



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- TePe
- United in Compassion

Keep it clean

GOOD dental hygiene is key to patients' health and wellbeing.

Oral health specialist, TePe, has an extensive range of interdental brushes to help clean between the gaps.

See **page four** for more.

TGA CPAP recall

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a recall for Philips CPAP, Bi-Level PAP devices and mechanical ventilators, due to a safety hazard caused by foam degradation (PD 21 Jun).

CLICK HERE for more.

Vic Govt 'robbing Peter to pay Paul'

MOVES to recruit community pharmacists to administer COVID-19 vaccinations hubs by the Victorian Government do not make sense, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, believes.

Responding to the Victorian Department of Health's decision to hire community pharmacists to support its vaccination centres, rather than activating pharmacies as COVID-19 vaccine sites, Tassone accused the State Government of "robbing Peter to pay Paul".

"The notion that eligible community pharmacists be used to bolster the vaccination hubs ignores the fact that these community pharmacies are ready, and able, to provide these vaccinations in their pharmacies," he said.

"More than 800 pharmacies in Victoria have been deemed eligible to provide COVID-19 vaccinations and yet the Victorian Government has only seen fit to bring on board

eight of them located in regional areas.

"But the Government is quite happy to cannibalise this community pharmacy trained workforce to try to beef up its mass vaccination hubs, while the most visited and accessible primary healthcare destination being pharmacies continue to sit on the sidelines.

"This approach just doesn't make sense and it's time the Government shows it is serious about protecting Victorians by onboarding every eligible community pharmacy in the State.

"Victorians deserve nothing less."

While Tassone voiced his frustrations at the State Government's decision, union group, Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA), has welcomed the move to engage pharmacist immunisers.

PPA President, Geoff March, said it was critical that pharmacists were engaged to work to the full extent



of their scope of practice to boost vaccination rates across the State.

"We have long advocated that community pharmacy be integrated into the health system and not be seen or treated in isolation, for example, in establishing the opportunity for pharmacists to work alongside medical practitioners in doctors' surgeries," he said.

"It's absolutely fantastic to see pharmacists assist in delivering COVID-19 vaccines at Victoria's mass vaccination hubs."

CWH store listed as 'close contact' site

SHOPPERS who visited the Chemist Warehouse (CWH) pharmacy in Maroubra, NSW, from 9am to 9.30am on 24 Jun are being urged to get tested for COVID-19 and isolate for 14 days, regardless of their COVID status.

The Eastern Suburbs store is the first pharmacy to be listed as a "close contact" location by NSW Health since the start of the State's latest outbreak.

Patients who visited the

discounter's Bondi Beach store between 9am and 10am on 21 Jun, and the Double Bay outlet from 9.30am to 9.42am have been classified as "casual contacts" and should get tested and isolate until they receive a negative result.

People who visited Bondi Pharmacy in Bondi Beach between 1.50pm and 2.45pm on 18 Jun are being advised to monitor for symptoms.

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*IMS MIDAS data, Absatz MAT04/2019. *Lang C, et al., Planta Med 2015;81:968-974. Supported by Engelhard Arzneimittel GmbH & Co. KG. PRPDS2020





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Time to talk BI claims with brokers

PHARMACY owners whose businesses are being impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic are being urged to talk to their insurance brokers following a ruling by the High Court of Australia on Fri.

The High Court announced it would not grant leave to appeal an NSW Court of Appeal test case ruling in Nov 2020, which stated that where pandemic exclusion wording references the Quarantine Act 1908 in a business interruption (BI) insurance policy, it cannot be used to exclude cover.

Pharmacy Insurance specialist, Carollo Horton and Associates CEO, Giuseppe Carollo, said the decision will affect up to 250,000 and an estimated \$10 billion in claims.

"Pharmacies are in a unique position as they were able to trade

throughout most of the pandemic with some restrictions, whereas industries such as hospitality and entertainment had to close down some or all of their operations," he said.

"It means pharmacies will need to be aware when claiming for BI, that there will be more complexity in preparing the claim and having it approved."

Carollo noted that while ongoing legal proceedings and a second industry test case are awaiting a decision later this year, pharmacies that have policies that reference the Quarantine Act will need to wait until issues concerning the interpretation of BI policies are resolved before it is clear if they will be fully covered.

