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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

**26th November 2020**

**REGISTER NOW**

Want to hear more about Black Dog Institute's training? Sign up to our monthly newsletter.

**SIGN UP**

## COVAX moves forward

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is paving the way for the sponsors of a third COVID-19 candidate vaccine (COVAX) to seek provisional registration on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

In a statement issued yesterday, the TGA announced it has granted a provisional determination to Janssen Cilag Pty Ltd in relation to its Ad26.COV2.S vaccine.

The move follows similar determinations on 09 Oct for Pfizer's BNT162 [mRNA] and on 14 Oct for AstraZeneca's ChAdOx1-S vaccines.

"Provisional determination is the first step in the process and does not mean that an application has or will be made, or that the vaccine will be provisionally approved for inclusion in the ARTG," the TGA said.

"Provisional determinations are effective for six months.

"Normally for a vaccine to be registered in Australia, a sponsor (usually a pharmaceutical company) is required to submit a complete and comprehensive package of data to the TGA.

"A formal evaluation is then carried out in multiple stages by technical experts, prior to a decision

being made.

"The provisional pathway provides a formal and transparent mechanism for speeding up the registration of promising new medicines with preliminary clinical data.

"In order to apply for provisional registration, the sponsor must first apply for a provisional determination.

"In making its decision to grant these provisional determinations, the TGA considered all eligibility criteria, including factors such as the evidence of a plan to submit comprehensive clinical data and the seriousness of the current COVID-19 pandemic."

Meanwhile, Pfizer has announced that data from an ongoing Phase III trial of its COVAX showed a 95% efficacy rate, with the company expected to submit a request for Emergency Use Authorisation to the Food and Drug Administration in the coming days.

### Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from Direct Chemist Outlet.

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## CPD podcast

**GUILD** Learning and Development has launched a new CPD-approved podcast to support pharmacists in the area of nutrition.

The Supporting nutrition throughout life program developed in partnership with Abbott Nutrition highlights the important role pharmacists play in supporting their patients with their nutritional needs, as well as noticing when things are not quite right and referring them on to get some help.

The activity is accredited for 0.5 hours Group 1 CPD, which can be converted to 0.5 hours of Group 2 CPD on completion of relevant assessments.

The podcast can be accessed on the Pharmacy Business and Career Network podcast [HERE](#).

## Pharmacy ideal for COVID vaccine

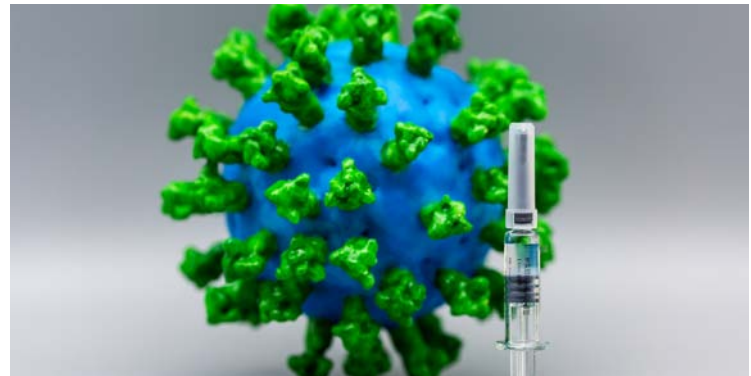
**AUSTRALIA'S** community pharmacy network should be at the forefront of efforts to administer any successful COVID-19 vaccines to the public, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Executive Director, Suzanne Greenwood, believes.

Writing in the Guild's fortnightly newsletter, *Forefront*, Greenwood said the sector's success in boosting influenza vaccine uptake this year showed the potential role pharmacies could play in administering a COVID-19 vaccine.

"There are 5,762 community pharmacies in Australia and they are easily accessible for everyone," she said.

"It, therefore, makes sense that when a COVID-19 vaccine is available, community pharmacies should be at the forefront of ensuring it gets out to the whole population.

"The infrastructure is there, the



trained staff are there, and the trust patients and consumers have in their pharmacists and their staff will help boost uptake."

Greenwood's push for pharmacies to be involved in the administration of COVID-19 vaccines follows comments made by South Australian Health Minister, Stephen Wade, who said it was "too early to tell" whether pharmacies would

be suitably equipped to store and distribute some of the vaccines currently being developed (*PD 17 Nov*).

"It may well be that some vaccines have storage and distribution requirements that are within the scope of the pharmacy network and that brand might be deployed for a certain cohort through pharmacists," he said.

## Priceline launches Afterpay partnership

**PRICELINE** Pharmacy has become the latest group to team up with buy-now pay-later platform, Afterpay.

Through the new arrangement, shoppers will be able to purchase health and beauty products, "from make-up and fragrances to toiletries and prescription items" at 380 of Priceline's 470 stores across the country, paying in four fortnightly instalments.

Priceline Acting Head of Marketing, Gabrielle Tully, said the partnership would make products more accessible for consumers in the run up to Christmas.

"As the number one retailer for beauty and health products, and personal service, we are now excited to offer Afterpay as one of many payment options," she said.

