

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news.

In-pharmacy prescribing option

WHILE authorities ponder the possibilities of pharmacist prescribing (**PD** 10 Jan), there is already a significant opportunity to grow pharmacy revenue right now, according to online GP service Doctors on Demand.

Giving patients access to a medical practitioner in-store can drive greater prescription volumes, according to the organisation's CEO Kirsty Garrett.

"Pharmacists experience numerous opportunities every day in their pharmacies where their customer has run out of a prescription item, or they are counselling customers and they know the customer requires a prescription item to achieve the best outcome," she said.

The Doctors on Demand service is available 24/7 to consult with the customer, with many pharmacies offering suitable counselling areas to make the provision of the service secure and private.

"This is an opportunity for pharmacists to provide a better health service and better health outcomes for their customers by providing timely access to a medical practitioner," Garrett said.

The Doctors on Demand service guarantees to have any required prescription back in the pharmacy within an hour.

The company also offers a Quickscrip service for repeat scripts, with pharmacists guiding customers through an online questionnaire prior to ordering their repeat prescription.

The script request is reviewed by a medical practitioner to determine the suitability of the requested medicine.

Garrett said 2,000 pharmacies across the country were also taking advantage of Quickscrips, while 200,000 customers access the free companion App on their devices.

For more information see doctorsondemand.com.au.

Guild launches mentorship

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced the launch of a community pharmacy mentor platform on a dedicated built-for-purpose site.

The intent of the project is to create an environment where the community pharmacy industry can connect and grow through mentoring processes.

Acting National President of the Pharmacy Guild, Professor Trent Twomey, said the mentoring platform provided an opportunity for those in the industry to engage across the workforce, build stronger networks, promote the benefit of a career in community pharmacy and facilitate career progression and leadership.

Twomey said it also offered an additional avenue for giving and receiving advice relating to the Guild's strategic planning project to help secure the future of community pharmacy to 2025 and beyond, CP2025.

"The Guild Mentor Platform is open to those in the community pharmacy industry and experts in other industries, including Guild members, pharmacists, interns, pharmacy assistants, students and industry experts such as those in finance, marketing, human resources and so on.

"This is an invaluable resource and underpins the Guild's commitment to everyone in the community pharmacy industry.

"It is also an important tool in helping to achieve the objectives of



the CP2025 project."

The Guild Mentor Platform aims to support pharmacists on their career pathway; use existing skills and knowledge of pharmacists as

mentors to share knowledge and experiences; enable both mentors and mentees to learn in a dynamic manner; build a sense of collaboration and community for pharmacists in practice and contribute to the personal and career development of both mentors and mentees.

Access the platform at guild.org.au.

HRT blood clot risks

WOMEN taking hormone replacement therapy (HRT) to manage symptoms of menopause may increase their risk of blood clots, according to a new study released by University of Nottingham researchers in the UK.

The study looked at the prescription records of 80,000 women aged 40-79 who had developed blood clots and compared them with records of 390,000 women who had not.

The risk of blood clots was 15% higher for the treatments containing oestrogen manufactured from horse urine than for the synthetic oestradiol; in real terms, an additional nine cases per 10,000 women per year.

Those using gels, patches or creams (transdermal delivery forms) appeared to have no increased risk of blood-clotting.

More research is needed to confirm a causative association, scientists wrote - see bbc.com.

PBS stats released

THE Health Department has released the PBS Expenditure and Prescriptions report for the year to 30 Jun 2018.

Total expenditure was \$11.69b, down 3% on the prior year.

Total subsidised prescription volumes rose 0.8% to 204.1m - for more see www.pbs.gov.au.

Integria to no longer carry Blackmores

BIOCEUTICALS has announced that from 01 Feb 2019 Integria will no longer distribute the Blackmores Professional range, due to a decision to focus on core brands.

Effective from next month pharmacies wishing to order the products must contact the BioCeuticals Customer Service team on 1300 251 543.

BioCeuticals will also provide customer support and technical advice on the range.

"We will work hard to ensure a seamless transition so that Blackmores Professional orders are not interrupted," the company said.

CSO tenders due

WHOLESALERS wishing to be part of the Community Service Obligation funding pool in the future have until 2pm Canberra time today to lodge their final applications.

The Health Department launched the "Invitation to Apply" process late last year (**PD** 30 Nov) with the formal tender documents indicating likely changes to exclusive direct supply arrangements because distributors of medications which are not available to all wholesalers will be unable to access the CSO pool for such items (**PD** 03 Dec).

