

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus the November MIMS Monthly update.

WA vax move

AUTHORITIES in WA have announced that pharmacists are now able to administer vaccinations outside of a community pharmacy.

Effective immediately pharmacists will also be able to immunise patients in aged care settings, public and private hospitals and community health centres.

The move was welcomed by Pharmaceutical Society of Australia WA Branch President Fei Sim, who said it would enable better protection for vulnerable people.

"Pharmacists are more than capable of providing this service to Western Australians and this initiative will be particularly beneficial to patients that have difficulties accessing vaccinations, such as those who are housebound or residents of aged care facilities," she said.

MedAdvisor hits the big time

LISTED medication adherence specialist MedAdvisor Limited is set for a major expansion into North America, launching a \$45 million capital raising in support of a binding agreement to acquire US-based Adheris LLC.

The announcement followed MedAdvisor's shares being placed into a voluntary trading halt (**PD** yesterday), with the massive deal set to see MedAdvisor "become a leader in tailored opt-out direct-to-patient medication adherence programs in the USA," the company said in an ASX update.

Adheris is currently owned by Syneos Health, and has an existing portfolio of pharmacy integrations which reduces the need for MedAdvisor to individually develop links with various US pharmacy groups and electronic health record platforms.

"Medication non-adherence is a multi-billion-dollar global market with a lack of global players working to solve it," said MedAdvisor CEO Robert Read.

"The US represents about 40% of the world's medicines market and Adheris has the potential to reach one in two Americans through its opt out patient programs.



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Suicide Prevention Training for Pharmacists in regional to remote Australia



Suicide has a devastating impact on families, friends and whole communities.

This training aims to increase pharmacists' skills and confidence in:

- Recognising signs warranting further exploration for suicidality
- Talking with someone who may display suicidal signs and symptoms
- Understanding of the various referral options.

Accreditation

PSA for 5 Group 2 CPD Credits
No: CX20047

Date of workshop
10th November 2020

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Dispensary Corner

A COLLEGE in Bali, Indonesia is allowing its students to pay their tuition fees in coconuts, which the institution is then using to create a range of health and beauty products.

The Venus One Tourism Academy said initially the downturn caused by COVID-19 had seen the introduction of an instalment program for fees, but this has now evolved to the coconut-based payment plan.

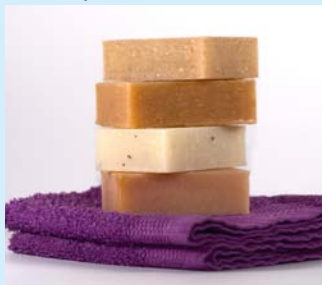
"We've been producing virgin coconut oil (VCO) and we try to get them involved during the production process by paying their tuitions with only coconuts," said a spokesperson for the academy in Tegalalang.

Other medicinal ingredients are also valid for the payments, including "moringa leaves" and "gotu kola" which are used to make herbal soap.

Students are also encouraged to develop their own skills in entrepreneurship by reselling their own products.

"We have to educate them to optimise the natural resources in their surroundings," the spokesperson said.

"That means when the pandemic is over, they will be more than just common workers," he added.



Accreditation interest surges

THE Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy (AACP) says it is experiencing a significant increase in its programs, with more than 2,400 accredited pharmacists across the country and over 400 currently enrolled in the platform - the highest level of engagement with accreditation since 2014.

AACP Board Chair Marc Apolloni said he believed the surge reflected a "small positive" from being forced to spend more time at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, with many pharmacists taking the opportunity to improve their knowledge and skills by working through the AACP online assessment program.

Apolloni (pictured), who owns a community pharmacy in South Australia, encouraged his colleagues to consider the benefits of accreditation and the associated ability to conduct Medication Management Reviews (MMRs).

"These programs will support improved health outcomes for your patients, add to your range of patient support options and potentially increase opportunities



to collaborate with your local GPs."

Apolloni also noted recent changes to the Home Medication Review and Residential Medication Management Review programs which permit up to two funded pharmacist-initiated follow-up services after the initial review.

