



Supply shortages hit kids' medicines

PRICE disclosure is fuelling supply shortages of high-volume low-cost medicines, including formulations of paediatric antibiotics.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, told *Pharmacy Daily*, that there was "no improvement in sight" to the ongoing supply shortages that have plagued the sector.

"Despite legislation being introduced earlier this year to mandate manufacturers having to notify when there is a shortage of one of their products to help manage the supply chain - there are still ongoing cases of shortages especially for high volume low cost medicines," he said.

"There are also cases where there are clearly shortages for some medicines, such as a current example of paediatric formulations of amoxicillin suspension - where



various brands aren't available from the wholesalers but isn't listed as a shortage on the Therapeutic Goods Administration website."

Tassone said pharmacists were being forced to hunt for Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medications for patients.

"Pharmacists don't have time

to hunt and forage for medicines for their patients in what is meant to be a world class system in Australia," he said.

"If PBS price disclosure and price reductions are impacting on the viability for manufacturers to continue to supply the Australian market with low cost high volume medicines - then manufacturers need to come clean and advocate for change.

"Manufacturers have the option to apply for a higher list price in the PBS for their product if needed.

"Australians deserve better than to be at the mercy of international price variances of what manufacturers may be able to get for their product depending which country they export their stock to.

"Continuity of the medicines supply chain is likely to form some part of the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement negotiations with the Federal Government as we are running the high risk of patient care being compromised."

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from **Healthed**.

Syringe threat

TWO pharmacy employees in a Bonalbo pharmacy, in the Northern Rivers of NSW, were threatened by a man with a syringe early last week.

The man allegedly demanded methadone and took prescription medication before leaving the pharmacy.

Police from Richmond Police District attended the scene a short time later before locating a suspect in nearby bushland.

A 33-year-old man has been charged with robbery armed with an offensive weapon, armed with intent to commit indictable offence and common assault.

He was then taken to Lismore Base Hospital for treatment after his arrest.

PBS list updates

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) has updated its PBS forms and procedure guidance for listing medicines on the PBS.

New elements include cost recovery, pre-submission meetings, the intent-to-apply form and procedures for a positive recommendation to list - new forms at pbs.gov.au.

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References: 1. Dermatology Expert Group. Therapeutic Guidelines: Dermatology, version 4. Topical corticosteroid preparations (Appendix 4.1). Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd [Internet]. 2019 [cited 2019 June 28]. Available from: <https://tgldoc.to.org.au/view/Topic?topicid=1-topical-corticosteroid-preparations>
2. Kloxema Cream Approved Product Information, 12 September 2017.

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Dispensary Corner

SHOPLIFTERS are the bane of retailers' lives, but you would hope that those who get caught would learn their lesson.

However, for some with a penchant for five-fingered discounts, the thrill of slipping out of a store is just too much, and they can't resist their kleptomaniac urges.

This undesirable trait was highlighted by a young Irish woman, Julianne O'Farrell, who appeared before a local court to face sentencing for charges relating to shoplifting and drink driving last month, only to add fresh charges to her rap sheet while the court had broken for lunch.

The light-fingered new mother, who has a six-week-old child, was nabbed with a collection of items from a nearby sports store she had visited instead of grabbing a bite to eat, *The Irish Examiner* reported.

When charged with her lunchtime crime, O'Farrell told the arresting police officer, "I was fleeing the city for years before ye ever caught me".

The 27-year-old had 111 previous convictions including 26 for theft, in addition to the charges she was facing.

Handing down a 10-month jail sentence the presiding judge said, "She does what she pleases: leaving the court and going robbing - to use a colloquial word - and then coming back into court at 2pm".

"It is an almost frightening thing," he added.

GP & residential care options

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) South Australian branch is to deliver two new two-year projects integrating pharmacists into general practice and aged care to address healthcare in regional areas of the state.

PSA President of South Australia/Northern Territory Branch, Robyn Johns, said that in South Australia around 48 people every day or about 17,500 people a year are admitted to hospital due to a medication-related problem at a cost of around \$98 million annually.

Similarly, PSA's *Medicine Safety* report highlighted Australian research which uncovered a whopping 81% of aged care residents being exposed to at least one inappropriate medicine.

"The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and Country SA Primary Health Network are working together to address this need through two projects integrating pharmacists into regional general practices and residential aged care facilities," Johns said.

