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Fewer AEFI from pharmacy vaccines

VACCINE safety surveillance data from Western Australia shows patients who received influenza vaccinations at community pharmacies experienced fewer adverse events following immunisation (AEFI), than those who received jabs elsewhere.

The pilot study conducted between Mar and Oct 2020 by researchers from the University of Western Australia (UniWA) and Queensland University of Technology, integrated MedAdvisor's PlusOne vaccination recording software with active vaccine safety surveillance technology, SmartVax, to create an automated system that followed up patients to check if they had experienced any adverse events.

Of the 5,100 patients who were immunised in pharmacies 4.8% experienced AEFI, compared with 6% of the 72,398 people who received a jab in non-pharmacy settings, the study published in the *BMJ*, revealed.

"We are on the cusp of a new period in immunisation," the authors said.

"The crucial next step is to leverage proven technology to enable broad scale deployment of vaccines, with a trained workforce enabled with vaccine safety surveillance systems.

"We have developed an integrated active vaccine safety surveillance system that is scalable to thousands of pharmacies in Australia and potentially globally.

"Lower proportions of adverse events following influenza immunisation in pharmacies compared with non-pharmacy sites demonstrates pharmacies are a safe destination for immunisation, and may capture people who might otherwise not get vaccinated.

"With an integrated system that facilitates both reporting of the immunisation to the AIR, as well as links to national vaccine safety surveillance, pharmacists in Australia can contribute actively



and safely to all immunisation programs."

MEANWHILE, UniWA is conducting a national Vaccination in Pharmacy (ViP) survey, to identify how pharmacist immunisers provide and record vaccination services during their day-to-day practice, and how they identify and manage AEFI.

The anonymous survey is part of the COVID-19 ViP study, with respondents getting the chance to win one of five \$100 prepaid VISA gift cards.

[CLICK HERE](#) to take the survey.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from **Sigma Healthcare**.

Face mask fine

SYDNEY-BASED company, Aidacare Pty Ltd, has been fined \$26,640, in relation to alleged breaches of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) revealed the company failed to provide information relating to face masks and respirators listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) as part of a post-market review.

The TGA noted that under the Act, importers and manufacturers of products listed on the ARTG must facilitate access to technical documentation to demonstrate compliance as requested.

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Qld hotspot list

PATIENTS who visited the TerryWhite Chemmart pharmacy at Caloundra Shopping Centre, between 10.30am and 11.45am on 07 Jun are being urged to get tested and isolate by Queensland Health.

The shopping centre has been identified as a potential COVID-19 exposure site relating to the latest confirmed cases linked to interstate visitors.

COVAX talks continue

PHARMACY Guild of Australia leaders are continuing discussions with NSW Health to secure approval for pharmacies to join the State's COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) rollout.

Guild NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, told **Pharmacy Daily** that the talks with the State authorities have been focused on "areas of need", where there is limited access to COVAX services, to pave the way for rural pharmacies to participate in the program.

However, he said that extending the vaccination program to include all community pharmacies across the State would help to accelerate immunisation rates and combat vaccine hesitancy.

"We don't see the point of not using the whole vaccination workforce," he said.

"We could have a good story [regarding vaccine uptake] by Christmas, instead of sometime next year [if community pharmacies were given the green-light to administer COVAX]."

Heffernan also flagged concerns over the NSW Government's



planned COVAX hub in Belmont, which is expected to employ 25 pharmacists or pharmacy technicians, saying it could lead to staffing issues at community pharmacies in the Hunter region.

"They're trying to take pharmacists out of pharmacies," he said.

Heffernan added that the COVAX hub model also created additional costs for the State that could be avoided by using existing infrastructure, including community pharmacies, to roll out the vaccination program.

Dispensary Corner

TESTIMONY given by an anti-vaccination advocate, Dr Sherri Tenpenny, at an Ohio State Health Committee hearing this week could inspire some skeptics to get the COVID-19 jab.

Tenpenny said the mRNA vaccines alter patients' genetic makeups and suggested that the shots turned recipients into human magnets.

"I'm sure you've seen the pictures all over the internet of people who have had these shots and now they're magnetised," she said.

"They can put a key on their forehead...it sticks.

"They can put spoons and forks all over them and they can stick, because now we think that there's a metal piece to that."

Despite the doctor's dire warnings about these refuted claims, some social media users have seen some benefits to gaining post-vax powers.

"Thanks Pfizer," one Twitter user said.

"I used to spend five minute in the morning before I leave for work and five minutes when I leave work - almost an hour a week - digging through my big purse for my keys.

"Now that I'm vaccinated I'll just keep them hanging from my forehead."

Others have reported being vaccinated for months without experiencing any magnetic benefits flagged by Tenpenny, while another quoted George Bernard Shaw, "The longer I live, the more convinced am I that this planet is used by other planets as a lunatic asylum".

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

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46th PSA Onshore Refresher Conference 2021

DARWIN

1 - 7 September 2021



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