



Find out everything you need to know



Substitution key to tackling shortages

EMPOWERING community pharmacists to substitute medications that are in short supply with alternatives from the same therapeutic class, could help prevent unnecessary hospitalisations caused by patients running out of their medicines.

Addressing the State of the Industry panel discussion at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference on Fri, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, said introducing therapeutic substitution could help tackle supply chain issues “that are having very real material adverse effects to patient health outcomes”.

Twomey noted the Therapeutic Goods Administration’s (TGA’s) existing medicines shortage process,

failed to take into account local supply issues.

“Something may be out of stock in regional Australia, or Western Australia, before it’s out of stock in Canberra and the TGA realises it,” he said.

“The system’s not working... and too much of that burden [of tackling shortages] is being placed on us at the end of the supply chain.”

Twomey said solutions would require a coordinated approach from originator and generic medicines manufacturers, wholesalers and the pharmacy sector, adding the expansion of pharmacists’ scope of practice would be crucial.

“Continued Dispensing is a very real solution that we can have to ensure that someone doesn’t run out when they don’t have the bit of



paper,” he said.

“The other thing is therapeutic substitution... something that is completely within our scope of practice, something that is being performed safely within hospital settings and can be performed safely within the current regulatory and professional environment that is a community pharmacy.

“If someone runs out of something we should be able to substitute within therapeutic class, without having to ask for another prescription.

“This stuff costs the Government nothing, it is safe and it is being done in other countries.”

LEAPP ahead

SIGMA Healthcare is offering pharmacists from its Amcal and Guardian brand the opportunity to boost their skills with its Leadership, Engagement, Analytics, Physicals and Professional Services (LEAPP) program.

See **page five** for more.

Dispensing right

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See **page four** to learn more about Willach’s range.



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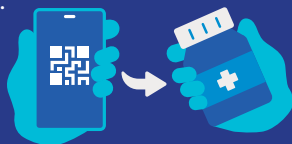
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Qld CHO backs pharmacist COVAX

QUEENSLAND'S Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, wants to see community pharmacies become "mass vaccination" centres as the rollout of the COVID-19 national immunisation campaign gathers pace.

Speaking at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP) on Fri, Young thanked the community pharmacy sector for its work throughout the pandemic and implored delegates to step up to the task of ensure high levels of vaccination uptake in their areas, following the Thu's announcement that 56 pharmacies in regional Queensland have been approved to join the campaign.

Young noted that the daily COVID-19 vaccination rate topped 100,000 for the the first time last week.

"Now pharmacists are onboard

it's going to accelerate, because you normally do vaccination," she said.

"I always believe that in a disaster, and this is a disaster... you just take your normal processes and ramp them up.

"It is really essential that pharmacists get involved... and I've said it to [Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President] Trent [Twomey] and the team, that I knew there was a reason that I back you [to vaccinate] in 2014, now I want the pay back!

"I don't want to go an stand up mass vaccination clinics in school halls at weekends.

"I want you to do mass vaccination, because your communities know you... you do it all the time with flu [and] you vaccinate beautifully.

"You can vaccinate with mRNA



and AstraZeneca."

Young also praised the way pharmacists have rolled out other vaccine services over the year and urged them to "keep doing it".

She added that across the range of services community pharmacies provide: "you possibly need to ask for a bit more money."



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Chris Cromie, Retail Development Manager at Wizard Pharmacy.**



The many hats of the Pharmacy owner

RECENT research published in the International Journal of Pharmacy Practice, found that most pharmacists were confused about their professional identity. There are many different hats they have to wear, leading to confusion of their role, with many outlining the 'shop-keeping' aspect of the profession as the most concerning.

Being an expert Pharmacist might not mean you have the skills or the time to be an expert in retail development.

Focusing on just one area of your business, whether that be the retail or dispensary side, is not a wise idea. To operate a sustainable and profitable pharmacy business and deliver the best customer and patient outcomes, every corner of your pharmacy must work cohesively together.

This can be challenging, especially if you are operating multiple pharmacies.

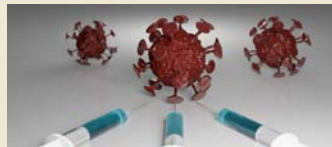
Pharmacy owners need to develop a comprehensive business plan for their pharmacies. Does your pharmacy need to improve merchandising and store layout or ticketing and POS? Do you need aggressive retail promotion and to implement Mystery Shopping programs to check execution at store level?

My team and I guide Wizard Franchisees in maximising their store's potential. Want to know more? **CLICK HERE.**

COVAX reactions in line with trials

THE most frequently reported adverse reactions to both the Pfizer-BioNTech and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccinations (COVAX) in Australia remain in line with those seen in clinical trials, the latest data from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) reveals.

In the week to 16 May, a total of 1,860 adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) were reported to the TGA, including six cases of blood clots with low blood platelets, which have been



assessed as thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) likely to be linked to the AstraZeneca vaccine.

The regulator said diarrhea and vomiting have been added to the product information for the Pfizer vaccine based on international reports.

