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Improve RMMR access: Aged Care RC

IMMEDIATE action should be taken by the Federal Government to improve access to quality medication management reviews for patients, the Aged Care Royal Commission Final Report has found.

The Royal Commission called on the Government to allow and fund “pharmacists from 01 Jan 2022 to conduct reviews on entry to residential care and annually thereafter, or more often if there has been a significant change to the person receiving care’s condition or medication regimen”.

The report added that the eligibility criteria for residential medication management reviews (RMMRs) be amended to include patients in transition care and residential respite care.

The Royal Commission also called on the Government to monitor quality and consistency of medication management reviews.

Commissioner, Lynelle Briggs, said aged care providers should be

required to employ at least one pharmacist by 01 Jul 2024.

The Commissioners also called for the Government to amend the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Schedule so that only a psychiatrist or a geriatrician can initially prescribe antipsychotics as a pharmaceutical benefit for people receiving residential aged care, and for those people who have received such an initial prescription from a psychiatrist or geriatrician, GPs can issue repeat prescriptions of antipsychotics on

the PBS for up to a year after the date of the initial prescription.

Announcing the launch of the report, Prime Minister, Scott Morrison said there would be “no easy fixes” for the sector.

However, the Government has allocated a \$452.2 million response package for the aged care sector, with Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, saying funding for pharmacy programs would be extended out to 2025.

More from the Aged Care Royal Commission on **pages two & three**.

Today's issue of PD

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

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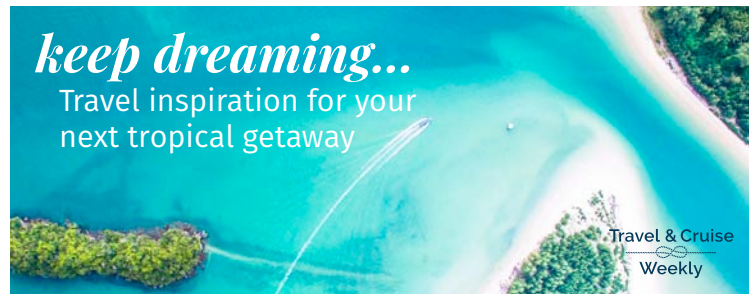


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SHPA aged care push

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) says it will continue to advocate for the government to invest in embedding clinical pharmacy services for aged care residents, as it welcomed the findings of the Royal Commission into Aged Care (see p1).

SHPA CEO Kristin Michaels suggested ratios of one pharmacist to 200 residents would allow the identification and management of medication-related issues before they lead to avoidable harm and admission to hospital.

“When present in the right place at the right time, pharmacists can identify deprescribing opportunities and foster high quality clinical handover as patients move between care settings, which is vital for wellbeing and quality of life,” Michaels said.

SHPA hailed the Commission’s recommendation to allow and fund pharmacists to conduct medication reviews on entry to residential care from 01 Jan 2022 and annually

thereafter, noting that in 2018/19 just 30% of Australia’s 243,000 aged care residents were able to access a RMMR service.

Michaels also welcomed the amendment of the eligibility criteria to include people in residential respite and transition care.

The SHPA CEO noted that several of the Royal Commission’s recommendations had been part of SHPA’s *Standard of practice in geriatric medicine for pharmacy services* (PD 20 Feb 2020).

“The evidence makes it clear that investment in embedding a dedicated Geriatric Medicine Pharmacist as part of minimum allied health care, supported by capped base-payments per resident and activity-based payments for the direct care provided, will be a strong step towards reduced medicines misuse and medication-related hospitalisations and injuries among older Australians,” she said.

More reaction to the Royal Commission on **page 1 and 3.**

Nanotech probe

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has launched a consultation on proposed regulatory options for medical devices containing nanomaterials.

The move follows the 2015 report from the *Expert Panel Review of Medicines and Medical Devices Regulation* which suggested that the regulation of medical devices, wherever possible and appropriate, should align with the European Union (EU) framework.