Current CSO deeds, which were to expire 31 Dec 2018, remain in place during the process which is expected to conclude in Mar.



Dispensary Corner

IF YOU had a spare three hours in the early morning, say 4.00am, how would you invest it, if you are not sleeping that is?

Indicating a possible need for a pharmacy-based sleep service to assist with insomnia, Californian man Roberto Daniel Arroyo, 33, was captured licking a doorbell on the home CCTV in Salinas, California, on Sat morning, for three hours.

The bizarre act was reported to police when the on-camera action alerted the owners who were not at home at the time.

Officers recognised the man and made a quick arrest, but not before he managed to visit a few other homes and allegedly relieved himself in one of the gardens.

Some people have fascinating fetishes - ring-a-ding-ding!



THREE-LETTER baby names are all the rage this year, with specialist website nameberry.com reporting a surge in popularity of monikers such as Rio, Van, Kit and Lux.

Jem, Ida, Koa, Liv, Van and Rex are also "on-trend" for 2019, along with gender-neutral names such as Briar, Campbell, Story, Journey, Robin and Justice, for parents wanting to raise their kids free of gender stereotypes.

Apparently the most fashionable consonant is "F" with the site reporting a boost in newborns with names like Faye, Felix, Fern, Finnian, Flora, Frances, Frost, Frankie and Frederick.

WA pharmacist disqualified

WEST Australian pharmacist Lex Walliss has been reprimanded and disqualified from re-applying for registration for six months after he admitted to professional misconduct.

According to an update from the Pharmacy Board of Australia on Fri, the State Administrative Tribunal of Western Australia heard Walliss admit that he had attended work as a pharmacist on 29 Sep 2016 while under the influence of numerous substances and fatigue and made four dispensing errors in Jan and May 2016.

In addition he confessed to practising as a pharmacist on 20 and 23 October 2016 when he



knew that doing so would be in breach of conditions on his registration prohibiting him from practising. Had Walliss been registered at the time of the hearing, the Tribunal said it would have cancelled his registration.

The Tribunal also determined that Walliss has an impairment, and is required to pay the Pharmacy Board of Australia the costs of its application to bring him to justice, namely \$2,500.

Digital bootcamps

DIGITAL health business accelerator ANDHealth has been awarded \$250,000 from the Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals Growth Centre, MTPConnect, to deliver "intensive Digital Health Market Success Bootcamps" for up to 40 Australian digital health companies.

MTPConnect CEO Dan Grant said ANDHealth's five-day focused curriculum covered clinical evidence, regulation, business models, intellectual property, partnering, attracting investment & exploring international markets.

Since Oct 2017 ANDHealth program participants have raised over \$14m, launched in nine new markets, and created 63 jobs, with one of the most noteworthy successes being Queensland-based DoseMe, which was acquired by Tabula Rasa Healthcare for US\$30 million (*PD* 10 Dec 2018).

See andhealth.com.au.

PSNZ membership

THE Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand has posted reminders to pharmacists that renewals are open and they will have received a renewal notice and invoice, by email during the first week of Dec.

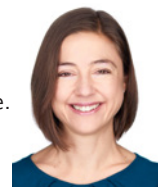
To pay invoices, visit psnz.org.nz and go to My Dashboard/accounts.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is Sally Benedek, Pharmacist, Diabetes Consultant & Trainer and Professional Services Account Manager at instigo Pharmacy Consulting.



Benefits of Self-Monitoring Blood Glucose (SMBG)

ARE your patients with diabetes able to make informed decisions around their diet, exercise and treatment based on their blood glucose readings? Are they getting overall improved health outcomes? After all, glycaemic control is one of the most important factors in managing the risk of complications.

The key is structure. A structured approach is needed so that patterns can be identified, results can be interpreted and decisions made to improve diabetes management and outcomes.

A structured approach allows the patient to see how food, physical activity, pain, stress, illness, medications and other factors affect their blood glucose. It also allows them to make informed and timely decisions to make adjustments to their food, physical activity and insulin doses.

The intensity of the structured approach needs to be individualised based on the type of diabetes, treatment, risk of hypoglycaemia, anxiety around testing & knowledge of what to do with the results.

For a patient living with Type 1, this structured approach should occur daily. However, for patients with Type 2 it will vary extensively.

For some patients, structured monitoring for 3 days before they see their healthcare professional may be adequate for the clinician to make informed treatment decisions and the patient to receive the best outcomes.

Taking a patient centred approach and creating an individualised SMBG plan for your patients can reinforce beneficial health behaviours, increase adherence to medication and overall, generate positive health outcomes.