

Tue 15th October 2019



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## AMA standards mean little to Guild

MINIMUM standards for prescribing released by the Australian Medical Association (AMA) are of little relevance to the development of pharmacist prescribing, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia believes.

Responding to the AMA's announcement that the standards "rule out pharmacist prescribing" a Guild spokesperson questioned the medical organisation's role in developing regulations for other health professions.

"The last time we looked, the AMA wasn't a regulatory authority, so their minimum standards have no standing in relation to pharmacists," the spokesperson said.

The AMA said the guidelines, developed by its Council of General Practice were "all about putting the interests of patients first and providing governments with strong evidence to reject attempts by unauthorised or inappropriately skilled practitioners who may seek prescribing rights outside their scope of practice".

AMA President, Dr Tony Bartone, added there needed to be clear minimum standards for all

prescribers, taking aim at the Guild.

"There is a push from the Guild for pharmacists to have prescribing rights, but the AMA totally rejects this proposal," he said.

"It is inappropriate, and unsafe for patients. Instead, the AMA wants to see pharmacists working in general practices within the scope of their practice."

Bartone flagged concerns over potential conflicts of interest, should pharmacists be empowered to prescribe, noting the "separation of prescribing and dispensing is an important safety issue".

PSA National President, Dr Chris Freeman, backed Bartone's view that prescribing and dispensing should be independent of each other.

"This is why we have clearly stated that doctors should not own pharmacies that are dispensing the prescriptions of those very same doctors who own the practice, and equally we have stated that when and independent decision is made to initiate a Schedule 4 or Schedule 8 medicine by a pharmacist (in the future) that this needs to be separated from the act of dispensing," he said.



However, Freeman voiced support for the expansion of "safe and appropriate prescribing of high-risk medicines by pharmacists within a framework that allows them to practice to the full extent of their expertise".

"Pharmacists have more expertise in medicines than any other health professional and they already make clinical diagnoses and prescribe lower-risk medicines," he said.

"These activities are within the national competency framework for pharmacists."

#### Today's issue of *PD*

**Pharmacy Daily** today has two pages of news plus full pages from:

- Wizard Pharmacy Services
- Healthed

#### MDR/CWH deal

**ASX-LISTED** digital medication management software provider, MedAdvisor (MDR), has announced the extension of its long-standing relationship with Chemist Warehouse (CWH).

The discount giant has signed up to use MDR's PlusOne pharmacy platform for the promotion, recording and delivery of all its health programs over the next three years.

MDR CEO, Robert Read, said the deal would provide the scale required to deliver a broader range of pharmacy

"This new three-year agreement will drive improved health outcomes...[and] increase the range of programs MDR can source for community pharmacy in Australia."

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# Dispensary Corner

**WHEN** is more than three seconds too long?

When greeting someone with a handshake, apparently.

According to new research out of the University of Dundee's School of Social Sciences, how long you hold a greeting hand can influence anxiety levels and subsequent behaviour in discussions.

The study authors said the work has implications for interactions in interviews, business, educational, and social settings and for assisting patients with social skills difficulties.

In other words, the research can guide pharmacists in their communications with patients.

Study design was interesting; see journals.sagepub.com.

**SOME** children have an early heightened awareness of political correctness.

One Utah student, Rhythm Pacheco, 10, was offended at her maths homework question and wrote a note to her teacher to that effect.

The question that generated such a response compared the weights of three Grade Four students (presumably fictitious) and sought to make mathematical judgements about who is heavier and by how much.

"What!!!!" Pacheco wrote to her teacher.

"This is offensive! Sorry I won't right (sic) this its (sic) rood (sic)." Her parents, and the Facebook community, praised her sensitive stand.

# **Brianne Lowe wins PATY**



BRIANNE Lowe (pictured), from HealthSAVE Pharmacy Charlestown in New South Wales, has been announced as the 2019 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year (PATY).

More than 700 nominations were received from right across Australia with the final winner announced at the annual Pharmacy Assistant National Conference in Brisbane on Saturday.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's National President, George Tambassis, said the PATY Award reinforces and celebrates the important role Pharmacy Assistants play in community pharmacies across Australia.

"Brianne has displayed a strong commitment to her work and the pharmacy industry, and her continued motivation to improve the customer experience was outstanding," Tambassis said.

#### Win with NS8

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and NS8 are giving away a prize pack valued at over \$30.

NS 8 Heel Balm is a fast absorbing, non-slip, cream which rapidly repairs dry cracked and calloused feet and heels. NS 8 Deo Foot and Shoe Spray has a 4-way action to treat smelly sneakers, shoes and feet. NS 8 Natural Footcare is diabetes friendly and recommended by podiatrists. Visit: www.ns8.com.au for more.

To win, be the first from QLD to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Name one
AHA used to
exfoliate and remove
dead and thickened skin.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Raelene Maybury.

#### Vic cannabis

THE Victorian Government has announced plans to expand its compassionate access scheme to provide cannabis from 60 to 90 children living with intractable epilepsy by 2020.



#### Vigilance online

PHARMACY owners are reminded to be especially vigilant in protecting against identify theft, a crime which is experienced by 20 per cent of Australians.

Here are a few simple steps to protect yourself and your business from cybercriminals who want to steal your identity:

- Know how to spot scam messages
- Be extra careful if you need to click on a link after opening an email
- Never provide your details via a link in a message or use such a link to access your bank accounts
- Set your social media accounts to private to minimise the likelihood of cybercriminals piecing together information on your social media to steal your identity
- Lock your computer when not in use (just as you lock the door when you leave the house)
- Use different password for each of your online accounts.

For more information go to the Stay Smart Online website.



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# Are you up to date on the latest changes in therapy?

- Symbicort for mild asthma is now the norm!
- EpiPens, anaphylaxis and young people
- Meningitis vaccines talking to patients
- ✓ Inhaler devices common user errors
- ✓ Non-insulin injectables are here
- The latest on pancreatic enzymes

...and MUCH MORE in this unrivalled, comprehensive update – now accredited for Pharmacists!

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#### TOPICS OF INTEREST

Anaphylaxis – How and When to Use The Epipen With Children Aged 5-12: Dr Wendy Norton, GP; Royal Melbourne Hospital

Meningitis Vaccination –
Communicating with Patients:

Dr Lisa Beecham, GP, Gold Coast Primary Health Network

COPD Inhaler Devices – Common User Errors: Prof Hubertus Jersmann, Respiratory and Sleep Physician, The Royal Adelaide Hospital Safe and Responsible Use of Traditional Opioids: Prof Milton Cohen, Pain Specialist, St Vincent's Hospital

**Understanding the Atypical Opioids:** Prof Stephan Schug, Pain Management Specialist Physician

**Enzyme Supplements and Chronic Pancreatitis:** Dr Andrew J Metz,
Gastroenterologist, Royal Melbourne
Hospital

**Non-Insulin Injectables**: A/Prof Neale Cohen, Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute

New Therapeutic Guidelines for Mild Asthma – Symbicort vs Ventolin: Dr Christopher Worsnop, Respiratory Physician, Austin Hospital, Melbourne

Schizophrenia in General Practice – 1st, 2nd, 3rd generation Antipsychotics: Prof David Castle, Professor of Psychiatry, St Vincent's Health