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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

## Managing stress

THE Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS) and RMIT University are conducting a survey to identify coping mechanisms pharmacists use to manage stress.

The team aims to gain an insight into the management tools that are available to pharmacists and how helpful they are.

"We hope the results of this study will help pharmacists who are struggling to manage stress and what resources are available for them to turn to in these times," the team said.

The survey will be open for approximately two weeks, with data being de-identified.

**CLICK HERE** to participate.

## Early mandate for Queensland RTPM

QUEENSLAND'S real-time prescription monitoring (RTPM) system, QScript, is expected to be launched within the coming weeks, with its use to be mandated a month later.

Speaking during a training webinar last night, Queensland Health Advanced Pharmacist Advisor, Nicolette Ellis, said the rollout of the system will commence once the State's *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019 (MP Act)* is enacted, which will enable the QScript database to be established.

"Without the *MP Act* we're a little bit hamstrung as to when QScript can be implemented," she said.

"We are awaiting an announcement date from the Health Minister, and as soon as we have that information we'll be distributing that widely to our stakeholders," she said.

"Internally we are working towards an end of Sep or early Oct

commencement date for the *MP Act* and implementation of QScript.

"We have within the regulations and legislation that this will be mandated one month after commencement of the *MP Act*."

While other jurisdictions that have implemented RTPM systems have mandated their use, Ellis backed Queensland's decision to require practitioners to use QScript sooner.

"What we learned from Victoria is that about 20% of GPs would use the SafeScript system - which is similar to QScript - and about 40% of pharmacists would use the system on a regular basis," she said.

"So we are looking to mandate it one month after [commencement], and speaking from a pharmacist's point-of-view I believe that it's more effective when we have everybody using the system.

"At least when it's mandated we have both the GP and the pharmacist checking the system,



so there's not more of that burden on the pharmacist to be complying with the new legislation, or to be contacting the doctor to let them know the information that is contained within QScript."

Under the *MP Act* all QScript will capture all prescriptions for Schedule 8 medicines, along with benzodiazepines, codeine, gabapentin, pregabalin, quetiapine, tramadol, zolpidem and zopiclone.

## Rigby to chair PSA interdisciplinary CSI

CONSULTANT clinical pharmacist, Debbie Rigby, will chair the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA's) new Interdisciplinary Team-based Care (IBTC) Community of Interest (CSI).

Announcing the launch of the CSI, Rigby said it would "bring pharmacists working across different models of care and programs together", to further the PSA and the profession as a whole.

"Medicine safety is a national health priority, and pharmacists can contribute much more to this important issue through an interdisciplinary approach," Rigby said.

"An interdisciplinary approach involves team members from different disciplines working collaboratively, with a common purpose, to set goals, make decisions, and share resources and responsibilities.

**CLICK HERE** for more details.

## Tas makes changes for Moderna rollout

PHARMACISTS in Tasmania will be able to administer both doses of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccination to people aged under 60 years, the State's Department of Health has confirmed.

The move marks a change from the State's regulations regarding the rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine through community pharmacies there, which authorised pharmacists to administer first doses to patients aged over 60 years, while second

doses can be given to people aged 18 years and older.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Tasmanian Branch Vice President, Shane Jackson, welcomed the approval, which brings the state into line with its approval for people aged 12 years and older.

"This allows pharmacists to administer the Moderna vaccine to those aged 12 and over - improving vaccine accessibility for Tasmanians," he said.

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## Dispensary Corner

**FORMER** US-based pharmacist and horseracing enthusiast, Scott Mangini, is settling in to an 18-month stint behind bars after being busted for his role in an equine performance-enhancing drug (PED) ring.

The US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York accused the 55-year-old of using his pharmacy training to develop custom PEDs, which were advertised and sold through HorsePreRace.com and HorseGold.com, sports publication, *Blood Horse*, reported.

The products were alleged to have used misleading labels, packaging and return address.

Mangini entered a guilty plea to one count related to conspiring to distribute adulterated and misbranded PEDs with the intent of defrauding and misleading customers.

"Mangini used his skills as a pharmacist to create and supply a market for adulterated and unregulated performance-enhancing drugs that endangered racehorses," US Attorney Audrey Strauss said.

"Mangini designed and peddled dozens of products intended for use by those engaged in fraud and animal abuse."

In addition to the 18-month sentence, Mangini has been sentenced to three years on supervised release and ordered to pay a forfeiture of more than US\$8.1 million, for his actions.

That'll teach him not to horse around with sport.

## Order Moderna tonight

**PHARMACIES** listed in tranche one of the rollout of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine have until tonight to order stock to be part of the initial distribution.

Speaking at the Australian Friendly Societies Pharmacies Association's 2021 Webinar Series yesterday, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Executive Director, Suzanne Greenwood, said the Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) had sent emails inviting 1,824 pharmacies to participate in the first tranches of the rollout.

"We know that some of those emails get caught by spam filters... so if you really want the authoritative source of whether you're in that tranche one [group], I recommend that you go to the COVID-19 Vaccine Ordering System (CVAS), login and if you're able to get to the details for tranche one, then you're in," she said.

"You'll see there that it requires you to order your doses by tomorrow night (14 Sep).

"The sky's not going to fall if you



don't order then, but you will miss that first distribution and you'll probably be [waiting for] a fortnight if you miss taking advantage of that offer that's gone to tranche one pharmacies."

Greenwood also told delegates listening in to the webinar that the initial timeframe for doses of the Moderna vaccine to be distributed to tranche one stores by the end of this week (**PD 08 Sep**), has been pushed back slightly.

"There's a short delay, but we're advised it's to be in pharmacies from the week starting 20 Sep," she said.

"I think it's more likely it'll actually hit you [around] 23 to 25 Sep."

## Minfos launches online learning service

**PHARMACY** software provider, Minfos, is rolling out its new role-based online training platform, Learning Pathways.

The service aims to support pharmacy teams to quickly train new and existing staff to perform their roles using Minfos.

Symbion General Manager Pharmacy Technology, Andrew Hall, said the courses are freely available to Minfos customers, with users being able to log-in from any device at any time.

"We understand just how difficult it is for pharmacy owners and managers to find time to

train staff, which is why we're pleased to be introducing role-based online training courses," he said.

"The structured role-based Learning Pathways takes the guesswork out of training staff to use Minfos as it applies to their role.

"With the courses being available online, staff do not even have to leave the pharmacy to take up the training.

"Our aim is to reduce the time, cost and effort required to upskill new and existing pharmacy staff to efficiently use Minfos."

## Pharmacist Guild Update

### Pharmacist recognition

**FEDERAL** Labor has questioned why community pharmacists do not receive a payment for COVID-19 vaccinations which is equal to that for other providers.

Addressing a Pharmacy Guild of Australia national webinar, Federal Opposition leader, Anthony Albanese said pharmacists were providing the same service, with the same advice.

He said pharmacists enjoyed strong trust, readily able to deal with issues such as vaccine hesitancy.

He recognised that there were challenges and opportunities ranging from an expansion of pharmacists' scope of practice to ensuring prescription medicines were more affordable.

With up to one-in-five Australians experiencing some difficulty paying for their prescribed medicines, this posed not just a personal health risk but also potentially much higher costs to taxpayers.

Guild National President, Trent Twomey, acknowledged Albanese's commitment to work in ongoing close collaboration with the sector and appreciated the Federal Opposition Leader's recognition that pharmacists were readily and consistently available as a backbone of their communities.