

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news.

MedAdvisor deal

AUSTRALIAN Securities Exchange listed digital medication management company, MedAdvisor, has signed its second US agreement to provide medication education programs for a leading global pharmaceutical company through its strategic US partner, Adheris Health (PD 25 Mar 2019).

The deal will see patients from up to 4,000 US pharmacies take part in four nine-month pilots providing digital medication education.

The agreement is set to generate \$825,000 in revenue for MedAdvisor.

Cobargo Pharmacy reopens after fire

COBARGO Pharmacy reopened its doors on Mon, two weeks after a deadly bushfire swept through the NSW township, claiming the lives of two men and destroying close to half the buildings on the main street.

As the fire raged through Cobargo on New Year's Eve, a Pharmacy Guild of Australia spokesperson had expressed concerns that the pharmacy could have been decimated (PD breaking news).

However, the Advantage Pharmacy store's solid brick structure protected it from being burnt to the ground and is believed to have shielded other shops on the same side of the road from the inferno that raged through the town.

A spokesperson for the Advantage Pharmacy Group told *Pharmacy Daily* that the store was unable to open until Mon when



power was restored.

While the pharmacy has reopened the spokesperson said it was not back up to full service, but staff had been providing free face masks to help residents struggling with the persistent poor air quality.

Staff at the store had noted that patients' mental health was a key issue in the community, after the fires devastated the town

destroying property, livestock and lives.

Pharmacists in need of support can contact the Pharmacists' Support Service on 1300 244 910 or visit supportforpharmacists.com.au.

Pictured, Cobargo Pharmacy after the New Year's Eve fire - pictures courtesy of Advantage Pharmacy.

Continued dispensing bushfire rules

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has issued an addendum to its continued dispensing guidelines.

The addendum was produced following the announcement of a temporary expansion of continuing dispensing arrangements to ensure affected people are able to continue to receive PBS subsidised medicines when a doctor's prescription is not immediately available (PD 13 Jan).

Under the expanded arrangements, pharmacists will be able to give patients a standard supply (usually one month's worth) of a Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listed medicine, without a prescription, once in a 12 month period.

The patient must previously have been prescribed this medicine and the pharmacist must be satisfied it is urgently needed.

The supply of medicines under these arrangements relate to payment and claiming for supply

of PBS medicines and are subject to a strict set of professional guidelines.

The expanded PBS continued dispensing emergency arrangements came into effect on Mon and will continue until 31 Mar.

These expanded continued dispensing funding arrangements can only be used where there is legal provision to do so in local state and territory regulations.

At this time, NSW, ACT, Victoria and South Australia have enacted measures which allow this to occur in defined circumstances for a defined period of time.

PSA National President, Dr Chris Freeman encouraged members to be familiar with the guidelines and addendum

"PSA has worked with government agencies and our team of experts to ensure pharmacists are properly supported when supporting Australians affected by bushfires through the expanded continued dispensing initiative," he said.

Sunburn? DermAid!

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Travel & Cruise Weekly

Dispensary Corner

PHARMACY is a serious business, with patients relying on the advice trained staff provide, so when unlicensed "pharmacists" attempt to moonlight as professionals there are significant safety risks.

With that in mind, Kenyan officials swooped on more than 100 bogus stores, putting fraudsters out of business, over the course of a five-day pre-Christmas campaign.

The efforts of the east African nation's Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), have resulted in the seizure of stock with store owners arrested.

PPB Head of Good Distribution Practices and Ports of Entry, Dr Dominic Kariuki, said suspected government hospital medications were found in one of the pharmacies, with investigators now following the trail of drugs to identify those responsible for the racket.

Charges of possessing government stores, carrying out pharmacist business without a license and carrying out pharmacist business in an unregistered premises, have been laid against those arrested.

Of the 56 cases already heard by local courts, those who have made guilty pleas have been issued fines of between \$215 and \$1,075.

Kariuki appealed to the public urging them to report "such nameless premises to the Board for immediate action".

He also raised concerns about approved pharmacies being managed by unqualified staff.

Ban for ice-pipe import

A WESTERN Australian pharmacist has been reprimanded and disqualified from reapplying for registration, for two months for her role in the illegal importation of 150 "ice-pipes", following a state Administrative Tribunal hearing.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia said Cathy Nguyen's conviction for importing and aiding or abetting the importation of the pipes into Australia constituted professional misconduct.

The Tribunal noted Nguyen pleaded guilty to the charges relating to the incidents which occurred on or around 07 and 12 Mar 2016, accepting she imported 100 ice-pipes into the country and aided the importation of a further 50.

A statement the Board noted Nguyen was fined a total of \$10,000 in relation to the two offences.

The Tribunal found Nguyen had failed to comply with conduct statement 1.1 of the Board's Code of Conduct for Pharmacists 2014, by breaching the law, conduct statement 1.2 of the Code, which required her to protect and promote the health of individuals and the community, and statement 8.1 of the Code, in that she failed



to display a standard of behaviour that warrant the trust and respect of the community.

The Tribunal noted that Nguyen had no prior disciplinary or criminal history, and had demonstrated remorse for her conduct, which occurred outside of her practise as a pharmacist.

Nguyen admitted that her conduct constituted professional misconduct and was reprimanded and disqualified from re-applying for registration as a pharmacist for two months.

She was also ordered to pay \$500 towards the Board's costs of applying to the Tribunal.

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...see more info

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.

23 - 29 Jan: NAPSA Congress; University of Newcastle; for more info visit: www.napsa.org.au

01 - 02 Feb: SHPA Extension Seminar in Surgery and Perioperative Medicine, Brisbane; Early Bird until 10 Jan: <https://www.shpa.org.au/ext-surg-periop-2020>

08 Feb: SHPA Masterclass in Clinical Medication Management, Adelaide; Early Bird until 17 Jan: <https://www.shpa.org.au/ext-surg-periop-2020>

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

PSA NSW awards

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is accepting nominations for the NSW Pharmacist Awards.

Nominations close on 29 Jan, with the winners to be announced at the PSA NSW/ACT Annual Therapeutic Update Conference in Terrigal on 06 Mar.