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Travel & Cruise Weekly

Philips starts CPAP program

PHILIPS Australia has commenced its repair/replacement program for its DreamStation CPAP and 50 series CPAP devices.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announced that registered users are being contacted by the company "to confirm their details in the lead up to each device being corrected".

The move follows a TGA recall of Philips CPAP, Bi-Level PAP devices and mechanical ventilators, due to safety concerns relating to foam degradation (PD 21 Jun).

The TGA has advised patients who have already had the PE-PUR foam replaced to continue using their device, unless instructed otherwise by their doctor.

CLICK HERE for more information.

Pharmacists need greater protection

PHARMACY workers are feeling intimidated by people seeking to pressure them into providing falsified COVID-19 vaccination certificates, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia reports.

In its submission to the Federal Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement's *Inquiry into vaccine related fraud and security risks*, the Guild called for significant penalties to be legislated for those attempting to coerce immunisers into falsifying vaccination information.

"The focus should be on discouraging the practice in the first instance," the Guild said.

"Some pharmacists are starting to feel intimidated and exposed by such events and there should be legislative pathways to protect them."

The Guild noted that strict processes in place in community pharmacies were contributing "to reducing the risk of vaccination

certificate fraud".

"These include processes and procedures for confirming the identity of individuals presenting for vaccination, as well as assessing an individuals' eligibility for vaccination by checking the Australian Immunisation Register before administration of a vaccine," the Guild said.

"Following these processes and procedures has enabled pharmacists to identify instances of potential vaccination fraud and address the situation by denying administration of a COVID-19 vaccine to the individual involved.

"While pharmacists are adept at reporting prescription fraud and having difficult conversations with individuals potentially partaking in fraudulent behaviour, there has been no guidance given to COVID-19 vaccination providers on whether potential COVID-19 vaccination fraud needs to be formally reported to police or an



alternative regulator.

"Consideration should be given to establishing a dedicated system for COVID-19 vaccination providers to report potential COVID-19 vaccination fraud."

While pharmacists have been subjected to intimidation in relation to the provision of falsified vaccine certificates, the Guild noted that it was not aware of any reports regarding concerns about the physical security of COVID-19 vaccines stored in pharmacies.

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Dispensary Corner

BRITISH pharmacist, Giulia Guerrini, is urging her compatriots that their pooping technique may not be up to scratch, and could cause damage.

Guerrini, who works for online pharmacy, Medinio, told the *Express* that many Brits make "one big mistake" when trying to drop a number two, and push themselves - and their bowels - too hard.

"Straining and holding your breath to get out a stubborn bowel movement not only gives you a risk of developing haemorrhoids, but it can also cause anal fissures," she said.

While increasing dietary fibre intake and boosting exercise can help, Britain's National Health Service (NHS) has recommended that problem poopers consider their positioning when sitting upon the throne.

"Try resting your feet on a low stool while going to the toilet," the NHS advises.

"If possible, raise your knees above your hips."

Meanwhile health insurer, BUPA was quoted as advising patients to use laxatives, "if self-help treatments haven't worked".



PSA flags obesity role

COMMUNITY pharmacists are ideally placed to support the rollout of the *National Obesity Prevention Strategy 2022-2032*, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) believes.

In a submission responding to the Draft strategy, PSA CEO, Mark Kinsela, said the sector should be included in the strategy's proposals for GPs, nurses and physiotherapists to provide weight management services both in the community setting and in patients' homes.

"Pharmacists should be included in Strategy 3.1," he said.

"Community pharmacists [are] highly accessible and are uniquely placed to provide lifestyle advice and assist people to improve their health and lose weight."

Kinsela added that strategies relating to "screening the weight of children and adolescents is ripe for the creation of eating disorders and psychological issues for children", could be counterproductive.

"If this is not conducted in a particularly sensitive way, children will be sent a message that there is something wrong with their body," he said.

"This activity should be left to people with high levels of training in this area, which will prevent any negative consequences."

The PSA CEO also noted that implementation of Strategy 3.4, which focuses on supporting the primary healthcare workforce to prioritise the prevention of obesity, while preventing weight stigma, would need to include an emphasis "on the fact that health is separate from weight and that healthy people can live in larger bodies, while unhealthy people can live in smaller bodies".

"While PSA acknowledges there is some correlation between good health and lower weight, there are other factors which also need to be taken into consideration," he said.

"For example, there are many medications which can cause weight gain, and focusing on weight in this instance may be harmful to an individual's health if this motivates them to cease their medication or undertake other such actions that may have a negative effect on their health.

"A holistic view of an individual's health should be taken and noted before any recommendations related to weight loss is given."

TGA clamps down on vaping breaches

SYDNEY-BASED company, Mason Online Pty Ltd, has been fined \$106,560 by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in relation to alleged unlawful advertising of nicotine vaping products.

