

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from Seipel Group.

Urox solution

SEIPEL Group is today highlighting Urox as "the only clinically researched herbal formula effective for urinary incontinence," with the study details cited on **page four**.

DAA cap lifted

PHARMACIES with weekly Dose Administration Aid (DAA) caps of 30-59 will have this increased to 60 DAA services per week, under changes advised by the Department of Health effective from 04 Jan.

There is no change for pharmacies with weekly DAA caps of 60 or more.

Is pharmacy slowing e-script rollout?

MEDICAL organisations are painting the pharmacy profession as the stumbling block to the rollout of digital health in Australia, because a small proportion of the profession is reluctant to embrace the new technology, Queensland pharmacist, Karalyn Huxhagen, believes.

In a thread posted on Twitter, Huxhagen, said she had "learnt that there is an active group of pharmacists working to derail the rollout of the digital health strategy".

Speaking with *Pharmacy Daily*, Huxhagen said a representative from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) had reported that GPs in inner Sydney, who have been issuing e-script tokens, have been forced to issue paper prescriptions, as pharmacists in the area were telling patients they were unable to, or did not want to dispense tokens.

"What's happened is the

Australian Medical Association (AMA) and the RACGP has started beating up pharmacy, because they claim we're not ready," she said.

"Where the Department of Health and the Australian Digital Health Agency will show you figures of pharmacies that are ready to go, and they have really strong numbers.

"[While] there are small pockets that are holding out... the majority of pharmacy is not the problem, it's a tiny cohort that's got a lot of voice.

"If we keep doing what's happening in inner Sydney at the moment... that just gives the RACGP and the AMA so much fuel to say, 'pharmacy's not up to this, we'll takeover doing the whole process'."

Huxhagen added that having up-to-date hardware and software was critical for the successful introduction of e-scripts in pharmacy, but with Federal



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Government's instant asset write-off she said there was plenty of support to "get all this happening".

Highlighting the strong uptake amongst pharmacies, Fred IT Group General Manager eHealth, David Freemantle, told *Pharmacy Daily* that 80% of pharmacies using Fred were activated.

"We are working with our customers regarding any ideas for making the services better," he said. "If pharmacies have particular concerns, they should contact their vendor."

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UK pharmacy vax

BRITISH pharmacy giant Boots has confirmed it is in discussions with NHS England about the provision of COVID-19 vaccines to patients.

The *Pharmaceutical Journal* cited a spokesperson for Boots saying the group was “ideally placed to support the government COVID-19 vaccination program”.

The talks contradict previous assertions by the NHS that claimed “only a small number of community pharmacies” would be commissioned to provide immunisations, with GPs instead asked to designate a site in each Primary Care Network for vaccine delivery.

Boots said its pharmacy staff had “significant experience and expertise in delivering vaccination programs and activating our extensive pharmacy and colleague network to support public health initiatives”.

The pharmacy group has been closely involved in COVID-19 testing in the UK, with estimates its staff have conducted almost 1.5 million coronavirus tests this year.

HIMR to close medicines safety gaps

NEW funding models to support hospital-initiated medication reviews (HIMR) will help improve transition of care and boost medicines safety, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) believes.

Releasing its HIMR: Hospital pharmacy practice update, the SHPA’s Transitions of Care Primary Care Chair, Deirdre Criddle, the policy changes announced in Apr to allow hospital-based clinicians to refer high-risk patients to the Home Medicines Review (HMR), Residential Medication Management Review (RMMR) and Hospital Outreach Medication Review (HOMR) pathways, would support more effective medicine management across transitions of care.

“Safe transitions of care start in the hospital,” she said.

“With medication safety now Australia’s 10th national health priority area, we want to help drive the conversation around pharmacist-led models of care targeting timely post-discharge medication management services for high-risk patients.

“It is important to note these pathways do not replace pathways



for services already in place.

“They are additional or complementary pathways so more people can access medication review, especially when poor resourcing or a lack of time may prevent effective referral.

“We feel the SHPA HIMR Practice Update is the beginning of an overdue conversation between hospital and primary care, to change the culture from discharge to handover and make a real difference for our most vulnerable patients.”

SHPA Transitions of Care and Primary Care Leadership Committee member Dr Manya Angley, said the document

supports hospitals to integrate new referral pathways into patient care according to their local workforce and community needs.

