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Reforms set to make eRx a reality

PHARMACISTS are being urged to brace themselves for managing both paper and electronic prescriptions by the end of the year.

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) issued an update to its electronic prescriptions last week noting that changes to the regulatory and technical frameworks for e-scripts were underway, with the goal of enabling paperless scripts by Dec.

Speaking at Pharmacy Connect earlier this month, Fred IT Group Product Manager eHealth and Innovation, Danielle Bancroft, said pharmacies will need to adapt to deliver a seamless patient experience.

"Paperless prescription is the single greatest impact and customer change that we've had in pharmacy in decades," she said.

"Opportunities exist to create a frictionless patient experience by integrating the old practices that we have with the new, and helping our patients to move toward tomorrow's model of care.

"We must exceed our customers' expectations, and [the pharmacy group] with the best customer experience will win this huge

upcoming opportunity."

The PBS reported that the Federal Government has been working with State and Territory legislators to create nationally consistent regulations that will pave the way for e-scripts to be dispensed without the current need for a patient to present a paper copy of the prescription.

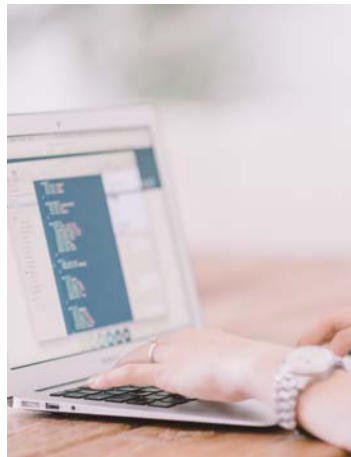
Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch Vice President, Paul Jones, told pharmacy owners at Pharmacy Connect that they needed to prepare for a dual, paper and e-script environment once the Federal Government gives the green light.

"We need to start to think about it," he said.

"It's going to happen, [and] we're going to have a dual system for a number of years.

"We're going to have paper and digital scripts - the digital scripts will probably happen with the younger cohort of patients who will demand them from their GP.

"An analogy I use with people is that in 1984 in Australia we got EFTPOS machines, and before that you have to go into the bank between 9:30am and 4pm when they closed ... to get money out.



"In 2017 the Reserve Bank of Australia said we're going to finally phase out cheques.

"So it took 33 years to go from having digital money to phasing out paper money in the form of cheques.

"In health, we can't take 33 years to go from paper scripts to digital prescriptions. It really needs to happen in less than 12 months."

The PBS has outlined eight key principles for electronic prescriptions, with patient choice, data security and integrity central to them.

CLICK HERE for more information.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news, a front cover wrap from **Sigma Rewards** plus a full page from **Healtheed**.

Caffeine powder

THE sale of pure and highly concentrated caffeine food products (including pure caffeine powder) for personal consumption is to be banned in Australia.

The action follows a report commissioned by Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, and Minister for Aged Care, Richard Colbeck, following the death of 21-year-old Lachlan Foote from acute caffeine toxicity.

"The dangers of pure caffeine powder cannot be overestimated", Colbeck said, noting that "safe" levels of use were difficult to measure.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has taken steps to reduce the risk of accidental caffeine overdose.

CLICK HERE to read the report.

Board announces 3% hike in rego fees

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has announced a 3% increase in its annual registration fees for 2019/20.

The new rate of \$408, which was announced on Thu, will apply to registrations made from 16 Sep.

The 3% increase mirrored fee hikes faced by doctors, nurses and medical radiation practitioners, while Chinese



medicine practitioners, chiropractors, osteopaths and podiatrists have had their fees frozen for the year ahead.

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INNERHEALTH

New Inner Health Fridge Free Range Available from September 23rd



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Stay up to date
on the go
Download the app



Pharmacist opioid role

PHARMACISTS have mixed views on their professional roles when it comes to the dispensing of potentially harmful prescription medications, a new study reveals.

The research published in the *International Journal of Pharmacy Practice* found pharmacists' perceived scope of practice impacted on their management of patients presenting with prescriptions for opioids.

The authors interviewed 21 Brisbane-based pharmacists to explore how they viewed their responsibilities to patient care in the context of a complex case involving polypharmacy and opioid use with risks of toxicity and/or misadventure.

They found three main perceived scopes of practice emerged, with participants who adopted a legal focus "paid little attention to broader issues related to the patient's medication management", while those who considered supply as their role felt they needed to clarify "how frequently the patient was using the medication and whether this corresponded with the dispensing interval to determine whether it was appropriate to dispense to avoid oversupplying the patient".

The third, and largest, group reported that medication management was their primary focus.

