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Today's issue of PD

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

- Pointrs
- Glucojel

Stretch out points

WITH over 3,000 hotels and flights to explore, Pointrs is offering pharmacists ways to save on travel with cash, credit cards and loyalty points.

Pointrs also gives 3.5 times more loyalty points than other providers - see **page three**.

Increase profits

A NATIONAL brand for over 80 years, Glucojel jelly beans is a top-selling product in pharmacy and is a great way to grow your bottom line.

Learn more on the **back page** about how stocking the jelly beans can increase sales.

Mayne pushes Sun Pharma

MAYNE Pharma Group Limited has filed a patent infringement suit against Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd and Inc., in the United States District Court, according to yesterday's ASX announcement.

The company alleges that Sun Pharma infringed on 20 Orange Book listed patents related to Imvexy (estradiol vaginal inserts).

The lawsuit follows Sun Pharma's submission of an Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) to the US Food and Drug Administration, which includes a Paragraph IV certification challenging Mayne Pharma's patents.

The action under the Hatch-Waxman Act triggers a 30-month stay on any potential FDA approval for Sun Pharma's ANDA.

"This lawsuit reflects Mayne Pharma's commitment to protecting our intellectual property rights," said Mayne Pharma CEO, Shawn Patrick O'Brien.

"As one of the top two specialised women's healthcare companies



in the United States, intellectual property is important to our business, and we are confident in our ability to vigorously defend the Imvexy franchise for the benefit of our patients," added O'Brien.

Mayne Pharma had acquired an exclusive license agreement for Imvexy in the United States from TherapeuticsMD Inc. in Dec 2022.

Earlier this month, Mayne Pharma settled a shareholder class action for \$38 million (PD 12 Jul) for alleged misleading or deceptive conduct and breaches of continuous disclosure obligations related to alleged anti-competitive behaviour in the US. JG

Canstar award win

SIGMA Healthcare's Amcal has been awarded Canstar Blue's 'Most Satisfied Customers Award' for 2024.

The national wholesaler's Discount Drug Stores (DDS) was the runner-up in the 'Most Satisfied Customers Award'.

Amcal secured the highest rankings against other leading Australian pharmacy brands in 'Overall Satisfaction', 'Checkout Experience', and 'Store Layout and Presentation'.

DDS took out the top spot for 'Prescription Availability' and 'Speed of Dispensing'.

Renee Watson, Sigma's Head of Retail Operations, congratulated all the Amcal and DDS teams.

"Canstar's award for Amcal is a fantastic recognition of our dedicated teams' commitment to delivering excellent customer experience, expert advice and comprehensive local healthcare services," Watson added.

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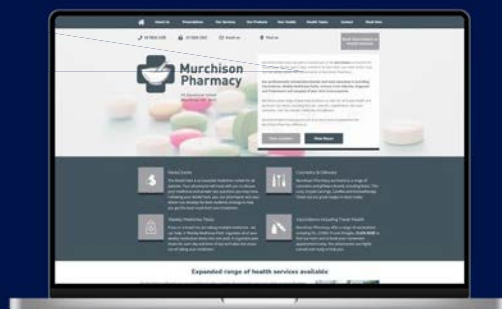
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Dispensary Corner

IF EVER pharmacists had a mortal enemy or nemesis, it would have to be social media.

A new *Frontiers in Medicine* study from the University of Florida analysed 5,842 responses to a Health Information *National Trends Survey* and found, thankfully, that doctors and pharmacists are more trusted than health and government officials when it comes to medical advice.

The poll asked respondents how much they trust different types of medical experts and how health recommendations seem to change over time.

Results also found an inherent uncertainty in evolving health recommendations, conspiracy theories and misinformation spread on social media.

For example, the pandemic saw health experts receive huge volumes of death threats due to viral misinformation.

This was powered by hesitancy towards vaccines, which in turn was leading to easily preventable diseases returning.

The survey found 95% of respondents highly trusted and respected their doctor, while scientists held 80% of trust and 70% for government agencies.

These official departments were judged to be undermining both the scientific process and the public's trust in their doctor, causing high levels of confusion.

Prof Arch Mainous at the University of Florida said the scientific process and conflicting "expert" reports confused the public, but a pharmacist or doctor's advice was sound.

Unscripted alcohol debate



PHARMACY Connect 2024 conference will feature a provocative 'Great Debate' during the Harm Minimisation Workshop on Thu 05 Sep at the Hyatt Regency in Sydney.