“This practice update provides a long-awaited framework for authentic collaboration between health professions to achieve our common goal – the best outcomes for patients at risk of medication-related harm,” she said.

“Every sector of our profession now has a responsibility to engage with the HIMR Practice Update, and ensure the protocols effectively address this long-standing gap in care; we encourage Australian hospitals to embrace this complex area.”

Pharmacies essential in South Australia

THE South Australian Police have decreed that the state’s pharmacies are an essential service, under the newly introduced six-day Stay at Home order which aims to stamp out the current COVID-19 outbreak.

The formal Direction came into effect at 12:01am on Thu 19 Nov and will end at 12:01am next Wed 25 Nov, mandating the immediate cessation of all business, professional,

educational, academic and government activities.

Exceptions allow employees to leave home for the purpose of undertaking duties as essential workers, including those whose work is required for the continued operation of pharmacies or for the production & distribution of pharmaceuticals.

The public may also leave home to obtain essential goods or services from a pharmacy.

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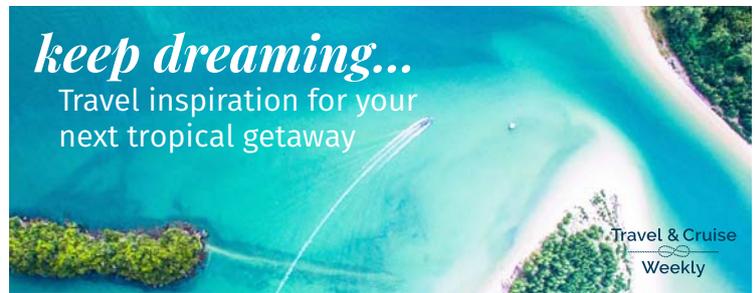
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We can't wait until the weekend is over.

It all starts on Monday.





Cancer cure claims raise TGA's ire

A MELBOURNE-BASED company has been fined \$39,960 by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) over alleged unlawful advertising, including claims that hydrogen peroxide could be used as a cancer treatment.

The TGA issued three infringement notices to Analytical Products & Services Pty Ltd (ANPROS) in relation to breaches of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*, yesterday.

"ANPROS allegedly advertised, on the company's website, a medicine containing hydrogen peroxide for internal therapeutic use that at the time of advertising was not included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG)," the TGA reported.

"The TGA also alleges that ANPROS referred to a prohibited representation that suggested hydrogen peroxide could be administered by mouth or injected as a treatment for cancer.

"The Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code specifies that representations relating to the treatment, cure, prevention or diagnosis (including screening) of neoplastic diseases, including all types of cancer, are prohibited



representations.

"ANPROS allegedly also implied, on the company's website, that hydrogen peroxide is a treatment for emphysema. Any claims or references to treating a serious form of a disease, condition, ailment or defect are restricted representations."

Four infringement notices with totalling \$10,656 were issued to a man from Sydney in relation to unlawful advertising of hydrogen peroxide and Condy's crystals (potassium permanganate).

The TGA said the man allegedly advertised the products for internal use on his eBay store, claiming hydrogen peroxide could be used to

treat cancer and COVID-19.

Sydney's Cat Media Pty Ltd received a \$13,320 fine for allegedly advertising on its 'FatBlaster' website a complementary medicine called, FatBlaster Cider Vinegar and Garcinia Max, which was not included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

A further two infringement notices were issued by the TGA yesterday in relation to alleged unlawful importation of facemasks in relation to COVID-19, with a Sydney man receiving a \$2,664 fine, and Sydney-based business, Natfara Australia Pty Ltd being fined \$13,320.

Dispensary Corner

OVER the years many teens have tampered with household spirit supplies, replacing vodka with water to cover their tracks.

However, it appears one Israeli pharmacist has taken the same principle to medicines in the dispensary, emptying capsules and refilling them with baking soda before selling them on to patients.

Suspicious arose after staff from a major health fund began looking into the pharmacist's "work habits" and noticed the individual was not following Health Ministry procedures, *The Jerusalem Post* reported.

A subsequent investigation by health officials has been ongoing for a number of weeks to identify how many patients were provided with the tainted medicines and whether the capsules caused any deterioration of patients' health.

The police are expected to be contacted in the coming days to review the case.

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*Schoendorfer et al, BMC-CAM, January, 2018. Research funded by the Australian Federal government and Seipel Group. For relief of urinary incontinence and urgency associated with medically diagnosed overactive bladder.



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