"Participants who took a medication management focus



noted the multiple medicines the patient was taking and sought to undertake strategies that would lead to more effective and safer medication use," the authors said. "All participants who identified their role as one of the medication managements described it in terms of improving patient outcomes."

The group was also split in three when it came to the pharmacist's responsibility (full, shared and limited).

Of those who said pharmacist would have limited responsibility for adverse events, two suggested "if pharmacists are to do more in these scenarios they need to be paid for intervention/information and not merely the supply of the medication".

However, the authors found those who said they would be fully responsible "tended to see their responsibilities in a similar light to the responsibilities of the prescriber and were more likely to acknowledge that prescribers face most of the same barriers to complex cases".

Pharmacy robbery suspect arrested

NSW Police have arrested and charged a 34-year-old man in relation to a robbery at Starchem pharmacy in Orange earlier this month.

The man is alleged to have approached a 15-year-old pharmacy assistant shortly before 6pm on 03 Sep, and demanded that she open the register and hand over cash.

The police reported that the woman complied and the man fled the store.

Officers from the Central West



Police District launched an investigation, which culminated in the man's arrest on Thu 19 in Dubbo.

Pain patients treated like "junkies"

CHRONIC pain sufferers need to be able to access appropriate medications without stigma, Australian Labor Party backbencher, Tim Watts, believes.

Speaking in the House of Representatives on Thu, Watts called on the Federal Government to deliver tangible action to improve the quality of life for people living with chronic pain.

"Earlier this year, the Government released the National Strategic Action Plan for Pain Management," he said.

"The plan doesn't set out a time frame for action, nor does it set out any targets. That's not

enough.

"Many Australians are suffering now, and they need action now. They need access to GPs and specialist pain services.

"They need access to appropriate medicines without stigma or judgement.

"They don't need that extra burden on their physical suffering—the mental torment of having to plead their case to a doctor and have chemists look down their noses at them while filling their scripts."

Watts added one pain sufferer told him that he felt like a "junkie" asking for a script for suitable medication.



Health
and Human
Services

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE VICTORIAN PHARMACY AUTHORITY

Jenny Mikakos MP, Minister for Health is pleased to invite applications for appointment to the following position on the Victorian Pharmacy Authority (Authority).

- Registered pharmacist member (suitable for a registered pharmacist only)

This position provides an exciting opportunity for a suitably qualified and experienced individual to contribute to the governance of the Authority and protection of the Victorian public.

This is a paid, part-time Victorian Governor in Council appointment. The term of this appointment is approximately two and a half years, expiring on 30 June 2022.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that government boards and committees reflect the composition of the Victorian community. This includes appropriate representation of women, Victorians with disabilities, regional Victorians, Aboriginal people, young Victorians, Victoria's culturally diverse community and LGBTQI Victorians. Recruitment will consider both merit and diversity during assessment to ensure that the Authority is high functioning and reflects Victoria's diversity.

Applications close at **5:00 p.m. Friday 18 October 2019.**

For further information about this position and to make your application please visit www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/drugs-and-poisons/Victorian-pharmacy-authority-appointments.

For enquiries, please contact Eugene Bogнар, Senior Project Officer, at the Department of Health and Human Services on (03) 9096 5958.



Dispensary Corner

WITH Australian pharmacists looking to combat the impacts of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) price disclosure by new services in the hope of replacing lost revenue, one of the UK's largest pharmacy groups is implementing a new £5 for delivering prescriptions to patients.

The relatively modest fee for the convenience service has raised the ire of at least one patient, Jamie Marks, from Horsham in Sussex, who described it as "absolutely outrageous" and "a joke" that he will have to pay £5 for each delivery from 30 Sep.

Speaking to the *Crawley Observer*, Marks said that while he would not be severely impacted by the fee, he was concerned about how other patients would cope with the increased cost.

"I accept they're a private company," he said.

"[But] this has just come out of the blue. I have never known charges.

"I have raised this for other people. I'm very concerned about people with young children who are seriously ill.

"They could end up with a huge amount of money coming out [of their accounts].

"If it was per household it would not be so bad."

Boots UK Pharmacy Director, Richard Bradley, told the paper that the new fee would be waived "to cover our most vulnerable patient", suggesting there may be little need for Marks to panic.

Review contracts yearly

PHARMACY owners are being urged to review employees' contracts annually to ensure they are up to date in the event of an employee taking legal action against them.

Meridian Lawyers Principal, Sharlene Wellard, told delegates at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Pharmacy Connect earlier this month that they could not "set-and-forget" employment contracts.

"We're about to see a change - I'm sure the Guild will get some information out to you - in the annualised salary space," she said.

