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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from Sigma Rewards.

## More GP pharmacists

THREE major UK think-tanks have called for an extra 3,100 pharmacists to be placed in GP practices across England by 2023/24, reports the *Pharmaceutical Journal*.

The report rationale was that because they offer a large workforce, "relatively" strong future supply and the ability to carry out "substantial" work usually undertaken by GPs and nurses, pharmacists, as well as physiotherapists, "are in a good position to support the primary care team".

The three think-tanks behind the recommendation are the King's Fund, Nuffield Trust and Health Foundation.

"The only way forward is to use the skills of other staff, including pharmacists and physiotherapists, much more widely and routinely in and alongside general practice," the report says.

The report also recommended 6,000 more physiotherapists, all to "compensate for the GP shortfall".

## ACT rolls out RTPM website

PHARMACISTS and doctors in the ACT are being urged to sign up to a new online prescription monitoring website which has formally debuted in the Territory.

Dubbed DORA, the new platform is an "online clinical tool which will help to reduce the harm that can be caused by people misusing pharmaceuticals," said ACT Minister for Health, Meegan Fitzharris.

She said for the first time in the ACT eligible prescribers and pharmacists would have access to "vital information" to assist in making better and safer clinical decisions for their patients, before a prescription is written or dispensed.

"ACT health professionals with access to DORA will be able to view all controlled medicines that have been dispensed to their patient in

the ACT," Fitzharris said.

She said the system would help identify unusual patterns of use by a patient, highlighting potential misuse of controlled medicines.

"DORA has put the ACT on the front foot for adopting national real-time prescription monitoring in the future, as the Federal Government plans to implement its national monitoring system from this year," Fitzharris added.

She said DORA - standing for DAPIS Online Remote Access - was an extension of the ACT's existing Drugs And Poisons Information System (DAPIS), which is the regulatory business system used by ACT Health to monitor prescribing and supply of controlled medicines.

The ACT launch of DORA coincides with the state-wide extension of the \$29.5 million SafeScript system in Vic (see **page two**).

## NPS flu vax update

NPS MedicineWise has published a timely overview article on prevention and therapy of influenza in the latest issue of its *Australian Prescriber* journal, recommending routine vaccination along with hand hygiene, isolation and cough etiquette - see [nps.org.au](http://nps.org.au).

## New brand price drop

THE Health Department has posted details of the first new brand bioequivalent or biosimilar drugs that push down the price of established Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) items.

Products affected are Atazanavir, Atazanavir with cobicistat (applied to the atazanavir component), and Calcipotriol with betamethasone.

Visit [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au) for details.

Other new postings included in the 01 Apr 2019 PBS update are formulary allocations, ex-manufacturer pricing, price disclosure drugs and much more.

For the update see [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## Sigma rewards clients

SIGMA Healthcare is today promoting its Sigma Rewards loyalty program, which allows pharmacies to earn up to three points per dollar redeemable for a range of exclusive "utility, lifestyle and shopping benefits" - for more details see **page four**.

## JOBS OF THE WEEK

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## SafeScript goes statewide



**VICTORIAN** Health Minister Jenny Mikakos last weekend announced the statewide rollout of the SafeScript real-time prescription monitoring system.

The cutting-edge platform was initially launched in Western Vic last Oct, and over the last six months has alerted health professionals at over 400 sites across the region to about 4,500 patients at risk of harm of overdose from visiting multiple clinics or pharmacies.

“Now, more lives will be saved with the system going online for all Victorian doctors and pharmacists,” Mikakos said, with the system allowing health professionals to see the prescription history of their patients in real time.

SafeScript monitors all S8 medicines such as morphine and oxycodone, along with other high risk drugs including codeine and diazepam.

A public awareness campaign is

also being rolled out across the state to highlight the potential dangers posed by prescription medicines as well as reduce the stigma of dependency.

Guild Vic Branch President, Anthony Tassone, said the Guild had been a long-time proponent of real-time prescription monitoring.

“It is pleasing to see the statewide rollout of SafeScript so that more doctors and pharmacists can work collaboratively to reduce harm for patients under their care.”

He said while there had been recent cases of public disagreements between pharmacy and doctor groups (*PD 29 Mar*), “when it comes to harm minimisation there is a strong and constructive relationship”.

Mikakos is **pictured** above at the formal announcement with AMA Vic President Julian Rait (left) and Pharmacy Guild of Australia Vic Branch President Anthony Tassone.

## “No harm done”: doctor

A **DISGRACED** Western Australian GP’s dreams of returning to clinical practice are all but over, following a Supreme Court of WA ruling.

Seeking to overturn a 10-year disqualification from registering as a medical professional imposed by the WA State Administrative Tribunal in Jun 2017, Dr Anish Dwarka Singh, tendered evidence that the ban had left him destitute.

Singh claimed the ban was “excessively harsh and punitive, not only to myself but also to my four children”, adding: “given that there has been no patient death, patient complaint, evidence of criminality or harm done, I believe that the judgement is unreasonable and warrants revision”.

