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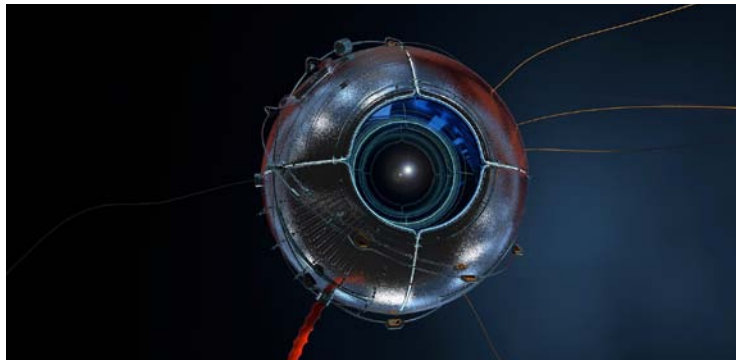
Qld Health to roll out QScript RTPM

PHARMACISTS and prescribers in Queensland will have access to a real-time prescription monitoring (RTPM) system before the end of this year, Queensland Health revealed.

The new system, dubbed QScript, will be developed by pharmacy software provider, Fred IT, which also developed Victoria's SafeScript RTPM platform.

The development of QScript followed the passage of the Medicines and Poisons Act 2019 (PD 19 Sep 2019), and its use will be mandated to monitor the prescribing and dispensing of all Schedule 8 (S8) products and several S4 medications including benzodiazepines, codeine, pregabalin, tramadol, gabapentin, quetiapine, zolpidem and zopiclone.

A spokesperson for Queensland Health told *Pharmacy Daily* QScript



would be available to prescribers and pharmacists in the state in the second half of the year.

"Queensland Health is always looking for ways to innovate and make care safer, smarter and more efficient for all Queenslanders," the spokesperson said.

"Real-time prescription monitoring will give prescribers and pharmacists the tools they need to make safe decisions

when prescribing certain high-risk prescription medications.

"QScript will be able to be accessed by prescribers, pharmacists and dispensing medical practitioners during a consultation with a patient."

Earlier this month Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, said moves were underway to deliver a nationally integrated RTPM by the second half of the year (PD 10 Feb).

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from:

- HMR Healthcare

HOD payments

THE Department of Health has advised that from 01 Mar fees payable for Health Outcomes Data (HOD) collection, in the form of patient registrations and six-month follow ups, will cease.

HOD provided for Dose Administration Aids, MedChecks and Stage Supply will continue to be, utilised in the clinical and cost effectiveness evaluation of these programs.

Claims submitted on the PPA Portal from 01 Mar will be displayed with \$0 value.

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Research conducted and funded by Rhinocort. Efficacy of Budesonide compared to intranasal corticosteroids and antihistamines in allergic rhinitis. November 2019. Available at Rhinocort.com.au *Registered Trademark. JORH18207M.

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Digital grants R2

PHARMACY owners and managers looking for support to build a new website for their store can apply for funding through the Gold Cross Digital Grants program.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia subsidiary will provide 25 grants to Guild member pharmacies to build websites with Guild Digital.

The financial support provided will be based on pharmacy turnover in the last financial year, with up to \$1,550 (ex GST) to be provided to stores with a turnover of less than \$2 million, while those with a turnover of up to \$3 million will be eligible for grants of \$1,085 (ex GST).

CLICK HERE for more.

Pharmacists key to geriatric care

PHARMACISTS with specific geriatric medicine expertise need to be integrated into multidisciplinary teams caring for older Australians, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) believes.

In a new Standard of practice in geriatric medicine for pharmacy services, developed with the Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicines, the SHPA highlighted the role pharmacists can play in avoiding and reducing inappropriate polypharmacy, and preventing adverse drug reactions in elderly patients.

Former SHPA Geriatric Medicine Leadership Committee Chair and lead author of the Standard, Dr Rohan Elliott, said randomised controlled trials showed the integrating clinical pharmacy

services into aged care settings improved medication management and safety.

"Comprehensive, patient-centred medication reviews and assessment of patients' medication management are essential roles for geriatric medicine pharmacists," he said.

"In this area, deprescribing has become a major focus.

"Along with medication regimen simplification, deprescribing can improve medicines adherence and reduce treatment burden for older people and their carers, ultimately improving comfort and quality of life among this vulnerable cohort."

Following recommendations from the Aged Care Royal Commission's interim report recommendations to curb the use of antipsychotic



medication in the aged care setting, SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels, said pharmacists were uniquely positioned to determine if prescribing such medications would be appropriate.

The Standard of practice in geriatric medicine for pharmacy services was published in the Feb issue of the *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*.

CWH, TWC drive EBOS revenue growth

PHARMACEUTICAL

wholesaler, EBOS, has reported a 25% increase in revenue for the first half of the 2020 Financial Year, to \$4.4 billion, fuelled by growth from its community pharmacy business.