AFT profits down

MAXIGESIC manufacturer, AFT Pharmaceuticals, has seen a fall in profit after tax for the year to 31 Mar, despite record revenue growth.

The company, which is listed on both the Australian Securities Exchange and New Zealand's Exchange, reported a 7% increase in revenue to NZ\$113.1 million, compared with the previous corresponding period, despite COVID-19 disruptions.

However, post tax profits fell from NZ\$12.7 million in the 2020 Financial Year, to NZ\$7.8 million.

AFT Pharmaceuticals Chair David Flacks said: "The 2021 financial year has been one of the more challenging in AFT's history as business conditions tightened around the world in the wake of the pandemic.

"Nevertheless, as we report another year of record revenue and a more than doubling in underlying earnings, we can look back on the year with a sense of achievement."



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Pharmacist banned for misconduct

A NSW-BASED pharmacist who supplied Valium to friends and family of another pharmacist without valid prescriptions has been banned from seeking registration to practice for three years.

The Civil and Administrative Tribunal NSW found Kristen Haydon guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct in respect to her behaviour while working as a registered pharmacist at Erina Heights Chemist Outlet.

The Tribunal heard that between 01 Jan 2017 and 03 Sep 2018 she was one of two pharmacists in charge at the store, who failed to enter drugs of addiction into the dangerous drugs register contrary to Clause 56 of the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 (NSW).

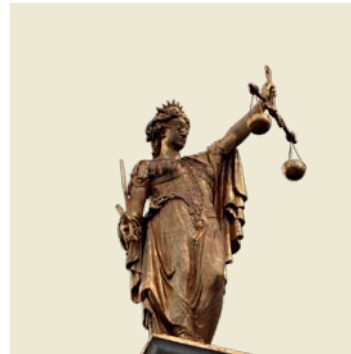
On or around 15 Jul 2017 Haydon's conduct was reported to have led to the loss of 400 tablets of Endone 5mg, while on 24 Aug

2019 the Tribunal heard she took medications from the dispensary and left without making payment of the products.

Haydon was also found to have complied with a request from her colleague, John Negus (PD 06 May) in Jul 2015, to supply an expired Schedule 4 medication (Alphamox Suspension) for his cat without a valid prescription.

Between 01 Jan 2017 and 03 Sep 2018, she supplied prescribed restricted substances to customers and family members on the instructions of Negus without valid prescriptions, and between the same dates she was also found to have inappropriately left her password to the electronic dangerous drugs register on a Post-it note near the dispensary computer keyboard.

Haydon accepted that she had engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct, and that she took medications from the dispensary.



However, she disputed claims that she failed to undertake required stock checks, stating that Negus was responsible for monitoring stocks of drugs of addiction in the pharmacy.

The Tribunal ordered that until such time as Haydon is re-registered as a pharmacist she may not work in any role in which she may possess, handle or control S8 medications.

Haydon has also been ordered to pay two thirds of the Health Care Complaints Commission's costs.



Dispensary Corner

MAYBE rushing out an buying hundreds of rolls of toilet paper during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic wasn't such a bad idea.

Queensland's Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, told delegates at last week's Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference on the the Gold Coast, that it was a more "pragmatic" purchase than those made by people elsewhere on the planet.

"I love the way that Queenslanders and other Australians, when they got stressed went out and got toilet paper," she said.

"I think it was fantastic... people made fun of it, I didn't, I thought it was absolutely brilliant.

"How pragmatic, how sensible, it doesn't cost much, it doesn't expire, you can put it aside.

"We in Australia didn't go out and buy guns! That's what some other countries did."

While lauding Australia's great toilet roll rush of 2020, Young noted that the salbutamol surge was less positive, thanking pharmacists for coping consumer heat when restrictions were placed on sales of the inhalers.



Hydralite recall

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and Care Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd, have announced a recall of 10 batches of Hydralite Strawberry Kiwi Effervescent Electrolyte Tablets.

The recall has been issued due to the presence of *Carthamus tinctorius* as an inactive ingredient.

The TGA noted the level of exposer to *Carthamus tinctorius* in the product posed an unacceptable risk if used in pregnancy.

CLICK HERE to see the full list of affected batches.

Pharmacy robber jailed for 40 years

A US pharmacy bandit is set to spend 40 years behind bars after assaulting a pharmacist and threatening her with a screwdriver during a robbery in Oct 2019.

Texan thug, Ricky Johnson, 44, went into a pharmacy and requested a prescription before turning on the female pharmacist, grabbing her by the hair and putting the tool to her neck while demanding codeine, CBSDFW.com reported.

The pharmacist eventually handed over a large quantity of the medication, after Johnson threatened to kill her.



The robber also snatched all the cash in the register before fleeing the store.

Johnson was apprehended a short distance from the pharmacy.

During the trial prosecutors revealed Johnson had a number of prior convictions for aggravated assault, family violence and "possession with intent to deliver", which counted towards his lengthy sentence.

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*Amcal Guardian LEAPP 2017 Cohort vs Amcal Guardian Non-LEAPP pharmacies



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