



## ■ A different way to support urinary tract health

Ellura® is a clinically researched cranberry product that helps reduce the occurrence of medically diagnosed cystitis.<sup>1</sup> Containing the recommended and validated dose of 36mg proanthocyanadins (PACs), Ellura® meets the specific criteria set out by the 2012 Cochrane Review for recurrent cystitis reduction,<sup>2</sup> making it an integrative approach you can count on. **Simple.**



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**References:** 1. Howell AB, et al. BMC Infect Dis. 2010;10:94. 2. Jepson RG, et al. Cochrane database of systematic reviews. 2012(10).

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## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features three pages of news, plus a front cover page from **Flordis** and full pages from:

- **Wizard**
- **Sigma Pharmaceuticals**

## Boost urinary tract health

**INTEGRATIVE** medicine specialist, **Flordis**, is offering a boost to urinary tract health with **Ellura**.

The cranberry product can help reduce the occurrence of medically diagnosed cystitis.

See today's **cover page** for more information.

## Get the right fit

**SIGMA** Healthcare's pharmacy brands are offering owners the opportunity to join a group that fits their business.

Whether signing up to **Guardian**, **Amcal**, **Wholife Pharmacy** and **Healthfoods**, **PharmaSave**, **Chemist King** or **Discount Drug Stores**, **Sigma** provides owners with flexibility and choice, the assurance of efficiency and accurate supply, and access to a team of trusted industry experts and pharmacy advisors.

For more information about joining one of **Sigma's** franchises see **page five**.

# Wage growth falling off the agenda

**COMMUNITY** pharmacy employees need to ensure pay rates remain a hot topic within the profession, former Pharmaceutical Society of Australia NSW Branch President, Emeritus Professor Shalom "Charlie" Benrimoj, believes.

Commenting on data from the University of Technology Sydney 2020 Pharmacy Barometer, which showed an increase in the number of pharmacists reporting they earned less than \$30 an hour, from 1% in 2019 to 3% last year, Benrimoj voiced concern that the issue of pharmacists' remuneration had fallen off the agenda.

The latest Barometer reading (**PD 27 Apr**) revealed 30% of pharmacists had received an increase in their pay in the 12 months to Oct 2020, compared with 42% in the prior corresponding period.

"Nobody is keeping pressure on employers to keep going with wage increases," Benrimoj said.

"There is a lack of political and economic pressure on owners."

The 2020 Barometer reported that 54% of pharmacists are earning between \$30 and \$40 an hour, compared with 56% in 2019, while there was a slight increase in the proportion of pharmacists being paid \$40 to \$50 per hour (40% in 2020, compared with 39% in the year earlier).

There was no change in the numbers earning between \$50 and \$60 an hour (3%), while no pharmacists reported earning more



than \$60 per hour in 2020, down from 1% in 2019.

Professional Pharmacists Australia President, Geoff March, told **Pharmacy Daily** that the Barometer's findings reflected the union's findings that "pharmacists are undervalued, underpaid and have low morale".

"After a full decade of stagnation, pay rates for pharmacists only saw a small increase in 2019 and almost 50% of community pharmacists who've been on the frontline in the war against COVID-19 cited poor pay as a major employment concern," March said.

"The workplaces which did see decent pay increases and higher rates of pay included those where a higher proportion of employees were union members who were able to negotiate a strong enterprise bargaining agreement.

"Pharmacists working in hospitals and covered by enterprise

bargaining agreements could expect a median salary up to \$7,500 per year, or \$8 an hour higher, than pharmacists working in community pharmacies."

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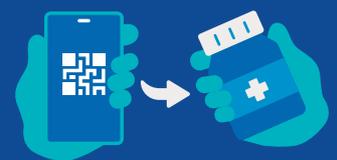
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See **page four** for more from **Wizard Pharmacy**.



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## Guild Update

### Privacy Awareness Week

THE Pharmacy Guild is a supporter of this year's Privacy Awareness Week (PAW2021), running from 3 to 9 May 2021.

Currently, 85% of all Australians have a clear understanding of why they should protect personal information, yet 49% don't know how to do it.

PAW 2021's theme, Make Privacy a Priority is about sharing information and practical tips that empower organisations and people to take control of personal information.

PAW 2021 serves as a timely reminder to review your privacy practices and policies and to educate your staff about their obligations around handling of personal information and sensitive information.

There are many areas where personal information and sensitive information collected by you may be vulnerable to misuse or unauthorised access. None more so than the online world, where poor protection of personal information can expose organisations and individuals to identity theft, fraud and data breaches.

For further information [click here](#).

## Pharmacists boost for palliative care

**IMPROVING** Australia's My Health Record (MHR) to enable pharmacists to upload findings from medication reviews could boost their role in palliative care, research reveals.

A study from Flinders University, published in *Healthcare - Medication Management*, found community pharmacists often worked remotely from the healthcare team looking after terminally ill patients.

The authors noted that "pharmacists were able to identify specific care needs associated with approaching end of life, as well as indicators for predicting medication misadventure".

"In addition, pharmacists were able to identify people with palliative care needs," they said.

However, the authors found that current restrictions preventing pharmacists from sharing their advice through patients' MHRs limited their ability to influence decisions around medication management and changes in treatment.



Ensuring pharmacists are involved in palliative care could also help them to better manage medication supplies.

"Improving the MHR to allow for pharmacists to contribute more than simply dispensing data would assist in this information being available to all prescribers and pharmacists caring for the individual," they said. "The role of the pharmacist in

Australia is diverse.

