



## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today has three pages of news, our **Winter Spotlight** feature on page four plus a full page from **Discount Drug Stores**.

## Winter has arrived...

**THE** first *Pharmacy Daily* Winter Spotlight for 2019 appears on **page 4** of today's issue, showcasing several seasonal offers for pharmacies to stock ready for rising demand during the colder weather.

## JOBS OF THE WEEK

from **LocumCo**

Job #18163

### Pharmacist in Charge

North West Sydney, NSW  
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Job #18092

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## Qld pharmacist reprimand

**A PHARMACIST** who admitted to providing Schedule 4 medications for himself and two family members without a prescription has been reprimanded for behaving in a way that constitutes professional misconduct, according to a ruling issued by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The pharmacist, who first obtained registration in 1989, had 20 years' experience at the time of the offending conduct which occurred on 14 occasions in 2015 and 2016.

He admitted to the charges, with the Tribunal noting that all of the S4 restricted drugs involved in the misconduct were antibiotics, anti-viral medication and "topical medicines usually prescribed for treating relatively minor ailments.

## Podiatry prescribing

**THE** Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has released new videos to help podiatrists understand the requirements for their registration to be endorsed for scheduled medicines.

The Podiatry Board of Australia released a revised registration standard last year, with the new document providing two pathways for podiatrists to be endorsed to prescribe Schedule 2, 3, 4 or 8 medicines, subject to the authority of individual states or territories.

Pathway A allows for students who complete an accredited and endorsed program of study to be qualified for endorsement for scheduled medicines when they graduate, while Pathway B is a "supervised practice" pathway for registered practitioners.

The videos explaining the podiatrist prescribing pathways can be viewed at [podiatryboard.gov.au](http://podiatryboard.gov.au).

"It is not alleged that any of the drugs are particularly inherently dangerous or that the health of any person was in fact endangered or even potentially endangered by reason of the providing," the formal judgement said.

The pharmacist attributed his misconduct to "laziness" in failing to get doctors' prescriptions, being "motivated by being able to avoid the inconvenience in the time required by, and perhaps the expense involved in, he and the family members attending doctors' appointments to obtain the necessary prescriptions".

The Tribunal found that by providing the medications he had generated false dispensing records when printing labels and recording the medications in the pharmacy's software database.

Full and frank admissions were made by the pharmacist at an early stage of the investigation, and he had co-operated with the progress of the matter since then.

Conditions imposed on his registration require two hours per month of face-to-face mentoring for a year, focusing on "ethical dispensing and decision-making" - see the ruling at [sclqld.org.au](http://sclqld.org.au).

## Footy tipping winners

**CONGRATULATIONS** to this week's *Pharmacy Daily* footy tipping competition winners.

Olles Jacyna from CBA took out top tipper spot for AFL Round 8 while Justin Carter from Karen Carter Chemist was tops for NRL Round 9.

Mmmm - we note a strong showing from the Carters at Karen Carter Chemist - this brains trust is building a significant profile!

Overall winners in each code this season will take home a \$1,000 voucher courtesy of Guild Digital.

See [pharmacydaily.com.au](http://pharmacydaily.com.au).

## Vit D3 gummies tick

**VITAMIN D3** gummies have greater bioavailability than tablets with higher vit D (cholecalciferol) concentrations over time, which may have implications for achieving vit D sufficiency, according to new US research.

An initial crossover, randomised clinical trial involving healthy adults (n = 9) was conducted followed by a larger, confirmatory study of 31 adults aged 18-45 years, comparing the effect of gummies vs tablets.

Published in *Nutrients*, the South Carolina University study can be accessed in full at [mdpi.com](http://mdpi.com).

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## Little to recommend it...

**INCREASING** workloads and the repetitive tasks pharmacists have to do make it a profession few would recommend to those considering their career options, the recently conducted **Pharmacy Daily Salary Survey** reveals.

