

New Meds Reminder Service

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Pharmacist women



TODAY is Women Pharmacists Day, created by Pharmacist Moms (#pharmacistmoms #rxmoms) and celebrated in conjunction with National Pharmacist Month which is recognised across the United States through Oct.

Pharmacist Moms was formed to help members support each other with “cool resources” for those involved in balancing their busy professional lives with the many roles associated with motherhood.

The group claims more than 17,000 members and boasts more than 150,000 posts, comments and reactions on social media.

New med cannabis

ASX-LISTED biopharma MGC Pharma has announced that Australians suffering from drug-resistant epilepsy will be able to access a new medical marijuana-based treatment by Dec this year.

Following recent Human Research Ethics Committee endorsement from St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne for the use of MGC’s CannEpi in the treatment of adult patients with drug-resistant epilepsy, the Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved the product.

MGC Pharmaceuticals co-founder and MD Roby Zomer said, “We are delighted to announce the availability of our first product CannEpi for supply under the Authorised Prescriber Scheme.

CSO review outcome soon

THERE’S speculation that the Health Department could release the highly anticipated findings of its review of the Community Service Obligation within the next couple of weeks, with rhetoric around the issue ramping up in recent days.

Sigma CEO Mark Hooper, who is also Chair of wholesaler group The National Pharmaceutical Services Association (NPSA), defended the CSO at a conference this week (**PD** yesterday) and warned of the dangers of a “single point of failure” when it comes to exclusive direct distribution arrangements.

However at the same *eyeforpharma* event, DHL CEO Saul Resnick pointed out that more than two thirds of product currently being delivered to wholesalers is actually coming via DHL “so if there’s a single point of failure it’s already there...the single source of supply in this context actually improves the likelihood of product getting safely to where it needs to go”.

Free HPV vax for men

MEN aged 20 to 34 who have sex with men (MSM) will be offered free vaccination against the human papillomavirus (HPV) in NSW.

Until 31 Dec 2018, NSW Health is offering the four-valent human papillomavirus vaccine (4vHPV), Gardasil, for free to MSM (trans inclusive) due to an increased risk of anal cancer.

Vaccinations will be offered in three doses and made available in all publicly funded sexual health clinics around the state.

Resnick was quoted by *Pharma in Focus* as saying the CSO was outdated and no longer relevant, but has not ruled out participating in the scheme after the details of the review are released.

Current contracts under the CSO are held by Sigma, Symbion, API, National Pharmacies and CH2, but expire in Dec this year.

Resnick urged change in the CSO, saying he believes subsidisation of deliveries to pharmacies in metropolitan areas is unjustified.

“I think if anything the CSO should be funded towards rural, regional and remote areas...where the money’s actually needed,” he said.

The NPSA has warned that direct distribution of “cherry picked” high value products threatens the sustainability of all wholesalers.

AHPRA going down

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) website will be unavailable this coming Sun from 9:30am to 1:00pm AEST due to planned maintenance.

Account services, registration renewals, online graduate applications and financial transactions will also be offline.

Spring promo deals



TODAY is the last day to book our special time-limited promotional opportunities on offer to put your brands front and centre in the **Pharmacy Daily** Spring promotion, with generous online inclusions for greater ongoing impact.

See **Page 3** in today’s **Pharmacy Daily** and contact 1300 799 220 or advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

HCH modules live

TRAINING modules for the Community Pharmacy in Health Care Homes (HCH) Trial Program developed collaboratively by the Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), are now available on the Pharmacy Guild’s GuildEd learning platform and the PSA 6CPA Resource Hub.

Announced earlier in the month (**PD** 03 Oct), the 10 modules are tailored for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants involved in the trial program funded by the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Visit guided.guild.org.au or go to my.psa.org.au to access the course.

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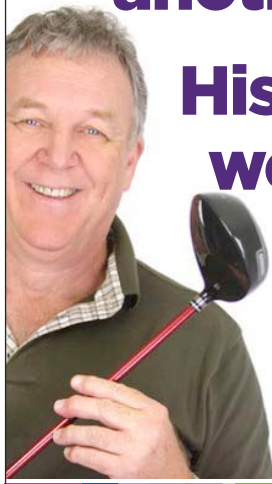
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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Mackay, QLD (Job# 200031316)
Autonomous role with small pharmacy team offering \$45/hr + accom.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Gippsland, VIC (Job# 200031308)
\$\$\$ - Flexible roster - Relocation assist - View to partnership.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - South Coast, NSW (Job# 200031289)
Fabulous package on offer + Gorgeous Coastal location!

