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Continue pandemic legislation: Guild

COMMUNITY pharmacists in Queensland are calling on Federal and State governments to continue emergency measures which allows them to provide greater support for patients to be extended beyond 31 Mar.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President, Trent Twomey, said action taken during the COVID-19 pandemic including adjustments to the Communicable Diseases and Pharmacist Vaccination Programs and Continued Dispensing - Emergency Measures, had benefited patients.

However, he warned the pending expiry of these measures could adversely impact patients' access to medicines.

"The proactive adjustments have eased medication demands on hospitals and general practices, especially in regional Queensland," he said.

"However, with some of these services due to expire at the end of Mar, we need to move now to make these changes permanent



and ensure Queenslanders can continue to have access to potentially life-saving medicines.

"Without local community pharmacists being able to support Queenslanders that live in rural and remote communities with

access to their medicines through continued dispensing, many might go without.

"No patients should ever go without their medicine.

"We're calling on the Federal Government to show their ongoing commitment to Queenslanders and primary healthcare by permanently implementing continued dispensing.

Teal Ribbon Day

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) is urging patients across Australia to join the pharmacy network in supporting Ovarian Cancer Australia by purchasing a teal ribbon today.

Ovarian cancer is one of Australia's most underfunded cancers.

See **page four** for more.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from TerryWhite Chemmart.



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PPA COVAX rollout survey

AHEAD of the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines (COVAX) through community pharmacies, union group, Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA), is seeking the views of employee pharmacists, through a survey.

PPA reported that “many pharmacists and technicians are already stretched, so for participating pharmacies to be safe and the rollout successful, workload capacity, occupations health and safety must be a primary consideration”.

“That’s why PPA is seeking your views so when we speak to Federal and State Governments they hear from working pharmacists, not just employers,” the union said.

CLICK HERE for the survey.

API plaintiff plans pharmacy co-op

SYDNEY-BASED pharmacy owner and lead applicant in a proposed class action case against Australian Pharmaceutical Industries’ (API) banner Priceline Pharmacy (**PD 22 Feb**), Chris Lemon, plans to launch a disruptive co-operative network, Benepharm, later this year.

Announcing the launch of the new group, Lemon said the co-op model would deliver a fairer and more transparent network model.

In the proposed case against Priceline, class action specialists, Levitt Robinson, allege the group’s franchise agreements “may breach the current legislative framework which governs pharmacies in NSW, Queensland and Victoria”.

“As the prospective lead applicant in a class action against API, I’m certainly not the only pharmacist looking for a better way to operate under a national banner and buying group,” Lemon said.

“Benepharm is the answer for any pharmacist looking for the benefits of a national buying and marketing network while building equity in a brand they co-own.”

Lemon added that the co-op had recruited a team of experienced pharmacy sector professionals with expertise in merchandising, planning, technology, finance and marketing.

“Most of the Benepharm team have held roles in the major national brands,” he said.

“Each are leaders in their field and share the Benepharm vision of creating a better way for Australian pharmacist under pressure from low-touch volume retailers.”

The group is expected to lock-in its launch pharmacies in the next quarter, with expressions of interest sought from pharmacists in NSW initially, ahead of a national recruitment effort.



Priceline Pharmacy General Manager, Andrew Vidler, has previously noted that the class action case had not been lodged against the group, despite being touted as “imminent” since May last year (**PD 06 May 2020**).

“Apparently, it can only proceed if enough franchisees agree to a funding agreement,” he said.

PSA pledges to continue PSS support

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is set to continue its long-term support of the Pharmacists’ Support Service (PSS) under a new three-year Memorandum of Understanding.

PSA National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, said the PSS was an invaluable tool to help pharmacists address issues and concerns.

“PSA is happy to support the valuable work of this service, particularly as it sees pharmacists



working together to address issues and concerns within the sector in the community interest,” he said.

PSA President, John Coppock, thanked the PSA for its continued support.

PharMIbridge RCT training underway

PHARMACISTS in northern Sydney involved in the Bridging the Gap between Physical and Mental Illness in Community Pharmacy (PharMIbridge) Randomised Control Trial (RCT) commenced training today.