A new medical device regulatory framework was introduced in the EU in 2017, including new requirements around nanomaterials, and the TGA’s consultation examines whether these should be incorporated into the local approach to the technology.

A full consultation paper as well as an online survey are at consultations.health.gov.au.

New teething gel

NOVA Pharmaceuticals is set to shortly launch new Bubs & Co sugar-free, alcohol free and all natural colours teething gel - see the **last page** for details.

Online beauty

VTN, A NEW e-commerce store specialising in beauty and wellness has launched in Australia and NZ, offering products from 11 brands including Amilera, Napoleon Perdis, Savar, Vida Glow and Invisible Zinc.

VTN is part of Access Group, which also plans a Sydney CBD store along with an app which promises a “direct brand-to-consumer experience”.

The company is also planning new dedicated websites for the US and Europe, saying traffic will be bolstered by associated social media communities - vtnstore.com.

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Dispensary Corner

THE wearing of face masks has become so commonplace that many of us don't even notice - and that was clearly an issue for a California Department of Motor Vehicles officer when processing a driver's licence. 25-year-old Lesley Pilgrim entered the registry wearing the mask, and kept it on while she posed for the licence photo.

The photographer asked her to remove it for a second shot, but when the new ID (pictured) arrived in the post Pilgrim realised they had used the first picture for the document.

"At first I just kind of stared at it...it took some time to process," she told *Orange County News*.

"Then I started thinking, 'Oh gosh, as a law student this can't be legal'," she added.

"If I give this to a police officer he's going to think it's fake and I'm going to get in trouble."

Apparently because it has been officially issued the licence is in fact valid, but authorities in Orange County have asked her to return for a replacement at no charge.

Her major concern then became having to queue for the ID a second time.



Pharmacists vital in aged care

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) says the recommendations in the Aged Care Royal Commission report "challenge all of us to comprehensively rethink the way we support and protect older Australians".

PSA National President Chris Freeman highlighted issues around inappropriate chemical restraint as well as polypharmacy leading to sedation, falls and avoidable hospitalisations as some of the

biggest problems in aged care. "Pharmacists are the key to solving these problems," he said, with the Commission's recommendations around access to embedded pharmacists and timely, regular medication management reviews among the first priorities which should be actioned.

Other recommendations urged access and funding to specialists and other health practitioners, including pharmacists, through Multidisciplinary Outreach Services.

The Commission urged the wider adoption of technology by aged care providers, including the use of digital care management system and the My Health Record system by 01 Jul 2022, including the implementation of unique identifiers for aged care facilities.

"Putting in place quality indicators, improving clinical governance, increasing accountability, providing better staff training and ongoing professional development are all measures required if generational change to our aged care system is to be achieved," Freeman said.

New listings

HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt yesterday confirmed the addition of several new items to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, including multiple sclerosis medicine Zeposia (ozanimod), Ateuree Breezhaler (indacaterol with mometsone) for asthma, and an extended listing for diabetes medicine Trulicity.

Also new to the PBS is Dupixent (dupilimab) for the treatment of severe atopic dermatitis.

Guild Update

RCT training

TRAINING for pharmacists in Northern Sydney involved in the Bridging the Gap between Physical and Mental Illness in Community Pharmacy (PharMIbridge) Randomised Control Trial (RCT) will be held in Northern Sydney on 24-25 February 2021.

The PharMIbridge RCT is a collaboration between the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Griffith University and the University of Sydney, aimed at enhancing the way community pharmacists support people living with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI). The RCT is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health as part of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

The PharMIbridge RCT, involving up to 8 community pharmacies in Northern Sydney, will test the effectiveness of a person-centred, goal-oriented, and flexible pharmacist-led support service for consumers living with SPMI, compared to a standard in-pharmacy medication review service (MedsCheck).

The National President of the Guild, George Tambassis, said the Guild's commitment to PharMIbridge reflected the importance of researching the impact of an increasing role of community pharmacists in mental health.

For more details, email pharmibridge@griffith.edu.au or visit griffith.edu.au/pharmibridge or call (07) 3735 8038.

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 week's winner.

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