The topic, 'All alcohol consumed in Australia should require a doctor's script', is sure to spark a lively discussion, and will feature six prominent speakers.

Arguing for the motion are Dr Hester Wilson, Catherine Bronger, and Daniel Kicuroski.

Opposing the proposition are Dr Marianne Jauncey, Anthony Tassone, and Dr David Jacka.

Workshop facilitator Angelo Pricolo said, "we have assembled six amazing speakers who will debate access to alcohol in Australia and give us their perspectives, as well as a good dose of humour".

The debate will occur before the Welcome Reception, promising an engaging start to the event.

Speakers will be scored on arguments and presentation, and are expected to maintain respectful discourse, added Pricolo.

The Harm Minimisation Workshop will also address topics like vaping and synthetic opioids. *JG*

Parties in NT pitch for expanded scope

TERRITORIANS may soon benefit from expanded health services through community pharmacists, as both major parties seek to enhance healthcare access ahead of the Northern Territory's Aug election.

Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro announced the Northern Territory Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice program, which would allow pharmacists to treat up to 21 conditions if the Country Liberal Party wins the election.

Meanwhile, the current government is also in consultation with the sector to

gather community feedback on expanding pharmacy services.

Colleen Niland, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Vice-President for the territory, welcomed the moves.

"The Northern Territory is home to 270 pharmacists who can and should be empowered to contribute more to the health of Territorians," she said.

Niland highlighted the potential to ease the burden on GPs, such as during peak tourist seasons.

"As pharmacists, we want to do more for our patients, and our patients want us to be able to do more," Niland concluded.

New PA course

THE Australasian College of Pharmacy has enhanced its training course to support the crucial role of pharmacy assistants in the Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot.

The expanded 'Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot Training for Pharmacy Assistants Course' now includes information on health conditions.

Part one of the course, launched in Mar (*PD* 13 Mar), covers the pilot's essential details, benefits for patients and pharmacies, and processes such as eligibility checks and how to maintain patient confidentiality.

Part two of the training delves into 17 common and five chronic health conditions included in the pilot.

Both parts of the course are accredited for QCPP Refresher Training, and are accessible online through the College's CPD library.

Pharmacy assistants can enrol in both parts for \$150 (including GST).

The College's training aims to ensure pharmacy assistants are well-prepared to contribute to the pilot and help enhance community healthcare.

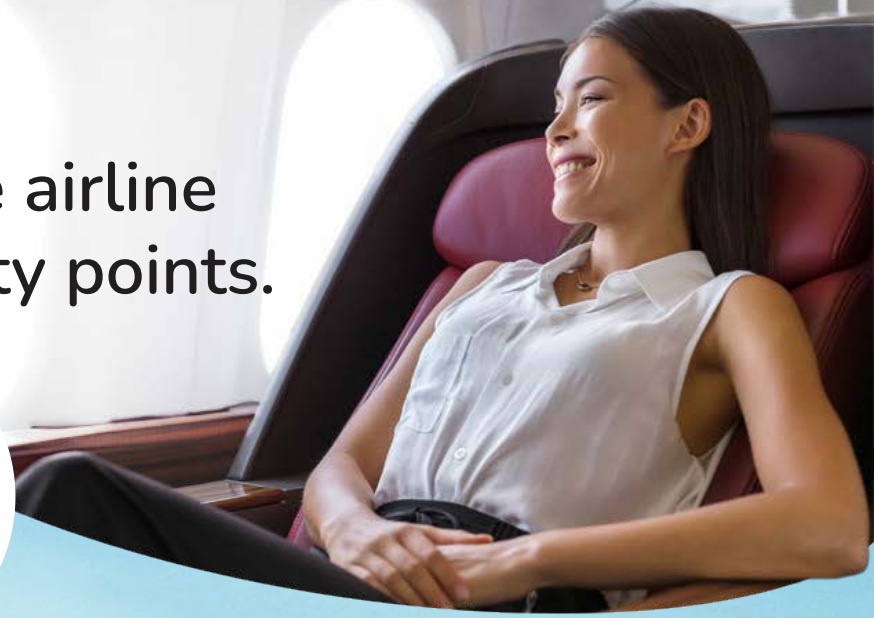


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Pointr #998

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ATO

Pointr #997

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EXPENSES

Pointr #1939

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Pointr #999

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