



**NEW**

## Ferro-Max C™

For higher iron absorption.

Available from Symbion, Sigma and API.

Use only as directed. Consult your healthcare professional if symptoms persist.



## COVAX rollout no time for turf war

**PLANS** to authorise pharmacist immunisers to administer COVID-19 vaccines (COVAX) should not be used as part of an interprofessional turf war, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, believes.

Responding to concerns expressed by the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RACGP), that pharmacies were not appropriate sites for COVAX clinics, Freeman said it made sense for the profession to be involved in the rollout of successful vaccines.

"I know that there are some medical groups concerned about pharmacist involvement," he told *Nine Entertainment*.

"But I think it's time to put away the turf protection arguments - we should be focused on the health of the population."

Under the Federal Government's Australian COVID-19 Vaccination Policy the rollout of COVAX will be initially done exclusively by doctors,

with other trained immunisers - including pharmacists - likely to be authorised after three-to-six-months, in the case of adverse events (*PD* 23 Nov).

AMA National President, Dr Omar Khorshid, suggested that community pharmacies were not appropriate locations for immunisation services.

"The motivation of getting patients into the pharmacy is to get them using that as a health hub," he said.

"Our view is the appropriate home for that is with a doctor, who is not trying to sell you anything else.

"Pharmacy is an important part of primary care, but also a retail space trying to sell you products."

Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, George Tambassis, said authorising pharmacists to administer COVAX would support an accelerated rollout of the vaccines.

"Ultimately, the patient will decide where they want to get



vaccinated," he said.

"We know patients want a choice, we're not saying GPs shouldn't be immunisers, you've just got to give the patient the choice."

Highlighting the need to have as many immunisers as possible administering COVAX, former Guild National President, Kos Sclavos, told *Pharmacy Daily* earlier this year, that "if every GP, every GP nurse, every vaccinating pharmacist had no other task but to vaccinate the population of Australia and New Zealand, that would take four months".

Today's issue of *PD*

*Pharmacy Daily* today features three pages of news, plus a full page from **Sigma**.

### Sigma Rewards

**SIGMA** Healthcare is offering members of its rewards program the chance to convert points into Christmas presents.

See **page four** to learn more about how you can cash in.



### Offering TVC classifications in 2021

Beginning in January, AdCheck's expert advertising advisory services will include TVC classification.

Therapeutic goods advertisements that AdCheck assess to be compliant with the TGAC will be able to access our TVC classification service at no extra charge.

AdCheck's expansion into TVC classification follows requests & feedback from advertisers, retailers & broadcasters looking to confidently manage their classifications & compliance obligations.

AdCheck was established to support responsible advertising & advertisers, so this complimentary TVC classification service is a natural extension.

Our new TVC classification service will streamline post-production processes for advertisers and broadcasters wanting to effectively minimise their noncompliance risk.

For more information visit [www.adcheck.com.au](http://www.adcheck.com.au)

### WHO launches Quit Challenge for 2021

**THE** World Health Organization (WHO) has launched its year-long Quit Challenge, to help smokers kick the habit.

The campaign aims to help create healthier environments that are conducive to quitting tobacco by advocating for strong smoking cessation policies, boosting access to quit services, and empowering tobacco users to ditch the habit through "quit and win" initiatives.

WHO Director General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said the COVID-19 pandemic had seen an increase in the number of

smokers wanting to quit.

He added that the WHO would create and build-up digital communities where people can find the social support they need to quit.

"Smoking kills eight million people a year, but if users need more motivation to kick the habit, the pandemic provides the right incentive," he said.

The WHO has also issued its *More than 100 reasons to quit tobacco* publication, and introduced a new digital health worker called, Florence, who can provide smokers with quit advice.

### Tranlylcypromine shortage

**AMDIPHARM** Mercury has extended the period its Parnate (tranlylcypromine 10mg tablet) are expected to be in short supply until 31 Jan 2021, due to unforeseen delays.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has authorised the supply of additional Section 19A product, to minimise the impact of their shortage to patients.

**CLICK HERE** for further information.

## Planning to automate in the next 12 months? This is your chance to make it happen.

Only until 24 December, 2020. Click here for details.



