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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news.

Minfos multi-store

ALL-IN-ONE POS and dispensing software provider, Minfos, has launched its multi-store module, to enable pharmacy groups to manage their pharmacy business operations through a single system.

The platform will allow groups to access a real-time overview of sales and staff performance.

It also enables head office to analyse stock movement, auto-generate orders and reports to identify excess stock to conduct stock transfers between pharmacies where required.

Locums name price as shortages hit

DEMAND for pharmacists is on the rise as pharmacy owners struggle to fill roles, while locums are now able to set their rates, a pharmacy recruiter says.

Data produced by jobs site, indeed.com.au, found the number of pharmacist job ads surged by 180% in 2019, while *Business Insider Australia* reported workers in the health sector saw average pay rises of 3.2% - compared with increases of 2.2% in other sectors.

LocumCo Director, Sue Muller, told *Pharmacy Daily*, the industry had seen a significant rise in demand for pharmacists.

"I have seen a large increase in job listings due to the national shortage of pharmacists," she said.

"The impact of the shortage is that hourly rates will rise.

"I had a call from a locum the other day to say his rate was \$70/ hour.



"He said the ball has been in the court of the owners for too long and now it is in the court of the locums."

Raven's Recruitment General Manager, Heidi Dariz, noted pharmacies across the country have been experiencing staffing issues.

"The shortages are particularly more acute in more regional

areas, although we are now seeing shortages in urban areas for pharmacists," she said.

"The shortages are most notable throughout community pharmacy, we find that we have very little trouble filling hospital roles."

The indeed.com.au report found job ads for pharmacy assistant roles also soared in 2019, jumping 170%.

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Arrotex, Boehringer sign Spiriva deal

ARROTEX Pharmaceuticals has announced a strategic partnership with Boehringer Ingelheim to have the exclusive Australian reseller rights to respiratory products Spiriva (tiotropium 18 micrograms powder for inhalation) and Spiriva HandiHaler.

Following last year's merger of Apotex Australia and Arrow Pharmaceuticals, Arrotex now promotes GSK's Seretide, Pavtide (Seretide authorised generic),

Flixotide and Ventolin CFC Inhaler brands, along with AstraZeneca's respiratory brands Symbicort Turbuhaler, Symbicort Rapihaler, Pulmicort, Omnaris, Alvesco, Bricanyl and Oxis.

Arrotex CCO, Lisa Golden, said the business was committed to creating value for community pharmacies, adding the Spiriva deal would "provide unique branded portfolio offerings for pharmacy to unlock additional revenue".

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Dispensary Corner

MOVES to change the name of Australia's anti-vaxxer movement, the Involuntary Medication Objectors (Vaccination/Fluoride) Party, are being opposed by those in the healthcare sector.

The group, is seeking to assume the somewhat ironic moniker of the Informed Medical Opinions Parties.

Given the wealth of evidence showing the safety and efficacy of vaccinations, Federal Health Minister has described the name changes as "misleading".

The Australian Medical Association has also voiced its opposition to the rebranding move.

However, the group's founder, Michael O'Neill, rejected the suggestion telling the Sydney Morning Herald that the name "quite accurately describes our objectives".

Misinformation about vaccinations has been blamed for the reemergence of measles and mumps around the world.

PDL's generic warning

PHARMACEUTICAL Defence Limited (PDL) is warning pharmacists they could face disciplinary action if they make generic substitutions where it has not been authorised.

In a practice alert issued yesterday, PDL noted "some pharmacists feel that they can make generic substitutions where it is unauthorised and that they will act without consequence - this is not the case".

"Complaints to pharmacy regulators usually happen in one of two ways," the alert said.

"Consumers who specifically direct that no substitution take place will often file a complaint if a pharmacy generically substitutes without their permission.

"Alternatively, a prescriber who 'ticks the box' may report a pharmacist for unauthorised substitution if they become aware that this has occurred.

"Consumers who have their directions on no substitution ignored will often choose to change pharmacies which is an economic hit to the business.

"There are often good reasons why substitution of brands should not take place.



"Commonly with elderly patients or those with poor health literacy, swapping away from a familiar brand may lead to confusion and medical misadventure."

PDL noted there were some drugs, including warfarin that should never have their brands interchanged for clinical reasons of differing bioavailability, while brand consistency should be maintained for anti-epileptics.

PDL also warned having a sign stating that it is the pharmacy's policy to use generics is not a license to substitute, noting that a consumer must verbally agree that generic substitution is acceptable to them.

Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

06 - 08 Mar: NSW/ACT Annual Therapeutic Update 2020; Crowne Plaza Terrigal; Save the date - registrations open 2 Dec: www.psa.org.au

19 - 22 Mar: APP 2020; Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre; Early bird registrations now open: www.appconference.com

18 - 19 Apr: Pharmeducation Clinical Update; Holiday Inn, Potts Point, Sydney, to www.pharmeducation.com.au

06 May: APC & ANMAC Interprofessional Colloquium 2020; QT Hotel, Canberra; for more info visit: www.ipecolloquium.com/



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