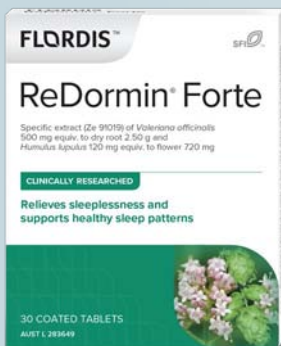


Are your customers tired, stressed and lacking focus?



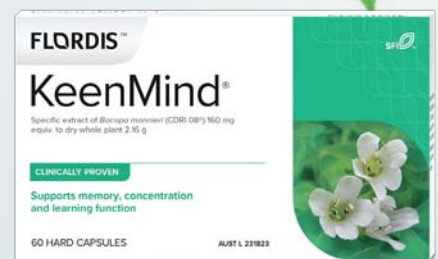
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PBS equity of access a fiction: SPG

PHARMACEUTICAL wholesalers are being accused using access to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines to drive pharmacy owners to join banner groups.

In a statement released this morning the Small Pharmacies Group (SPG) said the COVID-19 crisis had “exposed underlying systemic problems with the Community Service Obligation (CSO) and wholesaler distribution system” and “sparked serious questions about the role of banner groups in securing essential PBS medicines”.

“Banner groups and wholesalers are essentially one and the same thing - let’s not obfuscate about it – and even so-called ‘independent’ banners are bound to particular wholesalers through rebates, etc,” an SPG spokesperson said.

“The CSO system has morphed away from funding for accredited entities to provide PBS medicines equitably and in a timely manner to Australians who need them through their pharmacy of choice to some play thing of the wholesalers to provide increased incentives and inducements to trade with them.

“This is a straightforward case of the system being gamed.

“While not necessarily surprising, these plain facts serve to highlight the systemic failure that is the CSO-funded wholesale system.

“Pharmacies should not be driven to banner membership out of fear of being unable to secure stock.

“Instead, public health authorities need to stand up and ensure that the PBS really provides equity of access as demanded by its very purpose.

“It’s not about the product, medicines aren’t normal commodities, and should not be leveraged for commercial advantage within the PBS supply chain.

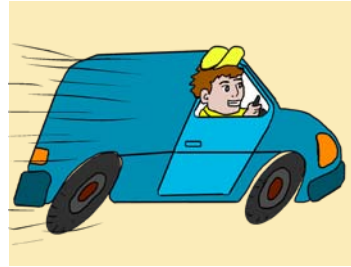
“It’s about whether pharmacies and their patients are treated equitably.

“It’s about all patients being equally deserving members of Australian society and being able to choose the pharmacy they want without being disadvantaged.

“This is about Australians being short-changed by a system that needs urgent and robust review.”

The SPG questioned whether banner membership was the only way to secure support from CSO wholesalers to get PBS medicines.

“If so, it demonstrates that PBS



equity of access is a fiction,” the spokesperson said.

Pharmacy Daily has contacted the National Pharmaceutical Services Association for a response.

Today’s issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of pharmacy news, plus a front cover wrap from Flordis.

Tackling tension

WITH many people feeling tired, stressed and anxious about life in these unusual times, Flordis is offering pharmacy specials on its range of integrated medicines.

See today’s cover wrap for more.

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Revised Medication Management Guidelines



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Travel & Cruise Weekly



Dispensary Corner

MENTAL health is a key focus during the COVID-19 lockdowns - and not just for people.

The operators of an aquarium in Japan have asked the public to make video calls to some of their eels, so that the slimy sea creatures remember that humans exist and aren't a threat.

The Sumida Aquarium in Tokyo's Skytree Tower has been closed for two months now, with its inhabitants becoming used to a much more peaceful environment.

However the unprecedented situation is having downsides, with the zoo tweeting this week that "creatures in the aquarium don't see humans except keepers...garden eels in particular disappear into the sand," making it difficult to check on their welfare.

Initiating a so-called "face-showing festival," the zoo issued an urgent plea to connect via five iPads which have been arranged to face the eel tank.

The event is being showcased with a hashtag in Japanese translating as #PleaseRememberHumans.

WE GUESS it was probably inevitable given recent high profile Presidential comments.

Authorities in the US state of Kansas have reported a 40% increase in calls to Kansas Poison Control relating to "chemical cleaning cases".

Apparently certain people are taking the advice of those in high places and drinking some cleaning products in an attempt to stave off COVID-19.

AMCAL/Guardian PotY

SIGMA Healthcare has celebrated the top pharmacies in its AMCAL and Guardian Pharmacy groups with a virtual awards nights.

Having cancelled the group's annual conference on the Gold Coast in Mar, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AMCAL and Guardian Pharmacy of the Year (PotY) Award winners were named during a video conference last week.

AMCAL+ Kempsey from NSW and New Norfolk Guardian Pharmacy, Tasmania, took out the top honours for the two groups, while AMCAL+ Donnybrook Pharmacy in Western Australia, claimed the Professional Services Pharmacy of the Year title, and Gorokan Guardian Pharmacy, NSW, took home the Community Engagement Pharmacy of the Year award.

The group's also honoured long-term members, with 23 year veteran, Bob Holland from AMCAL Pharmacy Springfield, Queensland, being named as the 2020 AMCAL Hall of Fame inductee, while 38-year AMCAL and Guardian Pharmacy stalwart, Lyndon McLeod, from Greta, NSW, announced as the Guardian Hall of Fame inductee for 2020.

The AMCAL Retail Manager of



the Year Award went to AMCAL+ Emu Plains Pharmacy's (NSW) Jenny Hayes, with Night and Day Pharmacy Bayswater's (WA) Ashlee Worthington, scooping the Guardian Retail Manager of the Year crown.

Burnout survey

WITH pharmacists facing extreme pressures as they support their communities through the COVID-19 pandemic, the Australian National University's Karlee Johnston, is conducting bi-monthly surveys to understand the impact the virus is having on health professional burnout.

CLICK HERE to take part.

Guild Update

COVID-19 Rego

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has modified some of the requirements for general registration during COVID-19. These are interim arrangements that apply only during COVID-19.

The Board said interns had questions and concerns about how they could complete their supervised practice and assessments required for general registration during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We know that both interns and preceptors and the rest of the pharmacy workforce are working extremely hard in very challenging circumstances to deliver services to the public. We would like to thank you all for your significant contribution," the Board said.

"Our primary role is to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of the public by ensuring pharmacists are competent and fit to practise. We also recognise that it is important to help interns transitioning to general registration during COVID-19 when their contribution to the pharmacy workforce is vital."

The interim measures had been made in collaboration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) and the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC).

Details are available at <https://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/News/2020-04-30-covid-supervised-practice.aspx>

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