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7CPA to deliver safety and certainty

NEGOTIATIONS for the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) will "start in earnest" today, Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt told the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual Parliamentary Dinner last night.

The Minister pledged that the upcoming agreement would deliver certainty for community pharmacy and reduce fluctuations in payments, while strengthening medicines safety.

"We're developing a model to set the remuneration, through negotiations and discussions, which we believe will be fair and reasonable," he said.

"So what [Guild National President] George [Tambassi] has set out and we agree with is agreeing on a trajectory where we will have a real outcome in terms of remuneration you can bank on - it's protected for us, because we know what we'll have to pay, and it's protected for you, because you'll know what you will receive,

so you can see over the next five years this is the amount and this time that amount will effectively be guaranteed."

Hunt said the framework would also ensure the simplification of the payment system through the 7CPA.

He added that the Government planned to introduce new legislation to adjust the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) safety net, over the next two days.

"We will be reducing the number of concessional scripts from 60 to 48 before someone is eligible to qualify for the safety net," he said.

"It means people will get free medicines earlier, but without detriment to any of the pharmacies involved.

"It's an investment of over \$300 million, but it's an investment in pharmacy and in patient medicine affordability."

At the dinner, Hunt also took the opportunity to highlight the positive impact pharmacists working to their full scope will have



on the healthcare system, reporting that a record number of Australians had received an influenza vaccine this year.

"Over the last two years we've gone from eight million flu vaccinations in Australia to 13.2 million vaccinations, with two million of those now being delivered in pharmacy on the latest figures," he said.

"What that says is you're helping to expand health services in Australia."

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news including our weekly **Health & Beauty** feature plus full pages from

- Amcal
- Pharmacy 4 Less

PharmaCare fine

PHARMACARE has been ordered to pay a \$12,600 penalty for the advertising of an item after it had been cancelled from the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

The product, Sambucol Cold & Flu Kids Liquid, was audited during a compliance review.

The TGA found that the application to include the medicine on the Register was false or misleading, "as the scientific evidence PharmaCare held to support some of the indications for the medicine was inadequate," but it stayed on the PharmaCare website despite being cancelled in Jun.

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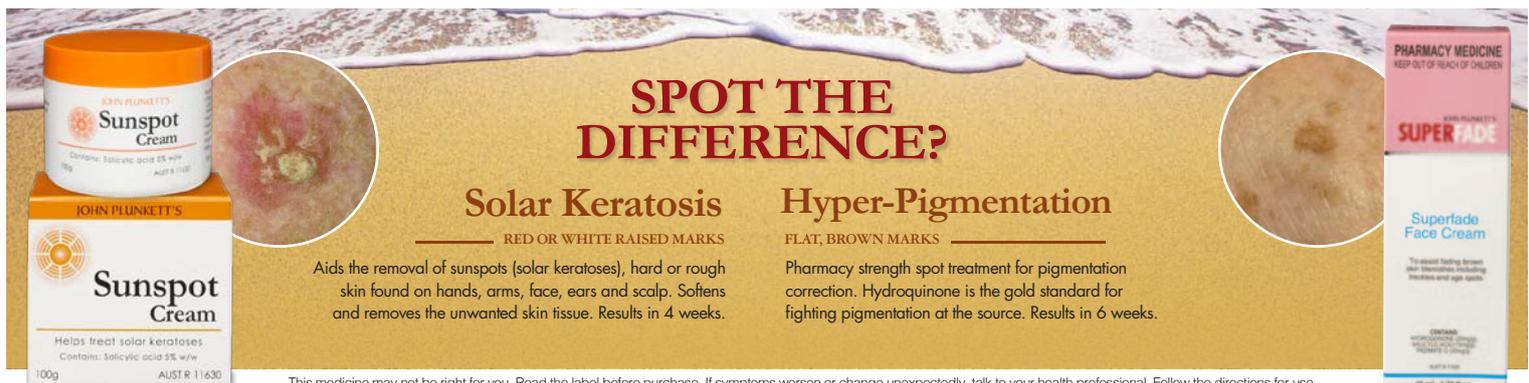


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Capital Chemist hails nurse practitioner

AWARD winning pharmacy, Capital Chemist Wanniasa, is celebrating yet another win, after its in-house nurse practitioner, Chris Helm was named Nurse Practitioner of the Year.

Helm, who is also an educator and sits on the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia recently partnered with the pharmacy, providing his Bridging Healthcare clinic from an in-pharmacy consultation room two days a week.

Capital Chemist Wanniasa Managing Partner, Elise Apolloni, said the team was “inspired and proud to have Chris working” with them.

“Our community appreciates having Chris’s services at their fingertips,” she said.

Apolloni said she had been overwhelmed with the response to Helm’s clinic, which commenced operations just six weeks ago.



