


ePrescription ordering has never been so easy!

Click for fast token ordering with MedView Patient Connect



Powered by eRx script exchange

JOIN THE NETWORK OF 2600 PHARMACIES

medview.com.au/flow

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news plus a full page from UTS.

NPSA hails Hunt

COMMUNITY Service Obligation wholesalers group, the National Pharmaceutical Services Association (NPSA) has praised Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt's leadership, following his decision to retire from politics after next year's election.

NPSA Chair, Richard Vincent, hailed Hunt's "deep dedication to improving the health of Australians" during his tenure in the Health portfolio.

"NPSA members have appreciated the Minister's openness, comprehensive knowledge of our sector, attention to detail and willingness to work collaboratively," Vincent said.

Rural pharmacy facing triple threat

URGENT action is needed to support the continued viability of rural pharmacies, the Rural Pharmacy Network Australia (RPNA) believes.

A spokesperson for the organisation told *Pharmacy Daily* that small rural and remote stores have been "smashed by the triple-whammy of extreme workforce shortages, higher relative workloads and escalating wages".

"We're sick of all the empty talk that happens around the pharmacy workforce, especially ludicrous claims by some inner city pharmacy owners that rural and outer- metro areas are no worse-off than average," the spokesperson said.

"We did a national and state-by-state breakdown of the pharmacist to population ratios and found that while [pharmacies in] Modified Monash Model (MMM) areas one to four are mostly meeting the 2018 Royal Flying Doctors Service benchmark of 75 pharmacists per

100,000, MMM five and seven [pharmacies] nationally and MMM six in NSW, are falling drastically short.

"The claim that this is the same problem sector-wide simply doesn't hold water."

The RPNA noted that the benchmark's ratios did not take into account the healthcare burden and care requirements faced in rural pharmacies, further exacerbating the current workforce crisis, which had unfolded over the last 15 to 20 years.

"The time for tinkering at the edges of the problem has passed," the spokesperson said.

"It's hard to find a rural proprietor who believes that immigration measures can adequately address their problems and most believe that targeted financial incentives are the only way forward.

"It's simplistic to the point of childishness to think you can



fix this without devoting large amounts of money to the problem.

"Our members are increasingly telling us that all options should be on the table, including things like weighting PBS dispensing fees according to the relative disadvantage of pharmacy locations.

"At the very least we need a comprehensive and properly funded Workforce Incentive Program that recognises Community Pharmacy's vital role in rural primary healthcare."

Sigma issues earnings downgrade

SHORT-TERM operational issues associated with the rollout of Sigma Healthcare's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and the impacts of COVID-19, have prompted the company to downgrade its earnings guidance for the financial year to 31 Jan 2022 (FY22).

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) this morning the pharmaceutical

wholesaler forecast that its underlying earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation will be down "around 10% versus FY21".


Sigma Interim Chief Financial Officer, Jeff Sells, said the company was confident the issues around the implementation of the ERP were "largely confined to FY22", and would abate during FY23.

minfos

Dispense to retail

Everything you need to manage a successful pharmacy

Request a demo




To find out more call 1300 887 418

Together we can

Power your success with Symbion


No matter the unique needs of your pharmacy business, there's a Symbion solution to match. Join us today – symbion.com.au or email info@symbion.com.au





AMH 2022 pre-pub Promotion
Act before it's too late.

Pre-purchase the 2022 AMH or any current resource before Dec 31st 2021 to enter the draw to win some great rewards. These include attending a conference related to your profession, new laptop computers and future editions of AMH resources. For all competition details and T&C's please click on the link.



[Click here for more info](#)

Kids to get COVAX jab

AUSTRALIA'S COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) campaign is set to move into its next phase in the coming weeks, after the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) granted provisional approval for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to be administered to children aged five to 11 years.

The decision will see children aged five years and older receive two 10µg doses of the vaccine, rather than the 30µg doses given to patients over the age of 12 years, from 10 Jan 2022 - subject to a positive recommendation from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, welcomed the TGA's decision, noting it would further boost national immunity against the pandemic virus, adding the community pharmacy sector would be available to support the rollout. "Across the nation, pharmacists are an integral part of their local



community, working to achieve positive health outcomes and with an emphasis on prevention, not just cure," he said.

"Community pharmacists stand ready to assist with the rollout of vaccinations for our children aged five to 11 years, to protect them against this worldwide pandemic threat, when the appropriate Australian Government approvals are in place."

Following the TGA's decision Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, said the Government had been working closely with Pfizer "to ensure Australian children will have access to this safe and effective vaccine as a priority".

Guild releases PotY22 finalist shortlist

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has released the shortlist of six finalists from across the country for the Pharmacy of the Year Award 2022 (PotY22).

Having shared the 2021 title across the entire community pharmacy network, the 2022 finalists include two stores from Western Australia, two NSW pharmacies and one each from the ACT and Tasmania.

Having been named as the 2020 Excellence in Professional Innovation Award winner, Wizard Pharmacy Kalgoorlie Central (PD 17 Mar 2020) will be looking to add the top honour when the winner is named at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP) next Mar.

The Guild noted that with nominations open to the general public for the first time, it has seen a "significant increase" in the number of stores being put forward for the Award.

Guild South Australian Branch President, and PotY22 judge, Nick Panayiariis, said the volume of nominations highlighted the awareness of the work of community pharmacies.

"The judging this year was more difficult than ever not only because of the excellence of the applicants but because of how they have continued to provide and build on service provision while meeting the increasing demands presented by the pandemic," he said.

