

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of the latest news plus full pages from:

- HealthOne
- Sigma

Hospital wound care in pharmacy

HEALTHONE is making the Mepilex Border range of advanced wound care dressings available through community pharmacy.

As part of an introductory offer pharmacies that commit to a shelf unit can access promotional stock to the value of \$370.

See page four for more information.

New IR reforms 'counterproductive'

PHARMACY workers are being warned against signing up to new enterprise agreements if the Federal Government's *Industrial Relations Omnibus Bill* is passed.

Employee pharmacist union group, Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA), has warned the new industrial relations (IR) reforms "will hurt pharmacy workers by undermining their pay and conditions and by stripping away the rights of casual workers".

PPA President, Dr Geoff March, said the legislation contains "a range of troubling reforms", which he said may make enterprise agreements more attractive to pharmacy owners who were previously resistant to them.

"Pharmacy employees should be wary of any approach from their employer to enter into an enterprise agreement if this new Bill is passed, as their employer may be seeking to reduce their pay and conditions," he said.

"Pharmacy employees should immediately contact the union if they are confronted with a new enterprise agreement by their employer."

March added the Bill would also introduce new part-time flexibility provisions to the Pharmacy Industry Award, which he said would "enable employers to only pay part-time employees who work overtime at their normal hourly rate time instead of the current Award requirement for them to be paid at overtime rates".

Professionals Australia CEO, Jill McCabe described the reforms as counterproductive.

"The fact we are still facing tough economic times where the need to increase consumer spending is paramount to recovery, yet the government is proposing laws which will result in workers having less money in their pockets to spend, is simply nonsensical," she said.

"PPA will not accept proposed



changes that leave pharmacy employees worse off and we will be actively opposing any attempts to water down workplace rights."

Addressing the issue in the House of Representatives last week, pharmacist turned MP, Emma McBride, warned the Bill would see pharmacy assistants who work a 38-hour week up to \$6,000 a year worse off.

"Why is the Government's Christmas 'thank you' to frontline workers a cut to their take-home pay?" she asked.



Offering TVC classifications in 2021

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Hornsby Hospital pharmacy robot

HORNSBY Ku-ring-gai Hospital has become the first public hospital pharmacy in NSW to implement a robotic dispensing and stocktaking system as part of a \$265 million State Two redevelopment program.

NSW Health Minister, Brad Hazzard, said the redevelopment program is on track for completion in 2021, which has seen the opening of a new intensive care unit.

"The new, state-of-the-art pharmacy is also more than double in size and, thanks to its advanced robotics, can select and dispense medications and conduct stocktakes faster, reducing errors and wastage and allowing pharmacists to spend more time with patients," he said.

The hospital will also include a co-located education space with the University of Sydney.

Choice Pharmacy backs Safe Shelter

CHOICE Pharmacy Bomaderry is teaming up with Rotary Nowra to support local homeless charity, Safe Shelter Shoalhaven.

With approximately 1,000 people homeless in the Shoalhaven, Choice Pharmacy has been providing support to those with no place to call home in the area, the *South Coast Register* reported.

The pharmacy is acting as one



of a number of donation sites where tinned and non-perishable food can be left for Safe Shelter Shoalhaven.

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No time to wait for naloxone funding

VICTORIAN MP, Dr Tim Read, is calling on the State Government to cover pharmacists' fees for the administration of opioid replacement therapies, including naloxone.

The Greens MP noted patients taking methadone faced dispensing fees of close to \$140 a month, because the medications have not been covered by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly last week, Read said, "ideally the Commonwealth would pay the pharmacist this fee for their service, but while they do not, Victoria should step in".

The Brunswick-based GP turned politician told the Assembly that intensive care admissions linked to heroin use cost the State \$5,000 a day, while methadone fees were around \$35 a week.

"Other states subsidise this treatment, and Victoria already pays for opiate replacement for

those aged 18 and under and for recently released prisoners," he said.

"Opiate replacement therapies help people with addiction take control of their lives.

"Helping more people onto these therapies will prevent overdoses and expensive hospital admissions.

"Subsidising this treatment will help people remain on therapy and prevent much of the crime and imprisonment associated with an addiction to an illegal drug.

"All of this will save the state money, and this is why removing fees for opiate replacement therapy was recommended by pharmacy and medical bodies and by the Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee in their 2018 report.

"According to budget figures, about 14,000 Victorians currently receive this treatment.

"However, global disruption to the illegal heroin supply due to COVID-19 has reportedly led to



more people recently seeking opiate replacement therapy.

"We cannot continue this decades-long wait for the Commonwealth to pay because if we do not act now, all Victorians will lose."

Read also noted that "less than half the pharmacies in Victoria provide opiate replacement therapy because the financial support is inadequate."

Rise in number of vax complaints

MEDICAL indemnity insurer, MDA National, has reported that it has received "an increasing number of calls and formal complaints regarding vaccination errors".

