



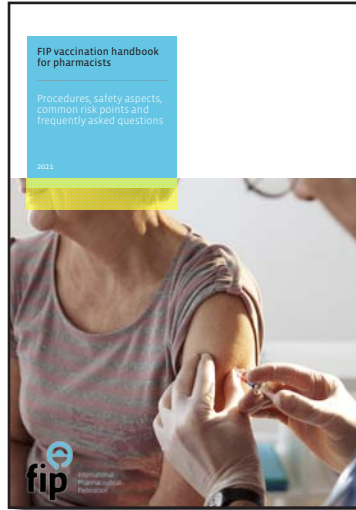
FIP releases 2021 pharmacist vax handbook

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation has launched a new *FIP Vaccination Handbook for Pharmacists*, with the aim of supporting individual pharmacists in understanding how they can contribute to improving global vaccination coverage.

The handbook covers a range of services, including patient education and advice, logistical roles and the administration of vaccines, and giving guidance on the practical implementation of vaccination services by pharmacists.

FIP President Dominique Jordan cited the organisation's long-time work on vaccination, which she said was a key priority goal not just for FIP but also for pharmacy across the globe.

"From my experience in my daily community pharmacy practice, the benefit for the population of having the possibility of being vaccinated at their local pharmacy is so clear, especially during these hard times



of the pandemic," she wrote.

"It is worth for our profession to make all necessary efforts to advocate to all relevant stakeholders in our health systems for pharmacists to be granted the authority to vaccinate.

"We can play a crucial role in motivating and vaccinating

people, and therefore contribute to increasing vaccination coverage rates," Jordan enthused.

The handbook covers procedures, safety aspects, common risk points and frequently asked questions about vaccines and their administration.

FIP noted that the handbook "does not seek to replace the training and certification of the pharmacy workforce for delivering vaccination services, but it may support them in their daily practice and in gaining an overview of these roles and how they may be performed".

The document includes a foreword from Queensland University of Technology School of Clinical Science, Head, Dr Lisa Nissen (*PD* 13 Jul).

The handbook, which was developed with the support of unrestricted funds from GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals is available free for download online at fip.org/publications.

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from **Choice Pharmacy**.

UK pill move

PROGESTOGEN-ONLY contraceptive pills will soon be available without prescription from pharmacies in the UK, under new policies aiming to increase choice for women.

The desogestrel pills will be provided after a consultation with a pharmacist, and will also continue to still be available free from a doctor and UK sexual health clinics.

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NZ ticks Janssen

NEW Zealand's Medsafe regulatory agency has approved the Janssen one-shot COVID-19 vaccination, mirroring a similar move locally (PD 28 Jun) by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

The NZ approval comes under a "rolling new medicine application" process, which has also been used to approve the AstraZeneca, Novavax and Pfizer vaccines in NZ.

AHPRA immuniser register needed

AUSTRALIAN Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) registration processes should record individuals' accreditation to administer vaccines, to enable targeted messaging to be delivered to immunisers, the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) believes.

In its *Survey of pharmacist vaccination reporting to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)* report, the NCIRS said enhancing the AHPRA register "would facilitate identification and enumeration of and communication with specific provider groups".

Currently there is no register of accredited pharmacist immunisers.

"An enhanced register could be used to track how many immunisation providers are available in the workforce, how many are offering vaccination services and which of those are reporting (or neglecting to report) data on vaccination encounters to AIR," the NCIRS said.

"A register containing this information could also assist

in identifying pharmacists and other providers who could deliver COVID-19 vaccines.

"[The Department of] Health should consult with AHPRA and the Jurisdictional Immunisation Coordinators (JICs) to enhance the existing register and determine whether trained immunisation providers can have this information specified on their registration and made publicly available."

MEANWHILE the survey, conducted between 05 Jun 2020 and 13 Jul 2020, found that an estimated 82% of vaccinations administered by 121 pharmacies were reported to AIR.

Respondents indicated that the ability to use automated reporting of vaccination encounters directly from pharmacy software to AIR was the most important factor enabling reporting to AIR, while difficulty accessing the AIR site was seen as a substantial barrier to reporting.

"Pharmacists' reporting of vaccination encounter data to AIR is likely to be improved through increased adoption of electronic

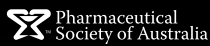
methods of recording and automated reporting processes," NCIRS said.

"Use of software that automatically integrates with AIR is likely to improve both the quantity and quality of data reported to AIR.

"Although recording of Medicare card numbers was strongly linked to completeness of reporting, a fifth of survey respondents indicated that they do not always or ever record their patients' Medicare card details.

"In the time period covered by our survey, pharmacists had the highest proportion of vaccination encounters recorded as 'pend' files in AIR of all provider types, with the vast majority (92%) categorised as 'individual not identified (80)', indicating that the patient's identifying information could not be automatically matched to an existing Medicare record.

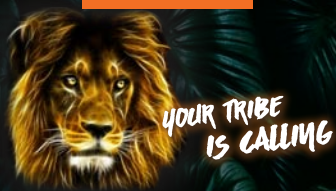
"Work with software vendors to make this field mandatory could improve recording of this information and consequently reporting to AIR."



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TWC announces Phillips departure

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) CEO, Duncan Phillips, will leave the company after two years at the helm in Oct, to return to the UK.

In a statement released yesterday, TWC said it would manage Phillips' succession from within, appointing General Manager of Operations, Nick Munroe, as Executive General Manager, with Group Financial Controller, Ben Elder, being promoted to Chief Commercial Officer.

Both appointments were

effective immediately, with Phillips set to assist Munroe and Elder with the transition to their new roles.

Munroe said the TWC business had taken significant strides forward under Phillips' leadership, pledging to continue to drive the group's "aggressive growth plans".

"Duncan will leave us having made a significant contribution to the business and reinforcing the TWC brand as Australia's most trusted community pharmacy network," he said.

Vic consultation

THE Victorian Pharmacy Authority is seeking input from the industry on proposed new Standards relating to the operation of the state's pharmacies, pharmacy depots, businesses and departments.

Topics covered include premises, equipment, records, references, policies, services, quality improvement and licensee responsibilities.

A formal consultation is currently open with a deadline for submissions of 30 Jul - for more info **CLICK HERE**.



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Dispensary Corner

THIS is most definitely not Gangnam Style!

Authorities in South Korea have issued new COVID-19 restrictions, including an order that music played in the country's gyms must not exceed 120 beats per minute.

The move applies in all group exercises including aerobics and spin classes, with the aim of preventing people from spreading the infection by breathing too fast or splashing sweat on others.

Many in the fitness industry have ridiculed the requirement, with one gym owner saying "playing bright tracks is to cheer up our members and the overall mood, but my biggest question is whether playing classical music or songs by [K-Pop boy band] BTS has been proved to have any impact on spreading the virus," *Reuters* reported.

Enforcing the rules is likely to be problematic too, many have noted, simply because many gym users listen via earphones on their own devices.

Keeping in shape during the pandemic in South Korea is also being further complicated by other new rules which limit treadmill speeds to 6km/h.

It's also now illegal to play doubles in table tennis, with ping pong matches restricted to two people per table under the new restrictions.

And on top of all that, it's hoped that lower levels of sweating in Korean gyms will mean less necessity to shower after a workout - because that has been banned too.

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