Pharmacists in residential aged care "will focus on ensuring quality use of medicines achieves better outcomes for aged care



residents by reducing the use of high-risk medications, providing education and training to facility staff in the quality use of medicines and supporting facility staff to provide more effective medication delivery," she said.

Medication reviews conducted by pharmacists will also better support their transition in and out of hospital and residential care, she added.

The GP project commenced in 2018 and will continue and expand.

Initial work has found that pharmacists have been able to successfully take part in many different types of activities including patient consultations, medication reconciliation and reviews, preventative health education, prescribing audits, MBS billing contribution, preventative healthcare, medicine information, and staff education.

Interested pharmacists can contact helenstone@psa.org.au.

Guild Update

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia recently welcomed new Executive Director Suzanne Greenwood who features in the Guild's latest podcast in which she discusses her new role and her hopes for community pharmacy.

In the latest Pharmacy Business & Career Network Podcast, Suzanne talks about her new role and her attendance at the recent Pharmacy Connect where, after only a few days in the role, she presented the Judith Liauw address which was warmly received, with its focus on the importance of diversity.

While at Pharmacy Connect she also engaged with the National Australian Pharmacy Students Association (NAPSA) and stressed that the Guild and NAPSA's long-standing relationship highlighted the importance of focusing on the future workforce and owners of community pharmacy.

In the podcast Suzanne shares details of her background and what led her to the role of Executive Director of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. She also reveals her passion for community pharmacy and the opportunities for future growth within the industry.

You can listen to the podcast [here](#).

Build a powerful pharmacy website

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia, through Gold Cross Products and Services, is offering a digital grant to eligible Guild member pharmacies.

In the first round, which closes at 5.00pm AEST on 18 Oct 2019, judges will award 25 Guild member pharmacies who fit the eligibility criteria, a dollar-for-dollar subsidy up to \$1,550 ex GST to produce a pharmacy

website.

Gold Cross Products and Services GM, Trevor Clarkin, said the Guild's Community Pharmacy 2025 (CP2025) project had highlighted digital engagement as a critical area for the future of pharmacy.

The grant is only available to Guild member pharmacies and interested members can go to guilddigital.com.au.

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Q Fever in GP – Recognition, Treatment and Prevention



Prof Andrew Lloyd

Infectious Diseases Physician, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney; Academic researcher, Kirby Institute, University of NSW; Practitioner Research Fellow, National Health and Medical Research Council Centre

Accreditation Number: A1910HED2*

Q Fever is an emerging zoonotic infection worldwide, and presentations are non-specific, variable and often misdiagnosed. In this presentation, Prof Lloyd discusses the issues faced by medical practitioners in testing patients for Q Fever, its clinical features – which may present as acute or chronic infection or the post-Q Fever fatigue syndrome, and treatment and prevention.

*This activity has been accredited for 1.5 hrs of Group 1 CPD (or 1.5 CPD credits) suitable for inclusion in an individual pharmacist's CPD plan which can be converted to 1.5 hrs of Group 2 CPD (or 3 CPD credits) upon successful completion of relevant assessment activities. All Australian pharmacists can convert their group one credits to group two credits by completing the assessment component of this activity on the Australian College of Pharmacy (ACP) website: <http://www.acp.edu.au>. The assessment will be accessible via the ACP website once registered as a complimentary member (non-member) for free.

Is there an Opioid Epidemic in Australia?



Prof Stephan Schug

Professor and Chair of Anaesthesiology and Pain Medicine, University of WA; Former Director of Pain Medicine, Royal Perth Hospital

Accreditation Number: A1910HED2*

Is there an opioid crisis in Australia? While the situation here is not yet at the levels seen in the USA, there is cause for concern. Prof Schug presents facts and observations suggesting that we need to take steps now to prevent a similar crisis on our own doorstep.

The Significant Impact of Cancer on the Family – What Can GPs Do About It?



Ms Sandy Cham

Clinical Psychologist Registrar; General Manager, CanTeen

Accreditation Number: A1910HED2*

GPs often see families at the beginning of their cancer experience, and this provides an invaluable opportunity to support not only the patient, but the entire family unit in coping better with the journey ahead. This talk addresses the primary needs of families going through a cancer experience: information, how to talk about cancer, and connection with peers who understand.