**Automate with the Webster-pak® Robot...**  
and take advantage of the Instant Asset Tax Write-Off!

TELL ME MORE



## Vic COVIDsafe requirements

**PATIENTS** and pharmacy staff operating in indoor shopping centres or stores with a footprint of more than 2,000m<sup>2</sup> in Victoria will have to wear masks, under COVIDsafe summer requirements.

In an update to members, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, reminded pharmacy owners that while masks would not be mandatory in all pharmacies, the principles of social distancing and hand hygiene remain critical for combatting COVID-19.

Although individuals will no longer be required to wear masks in certain settings, Tassone noted that State Government regulations will still demand that people carry one whenever they leave their home.

He added that businesses will still be required to have a COVIDsafe plan throughout the summer months.

Tassone also noted that advice on the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services website regarding the use of personal protective equipment by health workers had not been updated.

## Cut booze intake

**AUSTRALIANS** are being urged to drink no more than 10 standard alcoholic drinks a week under new guidelines published yesterday by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

The NHMRC noted that healthy adults who drink within the guideline recommendations have a less than one in 100 chance of dying from an alcohol-related condition.

**CLICK HERE** for the guidelines.

## Pharmacy prices expected to rise

**ALMOST** 60% of pharmacists who took part in the latest Attain Pharmacy Market Sentiment Survey expect pharmacy business prices to increase in 2021.

Attain Business Brokers Director, Natalie Siranni, said the survey which was completed by pharmacy owners and employee pharmacists, showed 62% of respondents were looking to buy a pharmacy, with just under 30% of those hoping to purchase a store within the next six months.

Almost a third of owners reported that they intended to sell at least one pharmacy in the next five years, just over 10% planning to bring in a junior partner rather than selling up completely.

Close to 50% of participants said they expected to see a slight

increase in pharmacy prices, with 9.7% forecasting they would "increase significantly", while 29% anticipate prices will "stay flat".

"The results from the second iteration of our Pharmacy Market Sentiment Survey show that the pharmacy business sales market continues to be quite strong and indicates that this will likely continue," she said.

"The results show very strong buyer demand and that supply of pharmacies on the market is likely to increase within the next 12 months."

When it came to locations of choice for would-be buyers, pharmacies on shopping strips came out as prime options ahead of stores in small shopping centres and single pharmacy towns or



medical centres, with NSW the state of choice for new owners.

"Overall, these results show positive market sentiment for the pharmacy business sales market from both buyers and sellers," she said.

## WA Police arrest pharmacy bandit

**A WESTERN** Australian shopping centre was evacuated yesterday after an armed robbery at a Busselton pharmacy.

*Seven News* reported the alleged bandit entered the pharmacy at Broadwater Shopping Centre at 11.40am (AWST) wielding a knife.

Shoppers and staff were evacuated from the centre while police negotiated with the suspect during a 35-minute stand-off.

After voluntarily surrendering, the man was arrested and taken to hospital.



Local police reported that they had followed the suspect through Busselton after he failed to comply with a request to stop, prior to the robbery attempt.

## Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away a Plunkett's 99% Pure Certified Organic Aloe Vera set worth RRP \$51.80 including their 99% Pure Aloe Vera gel and 99% Pure Aloe Vera spray.

Aloe Barbadensis 'natures medicine plant' is renowned for its soothing, cooling and hydrating properties. Australian made, Plunkett's 99% Pure Aloe Vera is fragrance, colour and alcohol free and contains pure certified organic Aloe Vera extracted from Aloe Barbadensis Leaf - rich in vitamins, minerals, amino acids and anti-oxidants to soothe, cool and restore dry, damaged skin. To learn more click **HERE**.



**Q:What is Aloe Barbadensis also referred to as?**

To win be the first to send the correct answer to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**new BUY 3 & GET 3 FREE**

**Demacorte Cream 30g (Hydrocortisone 1%)**

Relief of redness, itching and mild inflammatory irritations



**OFFER ONLY AVAILABLE VIA TURNOVER THROUGH YOUR NOVA REPRESENTATIVE OR CLEAR SALES TM ORDER NOW: CALL 1300 904 541**

\*Deal valid to 31st December 2020. Always read the label. Use only as directed.





