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Travel & Cruise Weekly

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news.

### Tassie marks first e-script dispense

**ADVANTAGE** Pharmacy Penguin dispensed Tasmania's first electronic prescription token this week, using MedView Flow.

The pharmacy in the northern Tasmanian town of Penguin, is one of the Australian Digital Health Agency's Communities of Interest, where e-scripts are being rolled out.

Legislation permitting the dispensing of e-scripts has been passed in most jurisdictions with the exception of Queensland.



## Banks are eager to back pharmacy

**PHARMACIES** are likely to be offered a "little bit of leniency" as they go through the COVID-19 crisis, with banks viewing the sector positively, Medici Valuations Director, Christian Sirianni, believes.

Speaking during the latest *Sirianni Market Update*, Sirianni said that while some pharmacies, particularly those based in CBDs, large shopping centres and medical centres where GPs had switched to providing telehealth rather than face-to-face consults, were experiencing challenges, owners and prospective buyers were "quite positive at the moment".

"There's not much concern out there," he said.

"I think there's probably a situation where those sites that are having a lot of trouble in terms of being in CBD locations, large shopping centres and some medical centres, there's a little bit of leniency within the banks in terms of whether or not these people need to be doing their reporting at the moment.

"For the most part the banks seem quite eager to be involved in pharmacy at the moment, and certainly it seems to be business as usual."



While the banks may be looking at the community pharmacy sector favourably, Sirianni noted that COVID had created issues across lenders' businesses.

"They've had their administrative issues in terms of small business loans and managing an increase in demand since the lockdowns were in place," he said.

"[But] as far as supporting pharmacy goes I think it's still very positive.

"There are some banks that come and go as they please from the industry, [but] I would say the key

players have been very strong in supporting pharmacy in this time and it seems from the figures that we're seeing there's every reason for them to be supportive."

When it came to valuations, Sirianni warned that Mar sales figures were likely to be an "aberration" as a result of COVID-19-induced panic-buying, while restrictions had impacted pharmacies' performance in Apr.

"On the whole we're trying to get a feel for what normal, or a 'new normal' might look like and what it will return to," he said.

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## Fred IT to build SA RTPM system

**PLANS** to introduce real-time prescription monitoring (RTPM) in South Australia are moving forward with pharmacy IT solutions provider, Fred IT contracted to build the ScriptCheckSA platform.

Fred IT General Manager eHealth, David Freemantle, told *Pharmacy Daily* that the announcement meant most jurisdictions were making progress to sign up to the National Data Exchange (NDE), which Fred has been contracted to build.

ScriptCheckSA will be based on the Victorian SafeScript model, which is also set to be adapted for Queensland as QScript (*PD* 20 Feb).

“We’re hoping to have the vast majority of jurisdictions connected by the end of the year... with full integration [in South Australia] by early next year,” Freemantle said.

With NSW among the jurisdictions that have yet to formally sign up to the NDE,



Freemantle said there has been “some signs of activity... they’re currently reviewing the system”.

Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, has urged State and Territory Governments to sign up to the NDE as soon as possible (*PD* 10 Feb).

“The Commonwealth expects all States and Territories to integrate their systems by the end of this

year,” he said.

Currently RTPM systems are in place, but not mandated in Victoria, the ACT and Tasmania, with Queensland’s Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Steven Miles, announcing a RTPM system will be introduced in the State in the second half of this year (*PD* 19 Sep 2019).

## TGA issues fines worth \$1.8m

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) issued 187 infringement notices relating to alleged illegal import, manufacture, supply and advertising of therapeutic goods in the 2019/20 financial year, totalling almost \$1.8 million.

In the same period the TGA also took civil action against three companies, with the Federal Court of Australia ordering one company to pay the Commonwealth \$10 million for breaches of the therapeutic goods advertising requirements.

A further five criminal matters were referred to the Commonwealth Department of Public Prosecution.

A further 129 infringement notices totalling \$1.24 million were also issued during the year.

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## Dispensary Corner

**FLORIDA-BASED** COVID-19 miracle cure salesman, Mark Grenon and his sons Jonathan, Jordan and Joseph are facing federal charges for refusing to stop selling their toxic bleach-based elixir.

The four men have been charged with conspiracy and criminal contempt for continuing to produce and market their Miracle Mineral Solution, despite a court order demanding they cease trading, with the concoction linked to illness and death.

The *Huffington Post* reported that the family had traded under the guise of the Genesis II Church of Health and Healing, despite having nothing to do with religion, as a ploy to legalise the use of their deadly brew, while avoiding government regulation.

The Grenon and Sons' snakeoil which was a blend of sodium chlorite and water was not only promoted as a cure for COVID-19, but a variety of other conditions including autism, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, HIV, AIDS and cancer.

"The Grenons allegedly directed their customers to ingest Miracle Mineral Solution orally, which caused the solution to become chlorine dioxide, a powerful bleach, typically used for industrial water treatment or bleaching textiles, pulp and paper," prosecutors said.

The Food and Drug Administration reported a number of people had been hospitalised after using the toxic drink.

## SHPA announces virtual MM2020

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) National Conference, Medicines Management 2020 (MM2020) will go ahead as an online event on 21 and 22 Nov.

SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels, said the decision to switch from a live event in Adelaide to a virtual format was made to ensure the safety of event delegates, members and staff while allowing innovation, celebration and decades of tradition to continue (*PD* 29 May).

"Across our membership and the hospital pharmacy community, incredible work and achievement continues every day, and we are designing a program that will still allow us to gather, recognise and celebrate as a profession, as we do every year," she said.

"Following on from our first successful all-virtual event, MM2020 will feature a rigorous scientific program, interactive supporter opportunities, our array of prestigious awards as well as a number of exciting – and surprising – ways to network and socialise."



The event theme 'Crossover' will focus on creating connections and strengthening bonds.

"Crossover describes the positive potential in the shift from face-to-face to online interactions, as well as the importance of connecting in all areas of pharmacy practice: between pharmacy practitioners; between pharmacists, technicians and other health professionals; across cities and states; and with the patients and families in our care," Michaels said.

"SHPA will always prioritise the safety of event delegates, members and staff and we look forward to again hosting delegates from around the country at Australia's largest scientific pharmacy conference as we gather as a community in spirit, if not in person."

Michaels added that the SHPA's MM2021 will be held in South Australia from 25 to 27 Nov 2021, under the theme 'Future-Proof'.

**CLICK HERE** to pre-register.

## Win with BioSilk

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily & BioSilk are giving away a bottle of their Silk Therapy worth RRP \$32

BioSilk Silk Therapy Original is a weightless leave-in silk replenishing and reconstructing treatment that helps repair, smooth and protect all hair types. Winner of the USA New Beauty 2018 Awards this amazing product fills voids in the hair cuticle to create smooth hair, controls frizz and provides incredible shine. [Click HERE](#) to learn more about BioSilk.

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## Meds recycling

**WITH** a third of unused medicines being flushed or thrown in refuse bins in Ireland the Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) is calling for the introduction of a medicines recycling program.

The IPU has urged authorities to roll out DUMP (Dispose of Unused Medicines Properly) bins across the Emerald Isle.

IPU Vice President, Eoghan Hanly, said the scheme would combat the risk of contaminating water systems and allow for easy recycling of inhalers and other devices.