Huge Syd seize

MORE than 700kg of Xanax was seized in Sydney earlier this week, in what the NSW Police has declared "the single largest seizure of pharmaceutical drugs" in the state's history.

The anti-anxiety medication, officially known as Alprazolam, was found at a storage unit in Auburn, as part of an investigation into the interstate transportation of cash that police suspected was linked to criminal activity.

A 28-year-old man was arrested on Wed night in connection to the case, after police pulled his truck over in Wagga Wagga and discovered \$1 million of cash.

The driver will appear in Bankstown Local Court in Jun.

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