"They provide a variety of services for people with palliative needs as well as their carers.

"Engaging with the pharmacist early in the palliative trajectory of the patient is important.

"Organisations must develop systems that embed pharmacists or pharmacy services in usual patient care processes."

### MDR trading halt

**AUSTRALIAN** Securities Exchange (ASX) listed medtech firm, MedAdvisor (MDR), has entered a 48-hour trading halt pending the release of an announcement regarding a funding facility.

The company said the announcement would be made prior to the commencement of trading on Thu 06 May.

### Push for longer term for compounders

**US PROSECUTORS** are seeking to have the prison sentences imposed on two men linked to the distribution of tainted drugs which caused a fatal fungal meningitis outbreak in the US in 2012, extended to 17 and a half years.

New England Compounding Center Co-Founder, Barry Cadden, is currently serving a nine-year sentence, while former supervisory pharmacist, Glenn Chin, received an eight-year term, after being convicted of racketeering and fraud convictions.

The tainted medication led to 793 patients developing the fungal meningitis, 100 of whom died as a result.

Prosecutors had initially sought a 35-year prison sentence for both men, but lodged a recommendation calling for sentences of 168 to 210 months in a filing made to the First US



Circuit Court of Appeals on Fri.

"A sentence at the top end of the correct sentencing guidelines range more adequately captures the gravity and context of Cadden's offenses and takes into consideration the horrific harm he caused," they said.

The prosecutors added that the two men should be ordered to pay US\$82 million in joint restitution to their victims, in addition to increasing fines from US\$7.54 million to US\$11.2 million for Cadden, while saying Chin's forfeiture should be increased from US\$175,000 to US\$473,584.

# SAY HI

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Pharmacy Daily

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## Dispensary Corner

**MEN** around the globe appear to be dialled into “here for a good time not a long time” when it comes to their meat intake, a study reveals.

While 81% of blokes said they considered themselves to be someone who cares about the environment, just over one-in-five said they would quit their carnivorous diets for the good of the planet.

The survey commissioned by not-for-profit No Meat May, found 73% of men said they’d prefer to sacrifice their life expectancy by up to a decade to chow down on a steak, rather than kale.

No Meat May co-founder, Ryan Alexander, said three-quarters of male respondents said they were not convinced of the health benefits of a meat-free diet, “despite the mounting evidence to the contrary”.

“Significant research over many years has shown that eating meat and other animal products increases the risk of developing certain cancers, heart disease, obesity and having a reduced life expectancy, not to mention being one of the biggest contributors to global warming and the destruction of our environment,” he said.

While Dispensary Corner is in no rush to shuffle off to the next life, we’d feel we were doing a disservice to volunteers supporting a variety of charities and organisations by passing up the chance to indulge in a sausage sizzle at Bunnings on a Sat afternoon!

## Morris to leave NPS MedicineWise

NPS MedicineWise CEO, Adjunct Associate Professor Steve Morris, will step down in Jul to take on a new role in South Australia, which will allow him to support a family member “who is dealing with the challenges and opportunities of living with autism”.

Announcing Morris’ departure, NPS MedicineWise Chair, Dr Andrew Knight, thanked him for his leadership of the organisation since Sep 2018.

“We are very sad to see Steve go, however we understand and applaud his decision to prioritise his family member at a challenging time,” Knight said.

“He has led the organisation through some very difficult challenges to now be in a good position to continue to deliver on its role as a steward of quality use of medicines in Australia and fulfill its mission to improve the health of Australians through the safe and wise use of medicines and other technologies.”

Morris said he was leaving NPS

MedicineWise to take up the position of CEO at Arthritis South Australia, with “genuine sadness”, but was “pleased to be leaving the organisation in a good position to continue to enhance its role”.

“I am truly grateful for the support that the committed and dedicated staff of NPS MedicineWise have provided me in my time as CEO,” he said.

“My new role, closer to home, will allow me to also focus on caring for a family member.

“I truly believe NPS MedicineWise plays a unique and impactful role in the Australian health system and is well positioned to continue to support quality use of medicines across all settings in Australia.”

Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) CEO, Kristin Michaels, said Morris’ leadership has coincided with a further strengthening of connections between the organisations.

“On behalf of the SHPA Board of Directors and our members across the country, I thank Steve for his



incredible dedication and creative vision for improving the quality use of medicines to improve clinician and consumer decision-making in health,” she said.

“SHPA is a proud and long-standing member of NPS MedicineWise, and we are committed to our mutual organisational mission to improve and champion quality use of medicines and medicines safety whenever medicines are used, and wherever Australians receive care.”

## Pharmacist assaulted over deodorant

**QUEENSLAND** Police are investigating the assault of a pharmacist in Cairns yesterday.

The male pharmacist was allegedly punched in the face during a confrontation with teenage girls, who stole cans of deodorant, at the Wholelife Pharmacy and Healthfoods outlet on Pease St, shortly before 2pm, *The Cairns Post* reported.

A police spokesperson confirmed that two of the three suspects involved were apprehended shortly after the incident and were assisting with the investigation.



The publication revealed that the pharmacist was treated at a nearby medical centre, and his injuries were not believed to be serious.

## Clonidine dosing concerns

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a reminder to health professionals that serious adverse events can occur in children who are accidentally overdosed with clonidine.

The TGA noted that the NSW Poisons Information Centre received 415 cases of clonidine poisoning in children under six years of age in 2018, which represented a 50% increase over the previous four years.

Off label prescribing was noted in 28% of those cases.

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**Andrew Stent**

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