



Mag-Sup
High absorption magnesium
Australian made. Pharmacy only.

Available in 50's, 100's and 250's from Symbion, Sigma and API.

50's PBS & RPBS Listed

Use only as directed. Consult your healthcare professional if symptoms persist.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news, plus a full page from MSC Signs.

WHO vax push

THE World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF are urging parents to vaccinate their children amid reports of "an alarming decline in the number of children receiving life-saving vaccines around the world".

UNICEF Executive Director, Henrietta Fore, warned "we cannot trade one health crisis for another", as moves to redeploy health workers to focus on supporting COVID-19, disrupting immunisation campaigns.

COVID signage

WITH the COVID-19 pandemic showing no sign of slowing down, ensuring pharmacies have appropriate signage and protective equipment is critical.

See **page four** for MSC Signs' solutions.

FIP issues new COVID guidelines

ALL community pharmacy staff members are being urged to wear face masks to avoid transmission of COVID-19 as part of new guidelines issued by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) this week.

The updated guidance notes that pharmacists and front of shop staff who are likely to have "close contact with suspected or confirmed cases" should consider using additional personal protective equipment (PPE) including gloves, gowns and eye protection, to mitigate against their risk of infection.

Pharmacists delivering point-of-care services including immunisations and blood pressure monitoring, are advised to use a face-shield in combination with gloves and other PPE.

Patients should be told to avoid long stays in the pharmacy, while elderly patients and those with co-morbidities should be asked to have a carer go to the pharmacy instead.

Outlining recommendations for ensuring safety and continuity of service FIP said "measures should be taken to ensure continuity of pharmacy activities while minimising the risk of



contamination".

"Examples of measures include dividing personnel into different shifts (for example, one team in the morning and the other at night or on alternating days), reorganising the workspace to maintain safe distances as much as possible, and establishing disinfecting procedures and schedules," FIP said.

"If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 among the pharmacy staff, all staff members who had close contact with the infected colleague (in the same shift, for example) should be followed up as potentially infected and may be required to remain isolated for two

weeks according to local public health recommendations.

"Pharmacy operations would have to be adapted if a staff member were to isolate, including changes to scheduling and pharmacy working hours.

"In case a pharmacy cannot assure its normal opening hours due to non-availability of staff because of COVID-19, the new opening hours should be communicated to the public in a visible place at least outside the pharmacy.

"The new opening times need to assure minimal service to the community in terms of medicines supply."



Contour
Evolving with you

Upgrade your customers' blood glucose meters for **FREE**

Click to find out how

Always read instructions for use. Consult your healthcare professional if this product is right for you.
© Copyright 2020 Ascensia Diabetes Care Holdings AG. All rights reserved. Contour is a registered trademark of Ascensia Diabetes Care Holdings AG.



SR Sue Raven
Pharmacy Business Sales

Looking at Selling?

We have been ready to go buyers in all states. For FREE Assessment [Click here](#) or call 0407 759 736 or email sue.raven@srpbs.com.au

"Sue immediately understood my position to sell my Pharmacy. You will save a lot of time and trouble when you list with Sue Raven".
Tony, Sunshine Coast QLD



Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

Fastest dispensing robot in Australia

Willach Pharmacy Solutions

find out more



CHILDREN'S DOSING COMPANION 2020 BOOK OR ONLINE OUT NOW

To find out more go to www.amh.net.au



Pharmacists critical to diabetes care

PHARMACISTS are being urged to take on a key role in educating and supporting patients with diabetes, as part of a National Diabetes Week 2020 campaign.

With diabetes patients visiting pharmacists seven to 14-times more frequently than any other health provider, diabetes educator, Kirrily Chambers, said the profession is well placed to improve medication use.

"Understanding diabetes is a complex and complicated health condition, and most people learn in their own time," she said.

"Pharmacists can help in this journey since they will normally see the person frequently and knowing when to refer is also a critical part of the health care team.

"Pharmacists help patients understand why they are taking their medication and that type 2 diabetes is a progressive condition which means over time they will need an increase in dose of tablets and maybe long term insulin."

Chambers also addressed how pharmacists can help diabetes patients with their mental and emotional health.

"Like any health professional it is very important that we are careful with our language with individuals with diabetes so as not to make a person feel guilty for having it," she said.

"Correct language, I believe, is one way we can help reduce the mental burden of chronic health conditions including diabetes and if pharmacists make correct language a focus, we remove the guilt and open channels of communication which allows people to feel comfortable to ask questions and learn more when they need to."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National President, Dr Chris Freeman, welcomed the Federal Government's decision to invest \$47 million in research to fast track new treatments for diabetes and heart diabetes, adding his praise for the role pharmacists



play in supporting patients.

"Pharmacists play a very important role as part of the diabetes care team from screening for the disease through to treatment and medication management," he said.

"As medicines experts pharmacists assist patients in understanding their diabetes medicines, improve self-monitoring, and blood glucose control ultimately reducing the risk of a patient developing complications associated with diabetes."

Border closure concerns grow

CONCERNS are growing over the potential health implications of the decision to close the NSW/Victoria border.

Speaking to the ABC, Wentworth pharmacist, Alex Elfeki, expressed fears that patients who live along the border may become complacent about their health.