Data from the poll found 87% of pharmacists would urge anyone thinking of pursuing a career in the profession to look elsewhere, with 67% of pharmacy owners saying they would not recommend it.

When it came to their views of their workplace, pharmacists were marginally less negative, but far from positive, with two-thirds of employee pharmacists saying they would not recommend their current workplace, while just 11% said they were "satisfied" with their working conditions.

Pharmacy managers were also unlikely to recommend their store to prospective employees, with 40% being negatively disposed towards their shop as a workplace, however, they were more likely to be satisfied with their store than employees.

"Pharmacy is no longer a profession, it is simply a role that a robotic computer could do," one respondent said.

"The workload and red tape has increased exponentially, so too has the pressure yet the income has gone south. Eventually, the talent will realise and leave, if they already haven't."

Non-pharmacist employees were less likely to report being dissatisfied with their workplace (32%) than those with a pharmacy degree, however the proportion

who reported being satisfied was 28% (the same as pharmacy managers), with the remainder being neutral.

While the survey found a high level of negative sentiment among pharmacists, the proportion actively looking for alternative employment was relatively low (35%).

The negativity highlighted by the survey contrasts with the growing levels of optimism reported by the University of Technology Sydney Pharmacy Barometer (**PD 08 May**), which found 19% of pharmacists were optimistic about the future, while the profession at large was "overwhelmingly neutral".

**MEANWHILE** the survey found that 70% of employee pharmacists had a formal written employment agreement, with one third reporting not to have an official job description outlining their roles and responsibilities.

### AIR accuracy urged

**THE** Federal Department of Human Services has urged immunisers to ensure details are recorded correctly on the Australian Immunisation Register.

If vaccine doses are not properly recorded on the AIR website school enrolment or family payments might be affected, while patients may also be unprotected against disease or show up incorrectly as up-to-date or overdue for a jab.

The AIR counts vaccine doses by antigens, not vaccine brand, with the "Update Encounter" menu option allowing practitioners to fix any errors they notice.

### US generics cartel

**OFFICIALS** in the USA have filed a lawsuit alleging that 20 generic drug manufacturers conspired to artificially boost the prices of more than 100 medicines.

Legal representatives of more than 40 US states are party to the litigation, with Connecticut Attorney-General William Tong, saying "we have hard evidence that shows the generic drug industry perpetrated a multibillion dollar fraud on the American people".

While initially there was an agreement to avoid competition and accept existing market shares by not lowering prices, the case claims that in 2012 Teva colluded with a core group of competitors to jointly raise prices on certain items.

A Teva spokesperson said "we shall defend ourselves vigorously" from the accusations.

### New MHR incentive

**THE** Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) has announced new funding for vendors of clinical information systems servicing the medical specialist market, to add customised functionality enabling use of the government's My Health Record (MHR) in private practice.

Up to \$40,000 is on offer to each of a maximum of 10 vendors, who will be paid to develop a detailed software design document describing how they would add or enhance MHR functionality.

Unlike funding for pharmacy and GP software vendors, this is an "exercise in co-design" said ADHA's Bettina McMahon, with the vendors regaining intellectual property rights to the enhancements.

### Cardiomyopathy tick

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has approved Vyndaquel (tafamidis meglumine) and Vyndamax (tafamidis) capsules for the treatment of cardiomyopathy due to transthyretin mediated amyloidosis (ATTR-CM) in adults, causing the buildup of abnormal protein deposits.



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## Dispensary Corner

**A PHARMACY** customer thought he needed new spectacles when he saw the eye-watering bill for his little bottle of eye-drops.

The till rang up a bill of more than £4 billion (equal to more than half the annual NHS bill for Wales) when the bottle was scanned - it was supposed to be just £9.95.

The hapless customer, 55-year-old father-of-two, from Wrexham, said: "I'd recently had my eyes tested and I'd popped in to get the prescription and to get the eye drops because I get dry eyes.

When he saw the bill, he quipped, "I was going to pay by cash but I guess I'll have to use my card".