The trial, which was funded through the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement aims to enhance the way community pharmacists support people living with severe and persistent mental illness.

The PharMIbridge intervention



involves an in-depth medicine support service delivered over six-months and aims to identify and address problems related to psychotropic medication use or physical and psychological health concerns.



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Dispensary Corner

COVID-19 has fuelled a lot of bizarre conspiracy theories and behaviour as suspicious minds kicked into overdrive.

From hydroxychloroquine to bleach, unusual and dangerous "cures" have been touted by those without any insight, and some people have been only too keen to trial anything, provided it didn't come from a reputable source.

One prime example of this science-phobic approach, is a British woman who in a desperate effort to stave off the virus decided to follow some ill-informed advice picked up on WhatsApp from a "friend" and drank her own urine.

In an interview with *Healthwatch Central West London*, the woman confessed to having her children channel their inner Bear Grylls and imbibe their personal waste water for four days.

The woman said that she believed that Microsoft founder, Bill and his wife, Melinda, Gates were trying to introduce vaccinations that would be dangerous to her family, adding that she trusted "traditional cures" instead.

Can anyone tell Dispensary Corner what drinking your own urine traditionally cures?



Corum revenue rising

PHARMACY software provider, Corum Group, is reporting its first revenue uplift since the 2016 financial year.

Releasing its first half FY2021 results to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) today, the company revealed a 33% jump in revenue compared with the prior corresponding period, while its reported earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) soared by 1,593% to \$1,439,000.

The half-year results revealed Corum's health services business generated \$5,774,000, up 43% on H1FY20, which were in line with expectations due to the company's acquisition of the 57% equity in PharmX that it did not already own (PD 01 Sep 2020).

However the company's ecommerce offering brought in \$780,000, down 18% on the corresponding period.

Corum said it had a "renewed strategic focus", noting "the Board believes the past three years of equity holder litigation [over PharmX] have acted as a significant



distraction" from the development of the platform.

"Corum will provide PharmX with capital investment to achieve growth ambitions based on expected profitability and managed risk," Corum said.

"PharmX management have identified a range of additional services to further improve pharmacy supply chain efficiency."

The company also noted that opportunities existed for the PharmX technology platform to be deployed across alternative markets.

Pharmacist braves snow to deliver vax

PENNSYLVANIAN pharmacist, Ed Christofano, is being hailed as a hero for braving sub-zero temperatures and snow to administer COVID-19 vaccines to patients in their home.

Having spent a day vaccinating people at a local clinic, Christofano was determined not to let leftover doses of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine go to waste, he jumped in his SUV wearing full PPE, and drove more than 30km through a storm to deliver three shots to an elderly couple and



their 34-year-old daughter who is immobile and uses a ventilator to breathe.

Christofano told local media outlets that he became aware of the family's situation about two weeks ago and immediately thought of them when he knew he would have leftover doses.

TGA updates risk management

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA's) risk management approach to the regulation of therapeutic goods has been updated for the first time since 2011.

The initial guide came into effect in Jul 2004, and was updated three times in 2011, before the latest "rewrite and update", was published today.

Win an Evolt 360 package

This week Pharmacy Daily & Evolt are giving away an Evolt 360 Body Composition package valued at \$2500 - a high tech body composition platform that is proven to increase profitability, drive foot traffic, whilst engaging with the local community and establishing brand loyalty. To learn more click [HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) to enter & to see last weeks winner.

What do you use to determine what the best health solution is for your customer?



T&C'S APPLY

Today is Ovarian Cancer Australia Teal Ribbon Day

For 15 years, TerryWhite Chemmart has been supporting Ovarian Cancer Australia to improve support and raise awareness for woman impacted by ovarian cancer.

Ovarian cancer is the eighth most common cancer in Australia. It is also one of the most underfunded and deadliest female cancers.

Show your support today by visiting a TerryWhite Chemmart pharmacy and purchasing a teal ribbon.

Together, we can help save lives and ensure no woman with ovarian cancer walks alone.

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