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Willach's robot

PHARMACY automation specialist Willach is today showcasing its Conis dispensary robot, which can be deployed from \$97,500 including freight and installation.

The German-designed systems are available for immediate installation in Australia - see **page three**.

Mayne appoints

MAYNE Pharma has named Toni Nesci as the new Head of Mayne Contract Services.

Based in Salisbury, South Australia, the division is the full-service pharmaceutical development and manufacturing business unit "created to service clients worldwide by leveraging more than 40 years of scientific expertise in developing complex oral and topical dose forms," the company said.

Nesci joins Mayne with over 20 years of industry experience, most recently in a variety of roles with Pfizer - maynecontractservices.com.

Electronic scripts to ramp up from Oct

THE implementation of Australia's new electronic prescription framework is a huge change, which involves "teaching 25 million people new ways of getting their medications," according to Fred IT CEO Paul Naismith.

And while the new system is currently being trialed, the industry should be prepared for a "rollout at pace from October onwards," he warned.

Speaking to an online audience of about 2,000 participants last night during a webinar, Naismith and some of his colleagues demonstrated the current state of play for e-scripts, which are the outcome of legislative change switching the formal legal document for each prescription from a piece of paper into an electronic record.

The session, titled "Dispensing ePrescriptions - How it works now and into the future," included a live demonstration of the token-based system which allowed attendees to subscribe to a platform via SMS and then receive a link to a QR code which represented a six-repeat prescription for AMLO TAB 10mg.

Presenters also included Jason Bratuskins, who is the Product



Manager for clinical products at Fred IT Group and also owns a community pharmacy in Anglesea, Vic which is part of a trial of the new online prescription platform.

The webinar included a demonstration of the prescribing process using the Best Practice GP platform, with patients offered the choice of a paper script, or to receive an SMS or email.

Various post-COVID scenarios were also canvassed, including a patient who needs a repeat dispensed but is unable to attend a pharmacy in person and needs home delivery because they are in mandatory post-travel isolation.

Trials are under way in various

"Communities of Interest" where local doctors and pharmacies are testing the system as it is refined.

Naismith said pharmacists need not be concerned about the pace of change, given the sector's success in assisting the community through the coronavirus pandemic, particularly highlighting the week in mid Mar when a record 8.4 million scripts were dispensed.

COVID-19 had seen many parts of the economy rapidly adapt to digital enablement, with the community accepting of change.

"Patients are ready for this," Naismith said, urging pharmacists to "be ready, but not alarmed" for the new world of e-prescriptions.

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COVID-19 tests

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has published a list of COVID-19 test kits included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods for legal supply in Australia.

A total of 59 kits are currently approved, with the Doherty Institute having been engaged to assist with post-market validation of new rapid COVID-19 tests - tga.gov.au.

PPE available

SIGMA Connect has surgical masks, aprons, safety goggles and gloves now available for order - see the **last page**.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Willach
- Sigma Connect



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Dispensary Corner

AUTHORITIES in Japan are starting to relax the country's COVID-19 restrictions - but some things are still being strictly controlled.

Later this week the formal state of emergency will be lifted, meaning attractions like theme parks can finally reopen.

However there are some caveats - nobody is allowed to scream on the roller coasters.

The ban also applies to cheering and shouting in public venues, in the hope of containing the spread of coronavirus via droplets.

New health recommendations include urging employees to keep workplace conversations short and shopkeepers being told to communicate with customers using hand gestures or eye expressions.

HOW sweet is this! A US man has set a new Guinness World Record by drinking one litre of lemon juice through a straw in less than 17 seconds.

David Rush certainly won't be getting scurvy any time soon, after slurping through the 100% pure citrus in 16.53 seconds - beating the previous record by more than half a second.

Rush said he managed to avoid throwing up after finishing the juice, but experienced significant stomach discomfort the next day.

Officials warned that "speed drinking can be extremely dangerous," recommending attempts only be undertaken by people who are "trained as a professional drinker".

Recognise pharmacists!

PHARMACY Guild Executive Director Suzanne Greenwood has reiterated the importance of pharmacists and pharmacy staff being recognised as front line responders to emergencies and disasters in Australia.

Writing in the Guild's *Forefront* newsletter yesterday, Greenwood provided further details of a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to COVID-19 (**PD** 29 Apr), which "gives the opportunity to put this pandemic into the context of a coordinated and collaborative response to emergencies".

Recommendations include that community pharmacists be formally recognised to be involved in national emergency and disaster planning and preparedness, and response and recovery measures.

Greenwood (**pictured**) noted the key role pharmacies had played in the challenges of this year, including bushfires, storms and COVID-19, describing the "amazing and often awe-inspiring lengths gone to by pharmacists and their staff to help patients and communities in these times".

She suggested that to help prepare for future emergencies, community pharmacies can provide real-time information on the ground and in their communities



to help decision-makers effectively plan responses, including details such as medicine supply, logistical requirements and the availability of personal protective equipment.

In the current pandemic there are some 80,000 people working on the front line in community pharmacies, she noted, ensuring continued access to medicines and essential primary care health services and medicine management programs.

"But the lack of recognition means they have not received the support or protection of other primary care workers leaving them, at times, exposed, abused, overwhelmed with workload and workflow changes, and feeling undervalued as a part of the health system, with little recognition that they are health care workers."

The Guild's submission also focuses on measures to ensure business continuity and the ongoing viability of community pharmacies during and after a crisis.

"The commitment to patient wellbeing can only be realised by businesses that are operating and are confident of their ability to continue operating," she concluded.

NZ pharmacists honoured

TWO retired New Zealand pharmacists have been hailed for their contribution to assisting people with disabilities in the NZ Queen's Birthday honours list this week.

Margaret and Bevan Bradding who previously ran a pharmacy at Glenview in the city of Hamilton, helped establish the Hamilton Group Riding for the Disabled, with the pair both receiving the Queen's Service Medal for their contributions.

Revlimid on PBS

MULTIPLE myeloma patients are now able to access Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme-subsidised therapy in the form of a newly reimbursed triple treatment option combining Revlimid (lenalidomide) in combination with bortezomib (V) and dexamethasone (d).

Designated as RVd, it's the first time in Australia that the major treatment options for myeloma have been reimbursed as a triplet therapy.

CHP login live

CONSUMER Health Products Australia has launched an updated website which includes the facility for registered users to manage their own online profile.

Benefits include being able to register for events without having to re-enter details, and access to group discount promotional codes for events. See chpastralia.com.au.

TWC tops in Mar




ROY Morgan has announced that TerryWhite Chemmart is "Pharmacy of the Month" for Mar 2020 in its regular Customer Satisfaction Awards.

Chemist Warehouse came in second spot, followed by Amcal, Guardian and then Priceline Pharmacy.



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961151	9311171000012	NO GLOVES™ VINYL SML 10PK
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