## Dispensary Corner

**WE'VE** all heard conspiracy theorists come out with evidence-free assertions that 5G technology is behind COVID-19 - or at least the ones who are willing to entertain the reality of the global pandemic.

However, Irish comedian, David O'Doherty has dared to question them with a Twitter post asking, "what if we've got it the wrong way round and Zoom is the thing that's causing it?"

One respondent asked, "as in an internet conferencing company created a virus to increase profits?"

Before adding "less crazy than the 5G mentalness".

Another said, "of course! We're all in the pocket of Big Zoom!"

Others said "upgrade = immunity", "biggest/best marketing ploy ever" and "where's my tinfoil hat?"

While Dubliner, Simon Ward, responded with the all too familiar quote from Zoom meetings, "sorry, you're on mute! Can you say that again?"



## Hospitals key to take home naloxone

**HOSPITAL** pharmacies can play a critical part in identifying individuals at risk of opioid harm, who could benefit from access to take home naloxone, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) believes.

Releasing the Society's *Take home naloxone in Australian hospitals: Hospital pharmacy practice update*, SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels, said it provided links to a range of resources for consumers and health workers to support the use of the overdose treatment.

"Opioids are known to be high risk medications, recently accounting for almost two thirds of all drug-induced deaths in Australia.

"There has been a 9% increase in opioid-induced deaths in the past five years, and nearly 150

hospitalisations and 14 emergency department (ED) presentations daily involve opioid-related harm.

"Accordingly, hospital settings are crucial sites for expanding evidence-based interventions to reduce related mortality."

Michaels said the provision of take-home naloxone wherever clinically appropriate was a well-documented life-saving strategy to prevent unintentional opioid-related harm.

"Naloxone has a long history of safe and effective use in the treatment of life-threatening opioid reactions and has been used in Australia in emergency settings for decades," she said.

"The Australian Government's pilot program, coupled with SHPA's Practice Update informed by hospital pharmacist expertise, will



ensure the benefits are realised for more people at the time of greatest individual risk."

Under the Take Home Naloxone trial, the medication is available free without a prescription in participating states, for people who may either experience or witness an opioid overdose.

## NEW PRODUCTS

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### Introducing the Mepilex Border range of advanced wound care.

Hospital quality wound care for minor, major, surgical and infected wounds. Designed for long wear time that support the gold standard of undisturbed wound healing.

Choose Mepilex Border Lite for minor cuts and grazes, Mepilex Border Flex for more serious wounds in areas of high movement, Mepilex Border Ag for any infected wounds and Mepilex Border Post-Op for surgical excisions and to cover sutures.

Our Mepilex range of wound care dressings are designed with Safetac® - a silicone interface which is clinically proven to hurt less when dressings are removed. Whilst sealing wound edges to reduce the risk of further skin damage and maintain a moist wound environment which promotes healing.

For More information, please contact HealthOne [customer.service@healthone.com.au](mailto:customer.service@healthone.com.au)

**Phone:** 02 9965 9600

**Stockist:** Available now via API and Symbion

**RRP:** Prices start at \$15.59

**Website:** [www.molnlycke.com.au](http://www.molnlycke.com.au)





# THE ULTIMATE WAY TO COMPLETE YOUR GIFT SHOPPING

Redeem your reward points with the Concierge Service where we can help you find the perfect Christmas gifts.



Apple 11-inch iPad Pro  
Wi-Fi + Cellular 256GB

697,510 Points



Lifespan Kids Scout 2-in-1  
Balance Bike & Trike

60,521 Points



Nespresso Delonghi  
Lattissima Touch Restyle

160,763 Points



Endota Live Well Work  
From Home Bundle

47,949 Points



Taylor Made Premium  
Cart Bag

110,358 Points



Homedics Physio  
Massage Gun

26,862 Points

## REDEEM ONLINE TODAY

[sigmarewards.com.au](https://sigmarewards.com.au)

Not a member? Join Sigma Rewards today and be rewarded for your Sigma Healthcare purchases.

Offers are for a limited time only and subject to availability.  
Stock levels may change without notice.

Sigma Rewards Customer Service Centre on 1300 156 462