

Is the “chemistry” just not right? Find out how you can build a stronger relationship, with Sigma.

Over the last 107 years, Sigma has evolved into Australia’s largest retail pharmacy offering. We’re a powerhouse of six standalone retail pharmacy brands with a solution for any pharmacy owner, including those who wish to remain independent. By joining the Sigma family you’ll have immediate access to an integrated suite of proven tools and solutions to help you build a better business, as well as a world-class wholesale service from our upgraded national DC network. We’ve continued to reshape and invest in our business to support forward-looking pharmacists, who are ready to embrace a modern pharmacy retail landscape and run a better business. If you’re a progressive pharmacist, who shares our excitement for the future, we’d love to hear from you today.

To be part of something better visit sigmahealthcare.com.au/change or call your Sigma State Manager:

Sarah Xiberras, NSW on 0412 801 894

Phil Urquhart, VIC on 0413 331 332

Ernie Papadopoulos, SA, NT and TAS on 0417 563 987

Andrew Brebner, QLD on 0417 550 179

Scott Hunter, WA on 0417 926 589



4 ways to help build strong bones



Available from API, Symbion & Sigma

Use only as directed. Consult your healthcare professional if symptoms persist.

National real time monitoring needed

A NATIONAL real-time prescription drug monitoring system should be rolled out to help prevent medication-related deaths, and cross-border doctor-shopping, the Australian Capital Territory Chief Coroner believes.

The call for an integrated nationwide system came as part of ACT Chief Coroner, Lorraine Walker's inquest report into the death of Jay Alan Paterson, in Sep 2017, as a result of a polypharmacy overdose.

The Coroner's Court heard Paterson had developed a physical dependence and tolerance to prescription pain medications following a work-related injury sustained in 2007.

In 2014 he came to the attention of the ACT Chief Medical Officer, as a result of attempted doctor-shopping for prescription opioids.

Despite living in the ACT, Paterson started to see a GP based in Queanbeyan, NSW, in Apr 2017, who prescribed opioid medication.

The Coroner reported that Paterson

misled the GP as to the amounts of opioid medication in his possession, falsely claiming a friend had stolen the painkillers on one occasion and another time saying his wife had confiscated the drugs.

In the month leading up to his death, Paterson had nine scripts for a total of 296 oxycodone tablets filled at pharmacies in NSW and the ACT.

The Coroner noted that one of the Queanbeyan GPs called the Commonwealth 'doctor shopping line', but was told Paterson "was not a patient of concern".

Walker noted she had previously called for the ACT's real-time prescription medication monitoring system to be mandatory in the territory (PD 11 Jun).

"I share the view of NSW Deputy State Coroner Grahame, and other Australian coroners, that there is a pressing need for a real-time prescription monitoring system in NSW, ideally as part of a national system," she said.

"A national real-time prescription



monitoring system might have enabled Mr Paterson's Queanbeyan doctors to have seen the amounts of medication prescribed to him in the ACT, and to ensure that Paterson could not leverage off the differences in regulation to obtain opioid medication in NSW that he was, or would have been, denied in the ACT."

MEANWHILE the Pharmaceutical society of Australia has called on the South Australian Government to implement plans for a real-time monitoring system.

"Real-time prescription monitoring was included in the state's 2018-19 Budget but as yet we haven't seen any progress," PSA SA/NT Branch President, Robyn Johns, said.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a front cover wrap from Sigma Healthcare.

GuildEd award

GUILD Learning and Development, in partnership with Androgogic, has been awarded the platinum award in the Best New Technology Implementation category of the LearnX 2019 Awards.

The award was for the new online learning and CPD site, GuildEd and will be presented in Melbourne 15-16 Oct at the Futuristix Summits and Awards.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia Innovation Group Executive, Colm Maguire, said, "GuildEd is a state-of-the-art learning platform that delivers essential continuing professional development to pharmacists and pharmacy staff".

medAdvisor
making medication manageable

150% increase in immunisations recorded through PlusOne!*

Watch how to record immunisations with AIR using our software

*MedAdvisor data from April 2019 compared to April 2018.