In a statement issued last week, the insurer said "the increase may be due to an ever changing and increasingly complex national immunisation schedule and public awareness regarding immunisation".

"Most errors occur either during vaccine selection and preparation, or history checking and scheduling," MDA National said.



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References 1. In vitro temperature comparison of cryogenic wart treatment devices 2016. 2. AU Market Survey Home Cryogenic Wart Treatments IRI data MAT dollar sales 03 May 2020. ENDWARTS® is a Mylan company trade mark. Mylan Health Pty Ltd. (ABN 29 601 608 771) 30-34 Hickson Road, Millers Point, Sydney NSW. Ph: 1800 314 527 © 2020 Mylan N.V. All rights reserved. Date Prepared: October 2020. END-2020-0132.



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Click here for more info

Dispensary Corner

AUTHORITIES in Taiwan are pretty strict about COVID-19 - as evidenced by a AU\$6,000 fine issued to a man who stepped outside his hotel quarantine room for just eight seconds.

The migrant worker from the Philippines was isolating at a hotel in Kaohsiung and ducked out briefly to leave something outside the room of a colleague.

Hotel staff captured the moment on CCTV and reported the incident to the Health Department which levied the hefty penalty for the infringement.

Taiwan's strict approach to coronavirus has been cited for the country's success during the pandemic, with a total of just over 700 cases & seven deaths.

AND on a similar topic, new COVID-19 guidance from the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) recommends that flight attendants should wear nappies while on duty so they can minimise bathroom breaks.

Released last week, the Sixth Edition of the CAAC's Technical Guidelines for Epidemic Prevention and Control for Airlines states: "it is recommended that cabin crew members wear disposable diapers and avoid using the lavatories barring special circumstances to avoid infection risks".

Other recommendations for flight attendants include medical masks, double-layer disposable medical gloves and goggles along with disposable hats, clothes and shoe covers.

Cap Chemist celebrates



AS 2020 winds to a close, the Capital Chemist Group has celebrated the achievements of its pharmacies.

Capital Chemist Lyneham, ACT, was named as the group's Pharmacy of the Year (PotY), taking the title ahead of runner-up, Capital Chemist Mittagong, NSW, and third-placed Capital Chemist University of Canberra, with Capital Chemist Crace, ACT, taking out the Up and Coming Award for the most improved pharmacy in the group.

The group's internal competition is based on pharmacies' performances across a range of measures including retail success, dispensary management, business management, POS hygiene and marketing activity.

In a COVID-19-induced break from tradition, the PotY award winners were announced on social media last week, with Capital Chemist Group Business Manager, Andrew Topp, paying surprise visits to present prizes to winners.

Accepting the PotY Award, Capital Chemist Lyneham Managing Partner, Magna Tsui, said she was "humbled" to win the title.

"This year has been quite extraordinary," she said.

"Like so many other businesses,

we have been challenged and tested, but as a team, we have adapted, innovated, and drawn strength from each other.

"We have learnt that when you can't control what's happening around you, then focus on what you can control and how you respond.

"With this mindset, each of us has come to work every day, with energy and positivity, with the focus of ensuring our community is looked after to the best of our abilities, and that the pharmacy operates to its full potential.

"This award is wonderfully encouraging and uplifting to the team.

"It recognises their extraordinary effort, strength and tenacity.

"What a wonderful way to close out the year.

"We can't wait for 2021, where we will do even bigger and better things."

The Capital Chemist Group Team Member of the Year was shared by Capital Chemist Chisholm's Professional Services Pharmacist, Vijay Babu, and Capital Chemist Wanniasa Retail Manager, Leane White.

Pictured, the Capital Chemist Lyneham team with the Capital Chemist Group PotY trophy.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Lloyd Jewell, Network**



Partner at TerryWhite Chemmart Maddingley, Winchelsea and Armstrong Creek, VIC.

3 stores + 1 brand = success

AS A pharmacist owner for over 20 years, I am confident there are very few pharmacy brands that can cater for multiple formats like TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) can.

My shopping strip pharmacy in Winchelsea became a TWC 6 years ago and has been showing fantastic growth for a well-established business. In February this year my partners and myself opened a Medical Centre pharmacy in Maddingley and, in September, we opened a pharmacy in a newly developed Shopping Centre precinct in Armstrong Creek.

The support provided by TWC is ideal having multiple sites and the cohesiveness of three TWC pharmacies has been a real benefit. Our pharmacies are an integral part of the community and the focus on health and professional services in the TWC model resonates strongly with them.

Retail sales for our Maddingly pharmacy have exceeded our expectations considering the pharmacy is in a purely residential area and we are seeing more customers coming to us as a destination.

Three months on from opening, Armstrong Creek is performing very well considering the COVID restrictions Victoria has endured.

Embracing the many facets of TWC such as pricing strategy, health app, Rewards program, local area marketing, Professional Services, Qantas, Man Shake and especially their vaccination excellence has been key to our success. Our partnership with TerryWhite Chemmart certainly empowers us.



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