"There seems to be an increased awareness of the vitally important work that accredited pharmacists do, in terms of improving medicines safety, improving patient knowledge of their medicines and assisting medical practitioners to manage medicines both in the community and aged care settings," he said - more info at aacp.com.au.

Congrats, Anna

THE pharmacy sector has congratulated re-elected Queensland ALP Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk on her return to power in last weekend's state election.

Both the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild welcomed the incoming Government, saying they look forward to continuing to work with officials to ensure pharmacists can practise to their full scope.

Pharmacy Guild Update

NAIDOC Week

NEXT week we celebrate NAIDOC Week, the annual celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

NAIDOC Week is celebrated in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, but also by Australians from all walks of life in what is a national display of unity and cultural recognition and respect.

The week, being marked from 8-15 November, is a chance to participate in a range of activities and to support local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

This year's theme is *Always Was, Always Will Be*, which aims to recognise that First Nations peoples have occupied and cared for this land for more than 65,000 years.

For more details go to the NAIDOC Week site here.

Win with Hemp Oz

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Hemp Oz are giving away the full range of Hemp Herbal Tea plus a glass tea pot worth RRP\$90.00

Your Cuppa Hemp Herbal Tea - This week Sydney based Hemp Oz celebrated a major milestone with the launch of Australia's First Hemp functional Teas. The Hemp Oz Herbal Tea range is inspired by nature and driven by science combining the finest organic herbal medicines with Australian organic hulled Hemp seeds. Hemp Oz teas are a must for boosting the immune, good gut health, reducing inflammation and supporting a great night's sleep.



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Website: www.powerhousepharmacybrands.com.au
Contact: helen@powerhousepharmacybrands.com.au



Q: Hemp Oz Tea supports?

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New Products

- **Cannabidiol (Epidyolex)** reduces neuronal hyper-excitability through modulation of intracellular calcium via G protein-coupled receptor 55 (GPR55) and transient receptor potential vanilloid 1 (TRPV-1) channels, and modulates adenosine-mediated signalling through inhibition of adenosine cellular uptake via the equilibrative nucleoside transporter 1 (ENT-1). Epidyolex is indicated for use as adjunctive therapy of seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome or Dravet syndrome in patients 2 years of age and older. Epidyolex should be initiated and supervised by a neurologist. It is contraindicated in patients with transaminase elevations greater than 3 x ULN and bilirubin greater than 2 x ULN. Epidyolex oral solution contains cannabidiol 100 mg/mL and is available in pack size of one 100 mL bottle with two 5 mL and two 1 mL calibrated oral dosing syringes and two bottle adapters.

New Indications

- **Atezolizumab (rch) (Tecentriq)**, in combination with bevacizumab, is now indicated for the treatment of patients with unresectable or metastatic hepatocellular carcinoma who have not received prior systemic therapy.
- **Bictegravir (sodium)/emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide (fumarate) (Biktarvy)** is now indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in paediatric patients weighing at least 25 kg who are antiretroviral therapy (ART)-naïve or to replace the current antiretroviral regimen in those who are virologically-suppressed (HIV-1 RNA < 50 copies/mL) on a stable antiretroviral regimen at the start of therapy with no history of treatment failure, and no known substitutions associated with resistance to the individual components of Biktarvy.
- **Secukinumab (rch) (Cosentyx)** is now indicated for the treatment of adults with active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis with objective signs of inflammation as indicated by elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) and/or MRI change, who have had an inadequate response to, or are intolerant to, NSAIDs.

New Contraindications

- **Nomegestrol acetate/estradiol (hemihydrate) (Zoely)** is now contraindicated in patients with meningioma or a history of meningioma.
- **Yellow fever vaccine, live (Stamaril)** should not be administered to individuals receiving any other medicinal products, including biologicals, with known immunosuppressive or immunomodulating properties.

New Presentation

- **Hydralazine HCl (Hydralazine Link)** is now available as a solution for injection containing hydralazine HCl 20 mg/mL in a pack size of 10 x 1 mL vials.

*This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month.
Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.*