THE NATURAL* PAIN BARRIER

*Zostrix contains capsaicin, a natural active ingredient



FOR RELIEF OF ARTHRITIS & POST SHINGLES PAIN

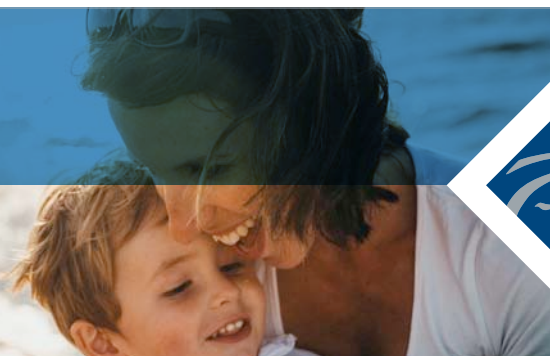
ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE. IF SYMPTOMS PERSIST, TALK TO YOUR HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

Zostrix is a registered trade mark of Link Medical Products Pty Ltd. Warriewood 2102
ph 1800 181 060 LHCAU_ZOS01_May19



It's about

time with family



Razor Group services offer innovative systems and tailored business solutions.

RAZOR GROUP

Control costs, reduce overheads and improve overall business performance.

For a free no obligation business consultation call (08) 6424 0002 or go to razor-group.com.au

Stay up to date
on the go

Download the app



Pharmacy Daily

Health workers prepare for assisted dying

PHARMACISTS in Victoria are being urged not to raise the issue of voluntary assisted dying with patients.

Professional indemnity insurer, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL) said most pharmacists will not be impacted by the roll out of the legislation in the state.

“Only three pharmacists working at the Alfred Hospital will be involved in the provision of medication used in voluntary assisted dying,” a spokesperson said.

“However, PDL wishes to remind all other pharmacists that they are forbidden to initiate a discussion

on voluntary assisted dying with patients or clients.

“To do so can eventuate in a five-year prison sentence.

“If a pharmacist is questioned on voluntary assisted dying, the client should be referred to their medical practitioner.”

Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) CEO, Kristin Michaels, said pharmacists’ roles in assisted dying will be crucial.

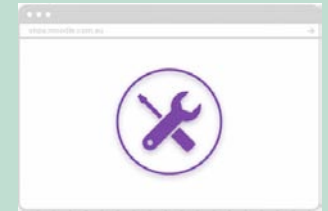
“It is fitting hospital pharmacists are at the frontline supporting the dignified and respectful implementation of this service in Victoria and, indeed, in any

Australian jurisdiction in which similar programs may become legal,” she said.

“SHPA members are passionate about person-centred care and committed to evidence-based practice and therefore would be supportive of strict eligibility criteria to request access to voluntary assisted dying.”

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia National President, Dr Chris Freeman, said the society supported “pharmacists being involved in this process”, but added any discussions “must be instigated by the patient”.

SHPA eCPD site upgrade



THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) alerts members that its eCPD site will be undergoing a system upgrade next week for bug fixes and to make the site more user-friendly and streamlined.

Members will be unable to access the site from 5.00pm (AEST) Mon 01 Jul until the morning of Wed 03 Jul.

This includes access to seminars, webinars and Specialty Practice discussion forums.

Scrap the inequitable \$1 discount

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is reiterating its call for the abolition of the \$1 discount on Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) scripts.

The optional pharmacy-funded markdown “means consumers may pay a different price for PBS subsidised prescriptions depending on their location,” the Guild said.

The only perceived benefit of the concept is to delay patients’ access to their safety net.

Writing in Forefront, the Guild said, “Currently across Australia, the optional pharmacy-funded discount is only being applied to about 28 per cent of



prescriptions.

“That’s created an inequity which should be addressed.”

The Guild has long argued Australians should have the benefit of more affordable medicines in an

equitable way to restore the universality of the PBS system.

“Currently we have concession cardholders and general patients in different parts of the country paying different prices for the same subsidised medicine.”

PBS patient co-payments for all patients need to be reduced by \$1 and funded by the government, to make it fairer for everybody, the Guild argued.

Corum update

PHARMACY dispensary and point-of-sale software provider, Corum Group, has received the green light to roll out its new dispensing system.

The ASX-listed firm revealed Corum Clear Dispense will be ready for commercial sale in Jul.

“Corum Clear Dispense has been live-trialled in a number of pharmacies since the beginning of the year, and has been tested for thousands of operating hours in a pharmacy setting,” the company told the ASX yesterday.

“The trials have been very successful and the product well accepted.”

The company reported that users have said the system “improves dispensing efficiency” and “patient safety”.