"We've become even more accessible for Australians on a budget, whether treating themselves to the products they love or looking for that perfect Christmas gift."

Afterpay Executive Vice President ANZ Sales and Global In-store, Rachel Kelly, said the deal



would enable shoppers to make purchases while managing their budgets.

"Consumers are more conscious about their budgets this year, so we're excited to give beauty lovers the financial freedom to go after their favourite healthcare and beauty products with the availability of Afterpay," she said.

Afterpay has previously launched across the TerryWhite Chemmart, Blooms the Chemist, Wizard Pharmacy, Direct Chemist Outlet and Chemist Warehouse networks.

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- THRUSH
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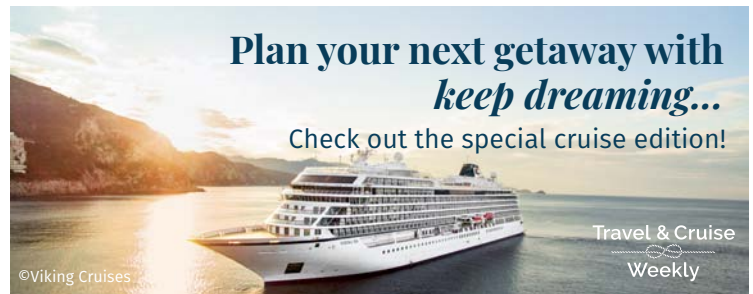
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 Review full PI before recommending or supplying Resolve Plus 1.0. PI available on request from Ego Pharmaceuticals.  
 References: 1. Resolve Plus Product Information. Date of Most Recent Amendment 26 October 2018. 2. Van Cutsem JM, Thiépoint D. Miconazole, a broad-spectrum antimycotic agent with antibacterial activity. *Chemotherapy* 1972;17:392-404.

**Resolve Plus**





## FIP adds to COVID-19 guidance

**THE** International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has issued an addendum to its COVID-19 guidance following recent developments relating to vaccines and treatment for the pandemic virus.

Noting the interim results of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine candidate, which showed it was 90% effective with no serious side effects reported, FIP said, "until a formal evaluation of all the data has been conducted, no solid conclusions can be drawn, but the current results are encouraging".

"If regulatory approval is given quickly, first doses of the vaccine could be given to healthcare workers and people at high risk by the end of 2020," FIP said.

The addendum also reported that there are 44 COVID-19 candidate vaccines under clinical evaluation, 10 of which are in Phase III, FIP also noted that while antiviral,



Remdesivir, has received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of COVID-19 in adults and children aged 12 years and older who require hospital admission, results from the World Health Organization's (WHO) Solidarity Trial showed it had "little or no impact on survival, initiation of ventilation and length of hospital stay".

FIP added that the WHO had described attempts to reach herd immunity through exposing people to the virus were "problematic and unethical".

WHO Executive Director, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, "letting the virus circulate unchecked therefore means allowing unnecessary infections, suffering and death".



**WE ALL** know healthy eating is important, but this is perhaps taking things a little too far.

A controversy has played itself out online, after a woman demanded damages because a babysitter had the temerity to feed her kids chicken nuggets.

The child-minder posted about the incident when she was minding the "really well behaved" 9- and 7-year olds.

Because they had been so good she wanted to give them a treat, and they specifically asked for McDonald's Chicken Nugget Happy Meals which the sitter obligingly provided.

However, when the mother returned home to find her kids chowing down on the fast food she was outraged.

"She literally ripped the nuggets out of their hands," the babysitter claimed, adding that she had not been informed that the family were vegetarians.

"She kicked me out without paying me and then later texted me saying that I need to pay her \$300 for each kid for the emotional damage I have caused them," the babysitter wrote on *Reddit*.

However, she wasn't fazed by threats of court action, saying her dad and older brother were both lawyers so "I know I can have help dealing with it if she does try to take things to court".



## MedAdvisor competes Adheris deal

**AUSTRALIAN** medtech company, MedAdvisor, has announced the completion of its \$49 million acquisition of US-based Adheris Health (*PD* 02 Nov).

The deal is set to deliver "immediate scale" in the US market, making the business a leader in tailored opt-out medication adherence programs with "an addressable network of 180 million patients, approximately 25,000 pharmacies and 618,000 prescribers".

MedAdvisor CEO, Robert Read, said the company was "thrilled" to complete the transaction,



which received strong support from institutional investors.

"Our focus now is to transition into execution mode - leveraging a strong pipeline of deals to accelerate MedAdvisor's growth in the US through the Adheris Health network," he said.

## RB appointment

**RECKITT** Benckiser (RB) has announced that Darryl McAlister has been named as the company's new Sales Director in Australia.

McAlister has been with RB Health for almost a year leading the business's pharmacy sales strategy within Australia, and brings more than 25 years' sales experience to his new position.

Prior to joining RB Health, McAlister worked for a number of major healthcare companies including Integra Healthcare, Johnson & Johnson, and Pfizer Consumer Healthcare.



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