Helm (pictured) is “one of those rare people who is the exemplar of his profession, whose energy is boundless, and passion is far-reaching,” Apolloni added, with the Bridging Healthcare clinic complementing other local primary health care services in the Wanniasa area.

Atropine concerns

PHARMACEUTICAL Defence Limited (PDL) has issued a practice update for members, after ongoing incidents relating to the dispensing of atropine eye drops.

According to PDL, despite a warning about the issue last year, it continues to receive reports where Atropine 1% was dispensed, when 0.01% was prescribed.

“The weaker form of atropine eye drops (0.01%) is typically prescribed to children to treat myopia, and these eye drops must be compounded by a pharmacy that is equipped to provide sterile compounding services,” PDL said.

Using the full strength (1%) atropine in the eye of a child will result in extreme discomfort.

PDL said some incidents related to prescribing software which did not accommodate the writing of the 0.01% strength, so the 1% standard script was computer generated and then altered by hand to 0.01%.

Pharmacists were urged to always contact prescribers for clarification.

Life members

PHARMACY Guild of Australia National President, George Tambassis, last night awarded honorary life memberships to two eminent Australian pharmacists.

Paul Sinclair from NSW was hailed for his contribution as a Guild official over many years, as well as being an accredited pharmacist, former NSW Guild Branch President and a longstanding representative at the highest levels of the International Pharmaceutical Federation.

And Vic pharmacist Bruce Robertson’s longstanding input as an active member of the Pharmacy Guild Victorian Branch Committee for 32 years was also recognised, with Tambassis saying he had been a “steadfast, relentless and tireless advocate for not only community pharmacy but rural practice in particular.

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Friday
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Dispensary Corner

DON'T underestimate the power of caffeine.

Efforts of emergency services trying to help victims of terrible weather on the North American east coast are being hampered, because apparently the first instinct of those affected has been to get take-away coffee.

Authorities in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia have issued a public plea for citizens to stay away from coffee shops.

"We can't clear the roads until we can actually get to the roads, and 300 cars at a drive-through right now is really stopping our progress," said a Halifax Fire and Emergency spokesperson.

"All the people that are lined up right now on the roads waiting for coffee...they are actually impeding our crews from getting out there."

AND while we're on the subject of indulging cravings, a new eatery in London is already attracting strong patronage after promoting itself as "the world's first conveyor belt cheese restaurant".

The Cheese Bar in Seven Dials Market, Covent Garden, offers more than 25 varieties of cheese on a 40m electronic delivery system which allows patrons to make their own selections as they pass by.

Plates are colour-coded by price, and there are also several "off-belt" dishes available including pan-fried angouloumi and a grilled cheese sandwich.

Paired wines are also available, and for dessert there's a blue cheese soft serve.

Slade wins SA contract

SLADE Compounding has won a major South Australian contract, having been named as the sole supplier of sterile compounded antibiotics, chemotherapy and analgesics for all SA public hospitals.

The expansion of Slade's offering follows almost three years of providing chemotherapy compounding services to the hospitals, with the agreement awarded following a public tender process this year.

CEO David Slade (pictured) said the company welcomed the opportunity to extend its services in SA, with the deal seeing the firm service up to 26 public hospitals across the state.

"This is an acknowledgement of the exceptional service that Slade Health has been providing to hospitals in South Australia.



"We spend a great deal of time ensuring we understand and deliver on South Australian hospital requirements," he said.

Slade's TGA-licensed facilities currently provide services to more than 200 hospitals in all Australian states, in both regional and metropolitan areas.

Slade Health is part of Icon Group, which also encompasses Epic Pharmacy to provide medication management and pharmacy services to the hospital, oncology and aged care sectors.

Intern comp

NOMINATIONS have opened for the MIMS/Guild Intern of the Year Award for 2019, with the winner to receive a travel and educational scholarship worth \$4,500 courtesy of MIMS.

The competition aims to celebrate an intern who has "proactively sought to implement positive change to their pharmacy," according to Tim Roberts, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National Intern Training Program Manager.

2019 marks the sixth year that the award has been sponsored by MIMS, with the firm's spokesman Kumar Singh saying "being able to reward excellence in young innovative people is extremely exciting for the whole team at MIMS".

NEW PRODUCTS

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Caredent goes eco-friendly

Australian oral care specialist Caredent has announced a new range of environmentally friendly products and packaging, with the aim of reducing the global plastic scourge.



The new **Caredent Adult Biobrush** is 100% compostable with a biodegradable handle, while **Floss in a Box** comes in a fully recyclable container.

Stockist: Caredent Australia
RRP: \$5.00 (Biobrush), \$8 (Periotape 100m)
Website: caredent.com.au

Medical vapouriser launches

Spectrum Therapeutics has announced the Therapeutic Goods Administration registration of its medical-standard vapourisers.



Made by Storz & Bickel, the products are the first in Australia targeting medical cannabis patients.

Stockist: Spectrum Therapeutics
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Email: medinfo.au@canopygrowth.com

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