The list of finalists includes:

- Cooleman Court Pharmacy, ACT
- Amcal Life Clinic Pharmacy Donnybrook, WA
- Wizard Pharmacy Kalgoorlie Central, WA
- Blooms The Chemist Orange, NSW
- Karen Carter Chemist Gunnedah, NSW
- TerryWhite Chemmart Rosny Park, Tas.

Take Ferro-grad C[®] first



Australia's most widely used brand to treat diagnosed iron deficiency in 10 years[#]

Always read the label. If symptoms persist, worsen or change unexpectedly, talk to your health professional. Follow the directions for use.

For use when you have been diagnosed as iron deficient and your doctor has recommended a therapeutic oral iron supplement.

#Most widely used brand of therapeutic oral iron supplement, based on cumulative total of IQVIA sales data in the last 10 years.

Ferro-grad C contains ferrous sulfate 325 mg (equivalent to 105 mg elemental iron) and sodium ascorbate 562.4 mg (equivalent to 500 mg Vitamin C). Ferro-grad C is a Viatrix trade mark. Copyright © 2021 Viatrix Inc. All rights reserved. Viatrix Pty Ltd. Tel 1800 314 527. FGC-2021-0158. Prepared November 2021.



Dispensary Corner

VACCINE-HESITANT patients are going to some pretty extreme lengths to avoid getting COVID-19 shots, while attempting to have health records show they have been immunised.

While many have attempted to offer bribes or payment to someone else to take a needle for them, others have been a little more creative in their efforts to dodge the jab.

One such example of a novel approach to sidestepping the vaccine was foiled when an Italian dentist rolled up his sleeve to receive a shot.

However, nurse, Filippa Bua, noticed something was not quite right about the man's arm.

"When I uncovered the arm, I felt skin that was cold and gummy, and the color was too light," Bua told *Corriere della Sera*.

She then asked the 57-year-old to remove his shirt, which revealed a silicone arm.

"I understood immediately that the man was trying to avoid the vaccination by using a silicone prosthetic, into which he hoped that I would inject the drug, unaware," she said.

Bua added that the man had confessed that he did not want the vaccine, but had hoped he would be able to fool her to get a "super health pass", which would allow him to go to restaurants, cinemas and other venues.

The dentist, who has been suspended from practice, is now facing fraud charges over the incident.

Mask up to keep pharmacies open

MAKING face masks a requirement of entry for customers visiting pharmacies will be critical to minimising the potential impact of COVID-19 on Tasmanian pharmacies when the state reopens next week, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Tasmanian Branch President, Helen O'Byrne, believes.

With the State's borders due to reopen from 15 Dec, O'Byrne said pharmacies needed to be prepared for the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission within the community.

O'Byrne said the most effective ways to mitigate against community transmission are to get vaccinated, adhere to social distancing, maintain good hand hygiene and wear a mask in enclosed areas.

"Pharmacists are front-line healthcare providers, and our community pharmacies are vital in ensuring the ongoing supply of medications for thousands of Tasmanians," she said.

"Since the very start of this pandemic community pharmacies

across Australia have stayed open, remained accessible and continued to provide medication and health services.

"We want to make very sure that our Tasmanian pharmacies can continue to do so as we welcome back interstate and international travellers."

"If a community pharmacy is deemed to be an exposure site it may be required to close while the team undertake isolation and testing for a minimum of seven days.

"This would impact many people who rely on that pharmacy for their medications and other services, particularly if the pharmacy is located in a rural or regional area without another one close by, as many of our Tasmanian pharmacies are.

"Our members must protect their business including their staff, so we ask that people who are unwell with any type of cold or flu like symptoms do not visit their pharmacy but call to organise for their medication



supplies to be delivered and importantly, to go get tested.

"Ultimately the decision to require people entering a community pharmacy to wear a mask rests with the owner of the business - however, it is an imperative that the supply of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medications is preserved.

"Wearing a mask is such a simple action and one we can all take to ensure the sick and vulnerable in our community have continued access to their medications."

CW celebrates retail excellence awards

Chemist Warehouse (CW) celebrated the work of the business's pharmacists, interns and pharmacy assistants in 2021 last week with the CW Retail Awards for Excellence.

A total of 42 State and Territory awards were presented during an online ceremony, with Tasmania's Sophie Louw, from CW Moonah, taking out the National Pharmacist of the Year title.

Louw was hailed as a "dedicated pharmacist who provided exceptional community pharmacy services during the pandemic" and "a true professional, leader and mentor

to her team".

Victorian pharmacy assistant, Adrienne Riskas, from CW Coburg Market, was named as the Margaret Kinniburgh National Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award winner.

CW CEO, Mario Verrochi, said the company was "beyond proud of the dedication, passion and hard work of our staff on a daily basis".

"We are thrilled about hosting our second annual CW Retail Awards for Excellence this year, celebrating the amazing efforts of our team across the country," he said.

Fed Court issues 'significant' fines

THE Federal Court of Australia has fined Oxymed Australia Pty Ltd \$2 million for advertising devices intended to administer hyperbaric oxygen therapy in breach of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

The company's Director, Malcolm Hooper, has been fined a further \$1 million for aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the contraventions of the Act by Oxymed.

Oxymed was initially issued a \$63,000 fine by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in Mar 2020.



Move your pharmacy career in a new direction

UTS now offers professional development for registered pharmacists pursuing a career in advanced practice with the Graduate Certificate in Advanced Pharmacy Practice.

Delivered in a flexible mode of study to suit working pharmacists, we'll prepare you to provide specialist, comprehensive knowledge relevant to working in general practice, aged care and team-care settings.

You'll gain the skills needed to analyse and apply the latest scientific evidence, conduct advanced medication review, improve quality use of medicines and take your place as the medication expert in the health care team.

[Click here to find out more](#)