"Under the Pharmacy Industry Award it allows you to put both your retail managers and your pharmacists on annualised salaries and that's a bit of a set-and-forget, they're covered by the Award, they do duties under the Award so you put them on a salary.

"The [Fair Work] Commission has decided that there's too much risk that they're not getting paid the right overtime, penalty rates and those sorts of things, so the Commission has decided that

Slimina warning

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) warns that Slimina Weight Loss capsules pose a serious health risk, containing undisclosed amounts of phenolphthalein and paracetamol.



you're going to have to keep hours records, even for your salaried employees and that will come into effect from Mar next year.

"That's going to require you to review [them] annually to make sure they're being paid the right amount.

"Often there'll be changes in the Award and that's a good time to review [employment contracts]... we know the Award rates move on 01 Jul, we know typically the Commission tells us about that in May, so some time between May and Jul is a good time."

Wellard added that pharmacy owners and managers should consider taking out employment practices liability insurance, which can cover legal costs in the event of an employee taking action against them in many instances.

Win with AROMABABY

This week *Pharmacy Daily* & AROMABABY are giving away each day, a prize pack valued at \$39.95.

AROMABABY is celebrating 25 years of caring for sensitive skin. From newborn to older children, choose from a complete range of naturally soothing products to cleanse, moisturise, protect and pamper. Offering a variety of unscented options, AROMABABY prides itself on a long history of safety and efficacy as a pharmacy specialist brand. For more info see www.aromababy.com.

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

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



Are any AROMABABY products unscented?



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is Joji Mori, User Experience (UX) Manager, MedAdvisor.



Behind the screens at MedAdvisor (Part 4)

MANAGING medications is an arduous task, particularly for those with complex medication regimens. At MedAdvisor, we often hear how valued our App is for helping people manage this aspect of their life.

My job as the User Experience (UX) Manager is to ensure our products meet the needs of those they are intended for. Whilst I have worked in a variety of industries, it is a treat to be working on designing products that have a meaningful impact on people's lives for the better.

Using a variety of UX research techniques including interviews and user testing prototypes before being built, our UX team aims to ensure our products are optimally designed. We know we do some things well and have areas to improve, but adopting these techniques ensures we are always moving in the right direction.

One thing the team is most excited about is an upcoming design update to the App which will help modernise the interface, as well as bring some key features front and centre that we know patients love.

A typical week of a UX team member includes producing design prototypes, getting feedback on them by having patients/pharmacists interact with new designs, and communicating designs to the development team.

Oh and consistent with a MedAdvisor culture of good health, some of the team at lunch might join the running group or yoga class.

HEALTHED WEBCASTS



HEALTHED.COM.AU/WEBCAST



FREE WEBCAST TOMORROW TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER, 2019

Zone	Time
NSW, VIC, TAS, ACT, QLD	7:00 – 8:30pm
SA, NT	6:30 – 8:00pm
WA*	7:00 – 8:30pm

*Special delayed session for WA viewers



**ACCREDITED FOR PHARMACISTS
3 CREDITS (GROUP 2)**

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE FREE WEBCAST

Implementing the New Therapeutic Guidelines for Mild Asthma



Prof Peter Wark

Senior Staff Specialist, Respiratory and Sleep Medicine, John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle; Conjoint Professor, the University of Newcastle

Accreditation Number: A1909HED1*

Asthma is the most common chronic respiratory condition, affecting over 2.5 million Australians of all ages, yet serious problems still exist in managing it. Poor or only partial asthma control is seen in more than half of those with asthma, and many still suffer from exacerbations that require oral corticosteroids. Important changes have occurred in asthma management, with a focus away from the relief of symptoms alone. This webcast will cover asthma diagnosis in primary care, the role of anti-inflammatory treatment, and the new treatment options for people with mild to moderate asthma.

*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.

Anaphylaxis in Infants and Young Children



A/Prof Richard Loh

Paediatric Clinical Immunologist, Perth Children's Hospital; Clinical Associate Professor, UWA; Co-Chair, National Allergy Strategy

Accreditation Number: A1909HED1*

This presentation will address the early signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis in infants and young children and advise on how to treat anaphylaxis in infants and young children. The presentation also covers the effectiveness of using adrenaline as an anaphylaxis treatment.

COPD – Inhaler Devices - Common User Errors



Dr Christopher Worsnop

Respiratory Physician, Austin Hospital, Melbourne; Fellow, Royal Australasian College of Physicians

Accreditation Number: A1909HED1*

This workshop will describe how each of the inhalers prescribed for COPD patients are used, including various tricks to make sure that patients are getting the drugs from the devices into their lungs. The positive and negative features of each inhaler will be discussed so that the most appropriate inhaler for each patient can be chosen.