

UK pharmacist plan

AUTHORITIES in the UK have announced a funding plan which will see 2,000 pharmacists working in general practices by 2020.

Under a new five-year GP contract agreed to by the British Medical Association and NHS England, a “directed enhanced services” contract will incentivise doctors to form Primary Care Networks (PCNs) covering catchments of between 30,000 and 50,000 patients.

Initially each PCN will be funded to the tune of £37,810 to cover 70% of the cost of employing a pharmacist, with expectations that by 2024 each network will have five clinical pharmacists - or the equivalent of one per practice.

Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee CEO Simon Dukes said the deal offers “a unique opportunity for [pharmacists] to embed ourselves further within primary care”.

“GPs will be bringing together local healthcare providers into the new networks and we must engage proactively with them and find ways to position ourselves within those PCNs...all pharmacies will need to take steps to work as closely with local GPs as they can.”

Asset write-off boost

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed a Federal Government announcement this week that it has raised the threshold for the instant asset tax write-off arrangement from \$20,000 to \$25,000.

Guild National President George Tambassis said the move would result in cash flow improvements which would help pharmacists reinvest in their business and replace or upgrade their assets, resulting in “rapid and tangible benefits to Australia’s 5,700 community pharmacies”.

New era for 6CPA programs

THE new Pharmacy Programs Administrator website, Registration and Claiming Portal, and Support Centre went live at 9am today, meaning there are new processes for all claims associated with 6th Community Pharmacy Agreement programs effective immediately.

Previously managed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the administration is being taken over by AHA Consulting which was awarded the services agreement following a competitive tender process undertaken by the Dept of Health (**PD** 29 Oct 2018).

AHA already administers the Community Service Obligation (CSO) funding pool and the Chemotherapy Compounding Payment Scheme (CCPS).

The company is operating the 6CPA portal under the new Pharmacy Programs Administrator brand, which will now look after the 23 Community Pharmacy Programs funded under the 6CPA.

From today all claims must be submitted via the new portal which is available at ppaonline.com.au.

All users previously registered with the Pharmacy Guild will have had an account automatically created, and will receive a “welcome” email today with info about logging in for the first time.

Global MedAdvisor

LISTED medication adherence firm MedAdvisor is gearing up for international growth, with an ASX update yesterday confirming it had aligned its information security compliance systems to address US Health Insurance Probitity and Accountability Act regulations.

CEO Robert Read said MedAdvisor was investing \$3m “to make our product and business ready for US expansion”.

For most major programs the new portal will check and validate claims in real-time, meaning they will be approved immediately with payments made within three business days of submission.

Currently these fast-tracked payment arrangements are in place for Dose Administration Aids, MedsCheck and Diabetes MedsCheck, Staged Supply, Home Medicines Reviews and Quality Use of Medicines, and will be extended to other programs in due course.

Chay Boss-Walker, Director of the Pharmacy Programs Administrator, said today’s launch followed three months of intensive work.

“We’ve worked closely with pharmacists to build an entirely new and streamlined Registration and Claiming Portal, and to train our Support Centre Team,” he said.

“We’ll be drawing on feedback and input from pharmacies and other stakeholders to continuously improve users’ claiming experience,” Boss-Walker promised.

The dedicated Support Centre can be contacted 9am-8pm AEDT on 1800 951 285 or via email at support@ppaonline.com.au.

An introductory video can also be viewed by **CLICKING HERE**.

Location rule “win”

MELBOURNE pharmacist Dominic Stambe has successfully challenged a decision by Health Minister Greg Hunt which allowed the opening of a pharmacy in a medical centre a few hundred metres from Stambe’s two outlets.

Despite the proximity, the Minister had approved the new pharmacy on the basis that it offered a 24 hour service, unlike other pharmacies in the area.

The application had previously been rejected by the Australian Community Pharmacy Authority.

Stambe applied for a judicial review in the Federal Court, which found Hunt had failed to give “genuine and realistic consideration” to information provided before using his discretion to approve the new pharmacy.

Stambe argued that there was a “saturation level of pharmacies in the area” and noted that they were open to match the hours of the GP services, seven days per week.

With the new pharmacy already open, the Minister’s approval could not be reversed by Justice Debra Mortimer, who ruled that the parties should now negotiate on appropriate final orders, including costs, and if that failed, they were to make separate submissions.



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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - Canberra, ACT (Job# 200015722)
All levels of experience considered; location, adventure + career progression!
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\$45/hr + Accomodation & Mon to Fri with 1 weekend worked each fortnight!
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Central QLD (Job# 200014518)
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Dispensary Corner

A POP-UP hamburger restaurant in Melbourne is attracting worldwide attention because of its links to Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar.

It possibly seemed like a cute idea at the time, but naming the eatery "Pablo's Escoburgers" - and serving the fare with a trademark fake line of cocaine and a rolled-up \$100 bill (pictured) - has drawn a significant backlash.

Instagram posts of the food have attracted a host of critical comments about glorifying drug use - although one quipped that "there's nothing better than eating burgers and coke".



THE US Government shutdown had to have a silver lining for someone - and it certainly did.

With no staff to discourage sea animals from congregating at a beach in Point Reyes National Seashore in northern California, about 60 adult seals that gave birth to 35 pups took over the popular tourist area, knocking down a fence and moving into the parking lot, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported.

Officials have no plans to move the animals while some of them nurse their pups.

Reinstated staff are considering offering guided tours of the colony.

So it appears Trump at least managed to seal one deal.

GuildCare state winners celebrate

THE team from LiveLife Airlie Beach Day Night Pharmacy (right) are looking pretty chuffed after tying with Value Chemist Everton Hills as Qld state winners



of the GuildCare 2019 Pharmacy of the Year Professional Services Award.

This year the awards have expanded into two categories, with state winners also named in the GuildCare Customer Care Awards.

As well as the Airlie Beach and Everton Hills winners for Qld, the Professional Services category in other states was taken out by Drive Thru Soul Pattinson Chemist Griffith (NSW), Lanyon Pharmacy (ACT), Nova Discount Pharmacy Frankston (Vic), Terrywhite Chemmart Wynn Vale (SA), Youngtown Pharmacy

(Tas), Better Health Cootalinga (NT), and in WA there was a tie between Canning Vale Soul Pattinson Chemist and Michael's Health Care Chemist Claremont.

The Customer Care Award state winners, honoured for championing digital health in their local communities, were Lowood Advantage Pharmacy Qld, Chen's Pharmacist Advice NSW, and Friendlies Pharmacy Lynwood, WA.

The National GuildCare Pharmacy of the Year winners will be revealed on the opening night of APP2019 on Thu 07 Mar 2019.

FDA generic push

THE FDA has prioritised approvals for generic and biosimilar drugs to increase competition and is highlighting its success in the face of tighter US national budgets.

With the strengthening and streamlining of the generic drug review process, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said the regulatory body had achieved record numbers for approvals and tentative approvals for generics in 2017-18.

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.

02 - 03 Feb: SHPA Extension Seminar in Clinical Medication Management, Adelaide; for more info see: www.shpa.org.au

07 - 10 Mar: APP 2019; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; early bird registration now open: www.appconference.com

22 - 24 Mar: NSW/ACT Annual Therapeutic Update 2019; Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley; early bird registrations now open: www.psa.org.au/atu

27 Apr: Diabetes Expo 2019; Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre; register here: www.diabetes-expo.org.au

04 - 05 May: Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar; Crowne Plaza Coogee Beach, Sydney; for details visit: www.pharmeducation.com.au

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