**HOW** do you stop a small school from losing teachers when child numbers are dwindling?

You enrol sheep to boost the student count, with the help of the local mayor, of course.

Jules-Ferry in Crets en Belledonne, a small town of less than 4,000 people at the foot of the Alps, in France, had been told that it would have to scale back its lessons because of falling pupil numbers.

With only 261 children, add in 15 sheep, and the school now officially has 276 pupils registered, some of whom have names such as Baa-bete and Saute-Mouton (leapfrog).

A key subject for the new woolly pupils could include m-ewe-[sic].

## Team-based care education

**EDUCATION** for high quality health services needs to shift its emphasis away from clinically siloed care and more towards a team-based approach, according to the outcomes of this year's Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) and Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) Colloquium.

The conference examined how interprofessional education and collaboration "can make the difference to deliver culturally sensitive, empathetic and holistic care with the right combination of clinical experts".

APC CEO Bronwyn Clark said, "as health professionals, our role is to bring together the right people, at the right time for the right condition to improve health outcomes for all patients.

"This one-day symposium enabled delegates to explore trends in interprofessional education and learning that ensures effective patient-centred care.

"Strong focus was placed on cultural safety, developing empathy,

improving mental health systems, handling conflict and building effective teams, and consequently how we implement these components into health profession education," Clark said.

Highlights included an explanation of the correlation between empathy and effective patient-centred care by a Monash University team, and UNE's Anna Barwick presenting her work on measuring student empathy levels.

Dr Alice Gilbert and Professor Wendy Cross examined the effects that technology is having on mental health, how that impacts on managing the health of others and a surprise section on the impact of "nomophobia", the irrational fear of being without a mobile phone.

Professor Lisa Nissen from QUT presented a hypothetical on a poor patient outcome due to lack of inter-professional collaboration with Credential Diabetes Educator Alison Menzies.

APC and ANMAC said they plan to keep the Colloquium as a regular feature on their annual calendar.

## Guild Update

### Reform of Indigenous Pharmacy Programs

**POLICIES** and strategies to help ensure equity of access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients to culturally safe primary healthcare services in rural, regional and remote areas must be a priority for any Federal Government following the May election.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) are seeking a clear commitment from the major political parties to reform the Indigenous Pharmacy Programs.

Integrated, comprehensive pharmaceutical care is the requisite standard that should be delivered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in urban, regional and remote Australia.

To achieve this, following reforms to improve Indigenous Pharmacy Programs must be regarded as mandatory by any incoming government.

- Expand the authority to write Close the Gap scripts for all prescribers.
- Make the Close the Gap client registration process more straightforward and accessible.
- Link medicines subsidy to individual clients and not practices through a national identifier.
- Improve how remote clients can receive fully subsidised medicines in non-remote areas.
- Increase and better target funding for Quality Use of Medicines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and health services.

## Win with Nutri-Synergy

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away an NS prize pack valued at \$30.

Dry, rough cracked hands? NS Working Hands is an intensive repair treatment, it absorbs quickly so that hands get back to work fast. For dry, sensitive or problem hands, NS Protective Hand Cream and NS Cuticle and Nail Repair will soften, nourish and restore them back to their natural, healthy state. Visit: [www.NutriSynergy.com.au](http://www.NutriSynergy.com.au) for 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)

**How many hours does NS Protective Hand Cream last for, even with hand washing?**

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Raelene Maybury.*



# Winter spotlight

Pharmacy Daily's Winter spotlight is your guide to all the essentials - from products to assist with coughs and colds through to keeping you hydrated and vitamin boosted - ready for this year's Winter season. To feature here email [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au).

## Nurofen Cold & Flu PE

\$15.29 RRP for 24 Tablets

Containing ibuprofen, multi-action Nurofen Cold and Flu PE reduces inflammation – the source of common cold & flu symptoms such as sinus pain, sore throat, headache, body aches, blocked nose and fever. It also contains phenylephrine to help relieve nasal congestion.

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