"Pharmacies who want to lodge a claim should discuss this with their insurance broker," he said.

"The broker is there to guide you through the process and assess your claim against your policy, the circumstances and how your pharmacy traded during the period.

"We understand this is difficult



not having the certainty around these decisions but pharmacies who believe they have a claim for business interruption should start the process with their broker."

Carollo encouraged pharmacy owners and managers to contact their insurance brokers if they need clarity over how the High Court ruling affects their policies in relation to BI from the pandemic.

He added that BI insurance policies where an exclusion references the Biosecurity Act 2015, are not affected by the NSW Court of Appeals and High Court rulings.



Dispensary Corner

THE COVID-19 pandemic may not be over, but local councils in the UK are calling time on free parking permits for frontline workers, in a move that has enraged healthcare professionals.

The British Government had announced it would be withdrawing its emergency parking pass guidance from 21 Jun, to coincide with Prime Minister, Boris Johnson's much anticipated "Freedom Day" when COVID-related restrictions would be eased, *The Daily Mail* reported.

However, despite extending restrictions until 19 Jul, the Johnson administration has not made a similar ruling for emergency parking permits, with overzealous inspectors issuing penalties to health workers who have been key to supporting the nation's pandemic response.

Scunthorpe-based community pharmacist, and parking ticket victim, Dale McVeigh, posted a photo of his car's windscreen on Twitter, with a penalty notice stuck on, despite a sticker noting the car belonged to frontline worker.

"North Lincolnshire Council, is this how you treat NHS frontline workers in The Ironstone Centre?" he asked "Shame on you."

McVeigh noted that he was not the only one of his NHS colleagues to be pinged by parking inspectors, who appeared happy to be dishing out fines.



TGA grants provisional approval for vax

JANSSEN-CILAG'S single dose COVID-19 vaccine has been granted provisional approval for use in Australia by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

The provisional approval allows for the vaccine to be included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) for the active immunisation for the prevention of COVID-19 in adults over the age of 18 years.

However, the viral vector vaccine is not currently included in the Federal Government's COVID-19 vaccination program.

"Provisional approval of this vaccine is subject to certain strict conditions, such as the requirement for Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd to continue providing information to the TGA on longer-term efficacy and safety from ongoing clinical trials and post-market assessment," the



TGA said.

"The Janssen vaccine has been shown to prevent COVID-19; however, it is not yet known whether it prevents transmission or asymptomatic disease."

The decision to provisionally approve the vaccine was informed by expert advice from the Advisory Committee on Vaccines.

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AMH AUSTRALIAN MEDICINES HANDBOOK

Tasmania plots pharmacy COVAX

TASMANIAN pharmacies are expected to be invited to join the next stage of the State's COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) rollout in the coming weeks.

Tasmanian Department of Health Secretary, Katherine Morgan-Wicks, announced plans were underway to identify and authorise the first community pharmacies to become vaccine sites, with the rollout to follow a similar model to Queensland, with regional and



rural stores to be activated initially, before expanding the campaign to other pharmacies.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Tasmanian Branch President, Helen O'Byrne, said she was "pleased that Tasmania will now join other State and Territory Governments to initiate the process to include community pharmacies in the rollout".

"The Guild will work closely with the Government and the Health Department to ensure selected community pharmacies can start providing COVAX as soon as possible – we are hopeful of an end of Jul start," she said.

"Incorporating community

pharmacies, particularly in regional areas, into the rollout efforts will undoubtedly bolster the numbers of Tasmanians receiving the vaccination and help speed up vaccination rates further - making the target of full vaccination by the end of the year an achievable objective".

"Community pharmacists are highly accessible and trusted health care professionals who have done the same training as doctors and nurse immunisers.

"Importantly, particularly in regional areas our pharmacies are already there within the community and set up to provide vaccination services."

PSA welcomes Gillespie appointment

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has welcomed Deputy Prime Minister, Barnaby Joyce's decision to reappoint Dr David Gillespie as Minister for Regional Health.

PSA National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, noted Gillespie's "past experience in the portfolio and as a clinician, will help drive innovation in the portfolio".

