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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of pharmacy news, plus a full page from Ascensia.

Free upgrades

ASCENSIA is offering to upgrade customer's blood glucose meters at no charge, with the latest systems supporting the Contour Diabetes App to support self-management.

For details see **page three**.

New SUSMP out

THE latest revision of the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (SUSMP) has been released by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

SUSMP No. 30, also referred to as the Poisons Standard July 2020, is available in electronic form free of charge on the Federal Register of Legislation website at legislation.gov.au.

The new version incorporates a few changes, most notably the addition of the new substance remdesivir in Schedule 4 as part of "Australia's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency".

There are also amendments to the existing index entries for hydroxychloroquine, hydroxycarbamide, mitragyna speciosa and mitragynine.

Telehealth restrictions to hit pharmacy

THE Federal Government has confirmed changes to Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS) rebates for telehealth consultations, which will be restricted to General Practices with an existing relationship with the patient from next week.

The move is a response to a chorus of complaints from doctors groups about "corporate pop-ups" such as those operated by pharmacy groups including Chemist Warehouse and Priceline Pharmacy.

The new telehealth MBS items introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic had led to a range of innovations, including Chemist Warehouse launching a partnership with Instant Consult promising a bulk-billed prescription within 15 minutes, between 6am and midnight 365 days a year.

Likewise Priceline's "Scripts Now" platform facilitates bulk-billing of consultations via in-store Health Stations, which can be used by customers to request scripts on the spot for review by a doctor.

Approved scripts are then emailed to the Priceline Pharmacy for immediate dispensing.

However those services look to be forced to close under the new restrictions, which were announced on Fri by the Health Department.

"In a major boost for primary health care, the Australian Government is further strengthening telehealth arrangements as recommended by the Australian Medical Association and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and



other medical experts," the announcement stated.

"Under stage seven of telehealth reforms announced today, Medicare-subsidised telehealth services, introduced as a key part of the COVID-19 response, will now promote patients receiving continuous care from a patients' regular GP or medical practice.

"From July 20, telehealth GP providers will be required to have an existing and continuous relationship with a patient in order to provide telehealth services...this will ensure patients continue to receive quality, ongoing care from a GP who knows their medical history and needs," the Department said.

A relationship is defined as the patient having seen the same practitioner for a face-to-face service in the last 12 months, or having seen a doctor at the same practice for a face-to-face service

during the same period.

The new requirement does not apply to those living under new restrictions in Vic, and also exempts people under the age of 12 months or people who are experiencing homelessness, who will be able to have access to any provider.

"Requiring COVID-19 video and telephone services [to be] linked to a patient's usual GP or practice will support longitudinal, person-centred primary health care, associated with better health outcomes," the Government said.

Health Minister Greg Hunt said telehealth had been enthusiastically embraced by doctors and patients alike.

"I hope and intend for telehealth to be a positive legacy of this crisis and am already engaged with the medical community in planning a long term future for telehealth," the Minister concluded.

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Dispensary Corner

DOCTORS in Tokyo last week reported a case where a diner in a sushi restaurant got a little more protein than she had actually ordered.

The unnamed 25-year-old was admitted to St Luke's International Hospital with a sore throat, and a simple examination revealed a "black moving worm" wriggling in one of her tonsils.

The incident was reported in the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, with an investigation noting the woman had suffered pain in her throat for about a week, after consuming a meal of "assorted sashimi".

Tweezers were used to remove the offending creature (pictured), with the worm described as a *Pseudoterranova azarasi*, a type of parasitic roundworm.



COVID-19 restrictions have really gotten serious in Cornwall, UK where a pub has erected an electric fence to keep people in order as they queue at the bar.

The extreme measure is in addition to polite signage asking people to ensure they observe social distancing between each other and staff, with landlord Johnny McFadden saying he "just wanted to shock the locals into behaving".

SHPA, NAPSA online success

LAST week's 2020 Student Symposium conducted jointly by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) and the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) has been hailed as a major success, with a record number of delegates able to access the new online format.

The third annual event concluded on Fri, for the first time conducted as an all-virtual event with a lead-in week of self-paced learning followed by interactive webinar presentations.