Our dynamic support can move your business or career forward!




Bill’s back for another PPI script.

His GORD is well-controlled.

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Dispensary Corner

MEN who think their gender makes them something special are about to have their bubble burst by researchers from China. Scientists have managed to make male obsolescence a real thing, by breeding healthy mice from two mums. Stem cells from one female mouse were altered and injected into the eggs of another female. Mice pups from two dads were also born but did not survive.

AMAZON clearly has healthcare in its sights - not only is the internet giant looking at pharmaceutical distribution (*PD* 03 Jul) - this week it has gone a step further by offering diagnosis. A new patent issued in the US is titled "Voice-based determination of physical and emotional characteristics of users," and is based on the Amazon Echo voice controlled gadget. Apparently the system is able to detect "abnormal" physical conditions - such as a sore throat, cough or snuffle - while when it comes to emotions it can pick up whether the user is happy or sad. Of course it's all about sales for Amazon, with the platform then communicating with an "audio content server" in order to deliver an appropriate advertisement. "For example, certain content such as content related to cough drops or flu medicine, may be targeted towards users who have sore throats...Alexa might then ask 'would you like to order cough drops with one hour delivery,'" the patent says.

Guild ticks tax break

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed the Morrison Government announcement that brings forward the implementation of tax cuts for businesses with annual turnover of less than \$50m. Guild Executive Director David Quilty said the earlier tax cuts for small, medium and family-sized businesses would benefit community pharmacy businesses across Australia, allowing them to invest in the business and employ staff with more certainty. "In a tough trading environment it is pleasing to see the Government recognise the importance of maintaining the viability of small businesses such as community pharmacies," Quilty said. "They employ thousands of Australians and deliver a vital service within our health system and in local communities." "We would certainly hope to see the legislation enabling the bringing forward of the tax cuts passed through the Parliament at the earliest opportunity."

FDA generic advances

THE US Food and Drug Administration's Commissioner Scott Gottlieb has announced a program to support faster development of generic copies of "complex drugs" which are more difficult to "genericise". The FDA is starting with transdermally delivered drugs. Visit fda.gov for more.

Pharmacists fight AMR

COMMUNITY pharmacists have been given an essential role in a national campaign by Public Health England (PHE) to help fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR), according to a *Pharmaceutical Journal* report. Each community pharmacy across the country is receiving advice leaflets around the self-management of respiratory tract infections to give to customers who visit the pharmacy with a cough or cold and flu-like symptoms. The leaflets are to be the starting point for counselling around the last-ditch role of antibiotics.

Patient-centred care

THE Spring issue of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) official member magazine, *Pharmacy GRIT*, presents contributions from pharmacists and other health professional colleagues across Australia unpacking the concept of "patient-centred care" from the viewpoint of all pharmacy roles. SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels said, "While the concept itself can be hard to pin down, patient-centred care is regarded as a hallmark of progressive and human health systems".

Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points. If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

- 16 - 19 Oct:** Pharmacy Alliance Members' Forum; Hamilton Island; register now: pamembersforum.com.au
- 25 - 27 Oct:** Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; Sea World Resort, Gold Coast; for details see: pharmacyassistants.com
- 28 Oct - 02 Nov:** Pharmeducation Annual Conference; Byron Bay; register at: pharmeducationbyron.com.au
- 22 - 25 Nov:** SHPA Medicines Management 2018; Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre; early bird regos close 21 Sep 2018; details on: www.mm2018shpa.com

Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away an Aloe Vera prize pack consisting of 2 Plunkett's Hi-Potency Aloe Vera Facial Masks, 1 hair turban and 1 gym towel valued at over \$30.

Aloe Barbadensis 'Natures medicine plant' is renowned for its soothing, cooling and moisturising properties to restore dry and damaged skin. This single use 100% natural Bamboo fibre sheet mask, infused with 90% certified organic Aloe Vera and other nutrients including Jojoba and Allantoin, leaves the skin comfortably hydrated and feeling nourished and soothed. Visit: www.Plunketts.com.au.

To win, be the first from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

How long should the mask be left on for?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Chelsea Millward.

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