"I'm concerned that border restrictions will stop people from going to the doctors even if they have to," he said.

"We are seeing a lot of life-threatening situations going unnoticed.

"Telehealth has been useful, but can only do so much."

Elfeki noted that Wentworth lost its only GP in Feb with patients being forced to cross the border to the Victorian town of Mildura for medical appointments, which is no longer an option.



CLASS PR.



JOIN NOW

ATTENTION ALL PRICELINE FRANCHISEES

Join the imminent Class Action against Priceline to maximise your business' profitability and enhance the value of your investment.

If the action succeeds, participants may be entitled to:

- ✓ Damages for any infringing conduct
- ✓ Compensation for loss of profits

Former Priceline Franchisees are also eligible to join.

You must sign a funding agreement to participate.



Dispensary Corner

MARKETING of sportswear generally falls outside the remit of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), but claims being made about Lorna Jane's new "Anti-virus Activewear" may need a careful review.

The company has launched the new range of figure-hugging clothing featuring "exclusive technology" which it claims ensures wearers are "protected against viruses and germs".

Explaining how the "LJ Shield [spray] breaks through the membrane shell of any toxic diseases, bacteria or germs that come into contact with it, not only killing that microbe, but preventing it from multiplying into anymore".

Somewhat sceptical of the claims Royal Australian College of General Practitioners President, Dr Harry Nespolon, raised concerns over the new range.

"Activewear is great for the gym, but it can't protect you against viruses or bacteria," he said.

"I suspect Lorna Jane are cynically trying to exploit fears concerning the COVID-19 pandemic to sell clothes.

"If you spray their product onto any fabric and expect that it will act as a 'shield of protection' for you by breaking through the 'membrane shell of any toxic diseases' I have some bad news for you – this will not happen.

"The only thing that will be 'terminated' by the 'shield particles' is the money in your bank account."

Protecting HCWs a COVID priority

AUSTRALIA needs to update its guidelines to ensure healthcare workers have continuous access to N95 respirators to reduce their risk of contracting COVID-19, researchers believe.

In an article published in the *Medical Journal of Australia (MJA)*, authors from the University of NSW and Monash University, said current guidelines were "not aligned with the growing body of scientific evidence around transmission and prevention of SARS-CoV-2 infection".

"The initial proclamation that SARS-CoV-2 is spread by droplets and contact was not based on strong evidence, and there is no data quantifying the different modes of potential transmission," they said.

"The guidelines for protection of health care workers (HCWs) in Australia state that a medical mask is indicated for routine care of COVID-19 patients, and a respirator only for aerosol-generating



procedures.

"The best available evidence specific to COVID-19 is a WHO commissioned systematic review and meta-analysis, which found that N95 respirators offer significantly better protection (96%) than surgical masks (67%) against SARS, MERS and SARS-CoV-2.

"Health workers treating COVID-19 patients or suspected COVID-19 patients should be afforded optimal protection, which

is a respirator.

"Our health workers are a precious asset, and warrant the highest protection – not simply for their occupational health and safety, but for a functional and resilient health system."

With more than 500 HCWs contracting COVID-19 across Australia, the authors also called for greater transparency in attribution of source of infection when HCWs become infected.

Pharmacy owner's plot to bomb rival

A US pharmacy owner has pled guilty to conspiring to firebomb a rival pharmacy in Nebraska.

Hyrum Wilson, the owner of Hyrum's Family Value Pharmacy in Auburn Nebraska, was allegedly supplying prescription medications including oxycodone to Maryland-based online drug-dealer, William Burgamy, who operated an illegal e-commerce platform, NeverPressedRX.

US authorities reported that Wilson and Burgamy had laundered US\$1 million in profits before police raided Burgamy's home, where they discovered eight loaded weapons, text messages between the pair



discussing plans to firebomb Wilson's competitor, and a list of required equipment including body armour, weapons, bottles and lighter fluid.

The two men are expected to face sentencing in Nov.

Pharmacy masks

BELGIAN pharmacies have distributed 3.5 million free face masks to the public as part of the country's efforts to control the spread of COVID-19.

The European nation allocated a total of 12 million masks to community pharmacies in mid-Jun.

Association of Pharmacists Belgium Vice-President, Koen Straetmans, said the country's pharmacy network was playing a key role in distributing the masks, noting every time a patient picks one up at the pharmacy the operation is recorded.

ph (03)9894 7311

To place your order please email us or give us a call
www.msccsigns.com.au | info@msccsigns.com.au



FACE SHIELDS

- Face shields with replacement shields

PORTABLE PRIVACY SCREENS

Ideal for facilitating telehealth & telepharmacy consultations



- ✓ Fast turnaround time
- ✓ From our door to yours
- ✓ Privacy for your clients
- ✓ No set up required
- ✓ Artwork in your branding
- ✓ Portable and easy to store

7 joined panels
 Each wall panel 450x1650mm
 Total length 3150mm



FREE STANDING SANITISE STATIONS

WITH YOUR BRANDING!

Add your logo here

Desktop Sanitise Station
 200x300mm



- Coreflute Sanitise Station
- 300x300x shelf 1000mm high
- Lightweight and sturdy

SNEEZE SCREENS



700x800mm

Portable

No Installation Required

Custom made sizes available

IN STOCK