The TGA issued the company with eight infringement notices after it allegedly promoted the use and supply of the Schedule 4 products on its website and failed to comply with legislation, in breach of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

"The infringement notices relate to one of the company's websites that advertised more than 400 individual vaping products," the TGA said.

"It is alleged that Mason Online was responsible for multiple websites."

Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Janine Murphy, Network Partner, TerryWhite Chemmart Latrobe, Tasmania.**



A leap in faith is delivering results

WE TOOK quite the leap when we joined TerryWhite Chemmart one year ago. Our pharmacy was already a highly successful and well-established independent business in the Latrobe community and had been for more than 100 years, but we needed additional support to drive our front-of-shop business even harder.

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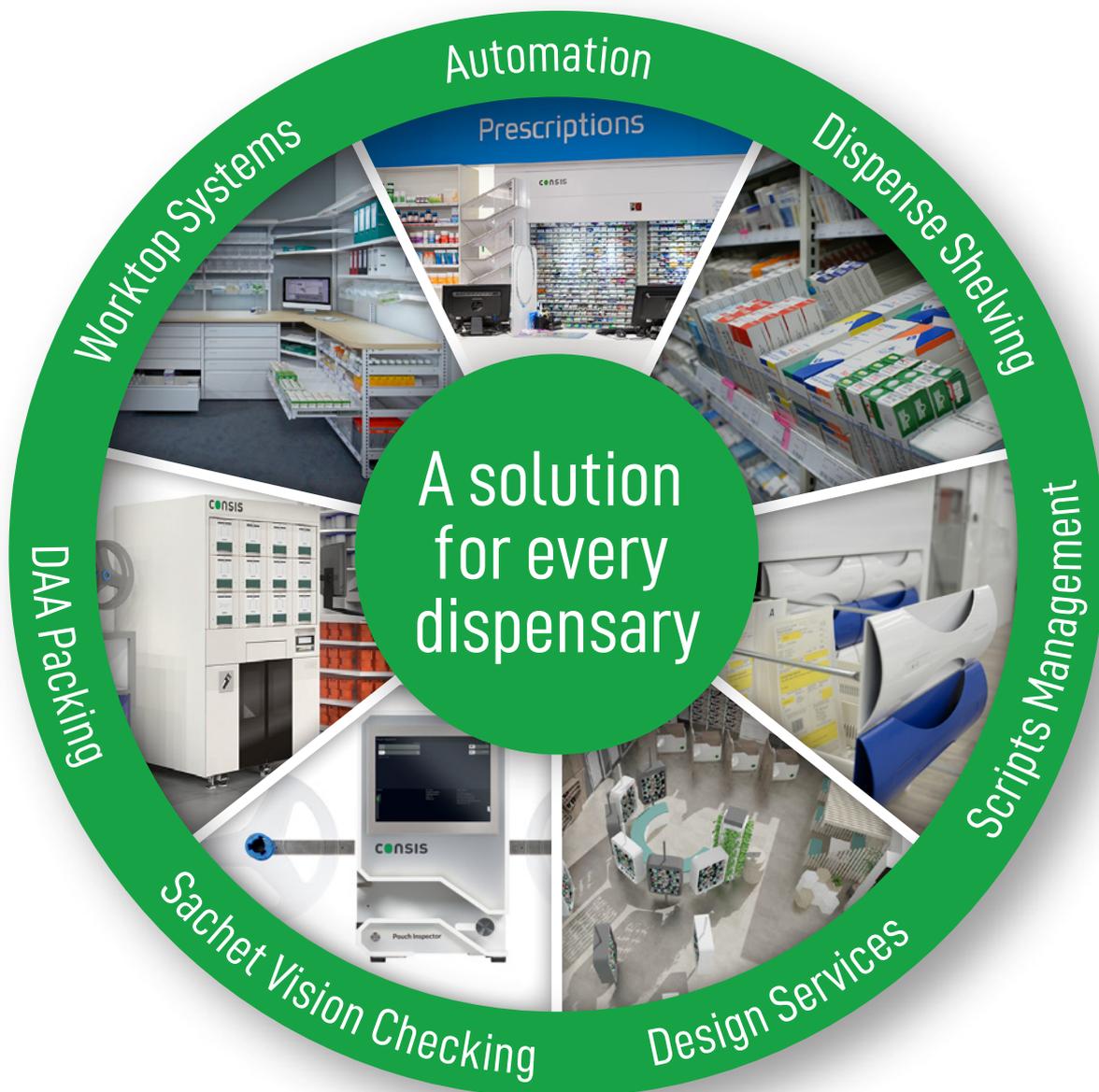
In our first year as a TerryWhite Chemmart, our pharmacy has already seen significant uplift in FOS sales particularly in the traditional signature categories of medicines, skin care and natural health. We have also leveraged the high-quality dispensary offer which has been helping our script business grow steadily. We have revitalised our retail offer, and have been impressed with the support and guidance provided.

A robust promotional program combined with better in-store execution has helped us deliver stronger results in just the space of a year and we are confident that the leap of faith we took a year ago is already paying off.

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