"As the coming together of two national organisations serving the next generation of leading pharmacists, the SHPA-NAPSA Student Symposium is a truly Australia-wide event and we are pleased to reach a new level of intimacy and inclusion this year amid challenging circumstances," said SHPA CEO Kristin Michaels.

"Powerfully positive feedback to our online resources and another increase in attendees shows our focus on truly understanding hospital pharmacy and landing that key first hospital job continues to resonate with students across the



country," Michaels (pictured) said.

During the Student Symposium Michaels also announced a new 50% discount for all SHPA Student Members to access the new Electronic Medicines Information Training (EMIT) modules, which are the latest addition to SHPA's Online CPD offering.

The 22 EMIT modules are particularly suited to pre-registration and early career pharmacists "who want to get ahead through up-to-date, curated education on seeking and providing trustworthy medicines information," she said.

Online resources from the Symposium can still be accessed this week by **CLICKING HERE**.

New electronic prescription courses

THE Australian Digital Health Agency this morning announced the launch of new free eLearning resources for pharmacists wanting to learn about new electronic prescriptions.

Three modules are on offer: Introducing Electronic Prescriptions, Using Electronic Prescriptions and Preparing for Electronic Prescriptions.

After completing the course, participants will be able to describe what e-scripts are and where they are stored, discuss

the "token model" and how it is used to prescribe and dispense medicines, identify key legislative and software requirements, and respond to common patient questions about electronic scripts.

The courses, for both dispensers and prescribers, have been accredited by the Australian Pharmacy Council and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, and participants can claim CPD credits upon successful completion.

See training.digitalhealth.gov.au.

Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Judy Cheung-Wood, Inventor, Founder & MD, SkinB5.**



Acne management

ACNE is a common dermatological disorder with increasing prevalence, particularly in adults. Whilst the condition isn't life-threatening per se, the impact of acne carries significant psychological burdens. Topical therapy is considered to be the current standard of care in the medical field for mild to moderate acne. Topical treatments haven't varied greatly over the last few decades; retinoids were introduced in the 1940s, with benzoyl peroxide being used routinely since the 1960s. Unfortunately, many acne sufferers experience side effects of skin irritation with scaling and redness from the use of topical treatments such as benzoyl peroxide.

For moderate to severe acne, standard pharmaceutical treatments include hormonal therapies, retinoids, and antibiotics. Resistance to antibiotics has been a concern for decades, since the introduction of oral antibiotics for the treatment of acne. Whilst many of these treatments provide results, the high risk of adverse effects often leave sufferers in search of less irritating and alternative skincare to manage their acne. This has led to consumer demands for safer and more natural acne treatments. We also see a growing number of clinicians using the skinB5 Acne Control + Wellness system to effectively manage acne while improving the health and wellbeing of patients without side effects.

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¹The 60 second countdown (to add more blood) makes it easier to know when the strip does not have enough blood.^{2,3} The smartLIGHT feature offers easier understanding of blood glucose readings.⁴ The app facilitates a more active involvement in blood glucose self-management.^{5,6}

¹Christiansen M et al. J Diabetes Sci Technol 2017; 11(3):567-573. ²Contour Next User Guide, Rev. 03/19. ³Contour Next One User Guide, Rev. 08/19. ⁴Smartson online survey, Sweden 2017. 352 respondents: People with type 1 and type 2 diabetes, over 18 years old, who tested at least 4-7 times a day. Participants received free meter and tests strips. Survey funded by Ascensia Diabetes Care. ⁵Stuhr A and Pardo S. Impact of Real-World Use of the CONTOUR[®]DIABETES App on Glycemic Control and Testing Frequency. Poster presented at the Diabetes Technology Meeting (DTM), November 8-10 2018, North Bethesda, Maryland, USA. ⁶Pardo S et al. Changes in Blood Glucose Excursions After at Least 180 Days Real-world Use of a New Smartphone Application for Blood Glucose Monitoring. Poster presented at the 12th International Conference on Advanced Technologies & Treatments For Diabetes (ATTD); February 20-23, 2019; Berlin, Germany. ⁷Market Research. Ascensia Diabetes Care, Hall & Partners, conducted online April/May 2015 (Pg 36 responses to Q30).

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