The original Tribunal hearing found Singh had engaged in professional misconduct, carelessness and incompetence in his treatment of patients from 2008 until 2015, with pharmacy dispensing records forming a significant part of the evidence of

his inappropriate practices.

Court documents tendered during the hearing noted Singh had a history of prescribing anabolic steroids, human growth hormone and stimulants for “many hundreds of patients”.



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## Footy tipping winners

**CONGRATULATIONS** to this week’s winners in the latest round of the *Pharmacy Daily* Footy Tipping Competition.

This week the top tipper in the NRL comp was Matt McDowell, while Natasha Shepley from Cooe Bay Pharmacy took out the AFL title.

While these two get to enjoy a week’s worth of bragging rights, the top tipper in each code across the season will win \$1,000 courtesy of Guild Digital - sign up at [pharmacydaily.com.au/footy-tipping](http://pharmacydaily.com.au/footy-tipping).



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## Dispensary Corner

**PHARMACIES** are becoming favoured scenes for drama relating to the Nine network's *Married at First Sight* reality TV nightmare which wraps up tonight.

Over the last seven days gossip bible, *New Idea*, has reported 'shock' sightings of the show's stars in pharmacies in different parts of the country.

With their relationship believed to be on the rocks after the latest episode, Jess and Dan shocked the world being spotted in a Priceline Pharmacy in Chatswood, NSW last week.

*New Idea* revealed that Jess perused haircare products, while Dan was snapped walking out of the shop holding a "small brown paper bag" - sadly the details of what was in said bag have yet to be revealed, so stay tuned to find out whether he was picking up some Hairy Lemon or a script.

An inside source claims Jess picked up a moisturiser!

The gossip mag also revealed jilted bride, Elizabeth Sobinoff, was photographed reading the back of a box containing a home pregnancy kit, sparking questions about how she could possibly be in the family way, as "ex-husband", Sam claimed they never consummated the marriage before he ran off with another one of the show's participants.

Sam's revelations combined with Liz's failure to produce a media release about her relationship status have left *New Idea* readers wondering if she is a modern-day Mary, or if she's been keeping her private life to herself for some bizarre and unknown reason.

Let us know if there are any celeb sightings at your pharmacy.

## Online flu jab recording

**PHARMACISTS** providing influenza vaccinations will be able to meet their recording requirements using MedAdvisor, under an enhancement announced yesterday by the ASX-listed digital medication management company.

MedAdvisor's PlusOne platform has been fully integrated with the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) to streamline the administration of in-pharmacy flu jab programs.

CEO Robert Read, said the system would help reduce duplication of reporting as part of the data collection process.

"The integration with AIR has been one of our main priorities and we are pleased to announce that we are now able to provide the functionality in time for this year's flu season," he said.

"This year's flu season is expected to be the largest on record for in-pharmacy flu shots.

"The integration with AIR will help pharmacies deliver a vital service to their customers by reducing the manual administration of reporting."

"We strongly believe that the

pharmacy sector has an important role to play in public health.

"Our Record Services feature has been built to drive automation and efficiency for pharmacy," he said, with the direct integration into AIR giving pharmacists more time to spend with their patients, as recording requirements have been made quicker and more efficient.

Under the enhancement to PlusOne, pharmacists need only to complete the immunisation registry form and the system "automatically takes care of the rest".

## 20 years of drug scans

**THE** European Medicines Agency (EMA) has summarised the results of the last two decades of monitoring of centrally authorised medicinal products on the European market.

The EMA, alongside the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & Healthcare and the Official Medicines Control Laboratories Network, conducts a yearly sampling and testing program - to view the outcomes visit [ema.europa.eu](http://ema.europa.eu).

## Meds/biologics RMPs

**THE** TGA has posted new guidelines for Risk Management Plans relating to prescription medicines and biologicals where the sponsor is seeking to vary or enter the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods - [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## Guild Update

### ACT real time monitoring for prescription medicines welcomed

**THE** ACT Government's introduction of a real time prescription monitoring website for health professionals has been welcomed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Known as DORA, the new system is being introduced to try to reduce the misuse of prescription medicines.

It is based on a secure website that provides prescribers and pharmacists with information about a patient's previous supplies of controlled medicines.

ACT Branch President of the Pharmacy Guild Simon Blacker said real time monitoring was an essential step in helping to reduce misuse of prescription medicines.

"To date there has been no unified system to enable doctors and pharmacists to track patient use and identify vulnerable and at-risk patients.

"This system is a great step forward. It is an important public health initiative which is welcomed by community pharmacists across the ACT," Blacker said.

## Win with PURE Papaya

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and PURE Papaya are giving away a prize pack valued at \$48.95.

100% Natural skin care range perfect for use by the whole family. PURE range includes Vapour Balm (Chest rub), Papaya Ointment (ultra-rich multi use skin food), Papaya Renew (Scars & Stretch marks), Papaya Lips (lip balm to nourish & protect). Visit [Purepapayacare.com.au](http://Purepapayacare.com.au) to find out more.

To win, be the first from QLD to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**PURE Papaya Ointment is made using a base of Shea butter. What are the key benefits of Shea butter?**

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Gayleene Chapman.*





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