NDARC seminars



REGISTRATION is now open for NDARC’s free seminars in Jul.

Topics this month include Aboriginal research, issues around novel psychoactives and the implications of cannabis legislation in the Americas.

Lectures are held in Lecture Room 122, Building R1, 22 - 32 King St, Randwick, NSW.

CLICK HERE for more details.

COMPETE

It's Possible!

By joining a large national discount group you can compete and stay relevant in today’s market while maintaining ownership of your pharmacy.

Call today for more information **David Zivkovic: 0412 550 618**

TWO FRANCHISING MODELS AVAILABLE TO SUIT DIFFERENT SIZED BUSINESSES

PHARMACY 4 LESS
DISCOUNT CHEMIST

your ChemistShop

Click to Enquire

Dispensary Corner

AN UNPRECEDENTED heat-wave in Europe has led to many creative ways to keep cool - and high demands for sunscreen, if this incident is any indication.

Police in Germany were among those shocked to see a nearly naked man riding a moped in Brandenburg.

They cautioned the carefree chap, who for safety reasons was fortunately still wearing a helmet - but nothing else.

According to their post on Twitter (**pictured**), his response on being pulled over was the German equivalent of "Is it hot or what?"

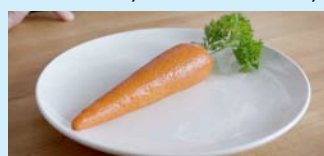


THE trend to "meatless" hamburgers in the US has given rise to a response from fast food chain Arby's, which has launched a new range of what they're calling "Megetables".

The gimmick kind of makes sense - if people want to eat vegetable-based meats, why not also offer them the option of meat-based vegetables?

The first of the curious creations is known as a "Marrot" - a meat-based carrot lookalike.

Arby's says the Marrot contains all the vitamins in a raw carrot, looks like a carrot, but is actually made from turkey.



CP2025 Health Hub champ



COMMUNITY pharmacy should be a health hub and not simply a "convenience store" is behind the philosophy that has driven WA pharmacist Swarup Afsar (**pictured**), Champion for the Community Health Hub pathway of the CP2025 project.

Winner of the UTS Pharmacy Innovative Pharmacist of the Year Award in 2015 (**PD** 21 Oct 2015), Swarup has maintained the pressure on his career and is now leading the project.

Swarup said the CP2025 project had identified nine growth pathways, of which the Community

Health Hub Pathway was the one he was proud to champion as it aligned closely with his own philosophy.

"The development of pharmacy health hubs gives community pharmacies the opportunity to take their delivery of professional services to the next level of patient care," he said.

"Our pharmacy team sets itself apart by focusing on imparting knowledge rather than selling products."

Read more about practical outworkings of the CP2025 project in *Forefront* at guild.org.au.

Win with skinb5

This week **Pharmacy Daily** & **skinB5** are giving away each day, their NEW Extra Strength Acne Control Vitamins 120 Tablets valued at \$65.90.

Next Generation Extra Strength Vitamins are

suitable for all stages of acne (treatment and maintenance) including blackheads, whiteheads, teenage acne, adult acne and scarring. Easy-to-follow directions of 2 tablets twice a day (day & night). NEW PDEs, NEW look, NEW Next-Gen training module available on the iTherapeutics website.

For more info see www.skinB5.com.

To win, be the first person from SA or NT to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Thomas Petrucci.



What is the initial dosage of Extra Strength Acne Control Vitamins for acne sufferers?



Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Flo Travel Nasal Spray*.



Sponsored by

Flo Travel Nasal Spray.
Help Send Cold Symptoms Packing.
[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Uniworld 2020 Free Air Offer

BOUTIQUE river cruise specialist Uniworld is offering free air components with its 2020 cruises.

Fly to Europe Economy class for free or Business class for \$3,999 pp or save \$1,000 on the cost of your cruise.

For example, capture a "Portrait of Majestic France" in a 15 day cruise Paris to Bordeaux from \$10,099.

Visit uniworld.com for more.

Ponant Antarctic Odyssey

LUXURY yacht company Ponant urges modern day explorers to discover the wonders of the great Southern land on the 21-day Antarctic Odyssey with domestic flights included.

On board *Le Lyrial*, thrill to a polar expedition cruise from Montevideo to Ushuaia from \$25,190 - au.ponant.com.