The group, which includes Community Service Obligation wholesaler, Symbion, saw a 35.4% increase in revenue from its pharmacy business, following the commencement of its Chemist Warehouse Group (CWH) pharmaceutical wholesale contract, and the expansion of its TerryWhite Chemmart Group (TWC), EBOS CEO, John Cullity said.

"The growth in our pharmacy wholesale and contract logistics business is testament to the Group's capital investment strategy over recent years, which has enabled us to productively manage the significant uplift in volumes and revenues," he said.

Cullity noted that 16 new TWC pharmacies opened in the first half of FY20, with the network reporting sales growth of 5.7%, while prescription sales, on a like-for-like basis grew 5.3%,



driven by increased brand awareness, customer satisfaction and new programs including ties with Qantas Frequent Flyers, Bupa and Afterpay.

In its H1FY20 results EBOS posted a statutory net profit after tax of \$81.7 million, up 21.8% on the previous corresponding period, while earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation jumped 36.4% on the H1FY19 results

The company declared an interim dividend of NZ\$0.375 cents per share, an 8.7% increase on prior corresponding period, with the fully franked dividend to be paid on 03 Apr.



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Dispensary Corner

THE Pharmacy Guild definitely has the industry's back - at least when it comes to classic rock.

Overnight the organisers of the upcoming Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference on the Gold Coast issued a bulletin to any pharmacists who have missed out on tickets for one of the biggest concerts of the year.

Iconic performers Queen and Adam Lambert are currently touring Australia, with upcoming gigs including a show tonight in Melbourne followed by performances in Perth, Adelaide and the Gold Coast.

But don't worry - APP will also feature its own little piece of *Bohemian Rhapsody*, with Queen tribute band KillerQueen (pictured) to perform at the Street Party on Sat 21 Mar.

APP delegates are likely to go Radio Ga Ga over the performance - and when it comes to the dance floor, well look out, Don't Stop Me Now!

The APP Facebook Page, where two tickets to the Street Party are being given away, has been filled with comments about the show, including one sobering health warning reminding attendees that listening to Queen can be bad for your health because of the high Mercury content....



Acupuncturist banned

UNREGISTERED acupuncturist, Liya Rong, has been permanently barred from practising as a health professional by the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) after a patient sustained a pneumothorax following a treatment she provided.

A complaint was filed with the HCCC on 29 Apr 2019 by a former client of Rong, who was hospitalised for more than a week after receiving a 30-minute treatment for a headache at the Great Wall Chinese Medicine Clinic in Hurstville.

In a response to the HCCC Rong said she had studied at the Acupuncture and Massage Training Centre of the Liaoning University of Traditional Chinese Medicine in China in 2003, however, the Commission questioned the authenticity of certificates relating to her qualifications.

The HCCC investigation found Rong had not registered as a Chinese Medicine practitioner with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, and therefore



had no endorsement to practice as an acupuncturist.

The Commission ruled that the injury sustained by the patient occurred because Rong was "not competent and sufficiently qualified to practice acupuncture".

"Rong is permanently prohibited from providing acupuncture services and dry needling services, whether on a paid or voluntary basis, unless and until she satisfies the Commission that she has successfully completed an Approved Program of Study recognised by the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia," the HCCC ruling said.

Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away the pictured prize pack valued at over \$60.

Aloe Barbadensis 'Natures medicine plant' is renowned for its soothing, cooling and hydrating properties. Plunkett's Aloe Vera is fragrance and colour free and contains pure certified organic Aloe Vera extracted from Aloe Barbadensis Leaf - rich in vitamins, minerals, amino acids and anti-oxidants to restore dry and damaged skin all year round. Visit: www.Plunketts.com.au for more.

To win, be the first from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Does Plunkett's Aloe Vera contain any artificial colour?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner Michelle Stokes



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Travel & Cruise Weekly



Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Travel & Cruise Weekly*.

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Cunard to stick around

CONCERN over the coronavirus means cruise ship operators are leaving their vessels in local waters much longer this year - and that means some serious cruise bargains are available.

Cunard's flagship *Queen Elizabeth* is here for another two months, it was announced this morning, and will operate her first ever 27-night full circumnavigation of Australia.

Staterooms are on sale from 9am tomorrow, but be quick! - see your travel agent or cunard.com.

Trekking savings

TRAVELLERS wanting a more active holiday can take advantage of savings of up to \$400 per person in a new World Expeditions "Mountain Lovers' Sale" which launched today.

A variety of trips trekking through Nepal's Annapurna region, Afrika's Kilimanjaro and Morocco's High Atlas are on offer - more info on 1300 720 000.

HMR FEBRUARY OFFER

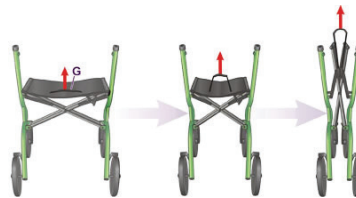
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