"PSA looks forward to working with him to improve health care and health outcomes for people

in regional Australia," he said.

Freeman thanked the outgoing Minister, Mark Coulton, for his "exceptional services to Regional Australia" during his time in the portfolio.

"PSA acknowledges Minister Coulton's contributions to our health system, and to the many communities in remote and rural Australia throughout his time in this portfolio - as well as his leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine rollout," he said.

Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Angelo Guida**, Retail Services Manager, Wizard Pharmacy.



Pharmacy brand conversions

CONVERTING to a new pharmacy brand is a big decision. Here are a few things to look out for in the onboarding process before deciding which brand to convert to.

Is the onboarding process a personalised conversion tailored to your store? Converting to a new brand shouldn't be a one size fits all solution. The onboarding team should work with you to minimise costs while maximising the impact of your retail space.

They should also work with you to simplify the process and reduce unnecessary costs. A complete refit isn't always necessary to maximise retail impact. Having the brand project manage the conversion for you removes any unnecessary stress so that your focus can remain on your patients and customers.

You also need a support team that will be by your side even after the initial conversion is complete. It can take a while to find your feet as a new pharmacy brand and work out any teething issues, which is why you should ensure you will have ongoing follow up visits.

Wizard Pharmacy's dedicated Onboarding Team is here to assist you during your conversion and as your pharmacy grows with Wizard. **CLICK HERE** to learn more.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

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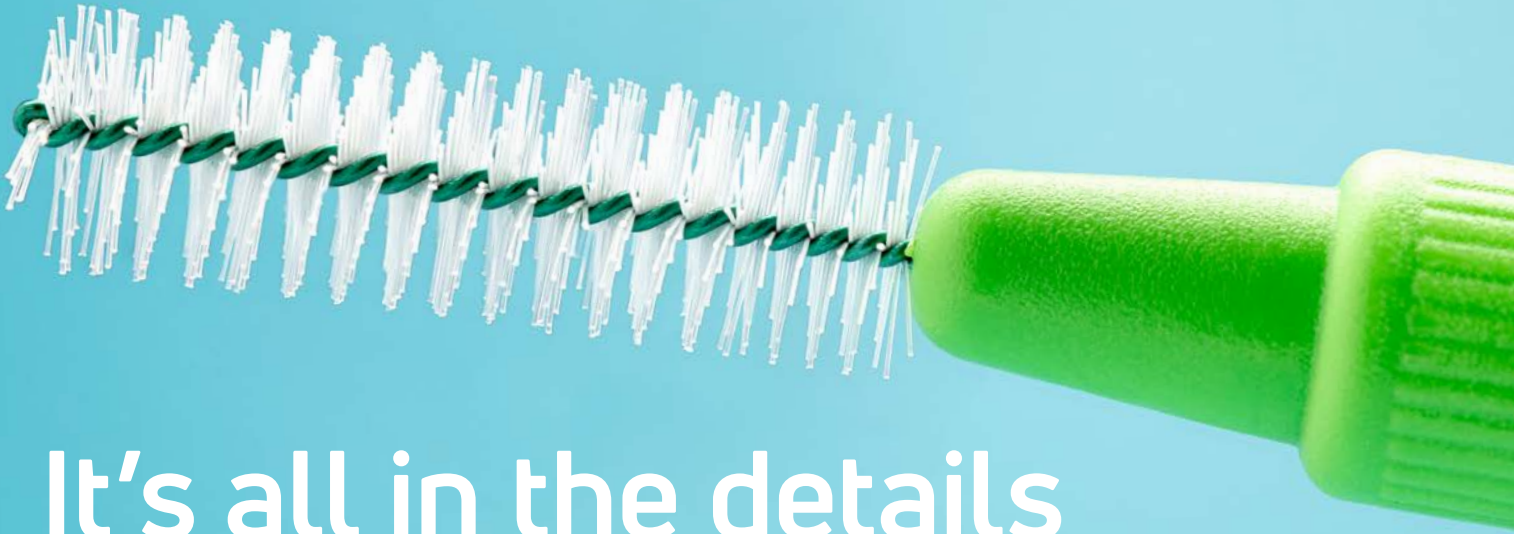
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