

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

### Avoid disaster

**PHARMACY** Connect will host a three-hour workshop on 01 Sep, focused on compliance to help owners "avoid business disaster".

The session will be hosted by the Pharmacy Council of NSW.

## CONNECT WITH THE DIGITAL PATIENT



Chat to us at  
#PharmacyConnect  
Stand 7

eRx script exchange MedView

## PDL issues varicella vaccine alert

**VARIATION** on how varicella vaccines are described in prescribing software may be factors in a recent increase in incident reports where incorrect vaccinations have been prescribed or supplied, professional indemnity (PI) insurer, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL), believes.

"Most reports indicate the intended varicella vaccine is for the prevention of chickenpox, however transcription and selection errors have seen herpes zoster (shingles) vaccines provided," PDL reported.

"PDL is concerned about these errors, especially since PDL's statistics show incidents involving children are more likely to lead to a regulatory complaint.

"Prescriptions intended for a chickenpox vaccine have been generated with the following wordings: 'Varicella-Zoster Virus Live Attenuated Antigen (OKA Strain) Vaccine Powder' or 'Varicella Vaccine Vial'.

"PDL encourages all pharmacists



to ensure a thorough history is taken to determine the indication and patient's expectations.

"Use of an open question, such as, 'as part of my checking process, please confirm the condition you are preventing with this vaccine', may clarify the indication.

"Confirmation with the prescriber may be required when there is doubt about the vaccine's purpose.

"Patient age should not be the sole criteria on which a pharmacist makes a decision about these vaccines as adults may present a prescription for either indication.

"Adult vaccination against

chickenpox may be more likely for unvaccinated adults who are healthcare workers, childhood educators and carers, or those working in long-term care facilities.

"Consideration should also be given to appropriateness for women of child-bearing age."

PDL encouraged pharmacists to review product information documentation for contraindications and precautions for the vaccines.

### Cold and flu boosts Blackmores' profits

**THE** relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions combined with increased numbers of cold and influenza cases in Australia have helped supplement giant, Blackmores, record underlying earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) of \$43.1 million in the domestic market.

Reporting its results for the financial year to 30 Jun, the company noted sales in the first half of the year were stymied by COVID-19 and the flow-on effects of lockdowns and reduced international student and visitor numbers.

"[However], despite some

impact of the floods in Queensland and NSW, sales recovered in the second half as consumers gained more confidence to enter retail post-lockdown, cold and flu cases increased and Blackmores increased investments in advertising and promotional campaigns to pre-pandemic levels," the company said.

Blackmores' direct cross border e-commerce channel played a key role in delivering a 10.6% increase in revenue from the Chinese market, despite lockdowns in a number of key cities.



Click here to learn more.



### 4 ways to help build strong bones

Available from Symbion, Sigma, API & CH2

**Petrus** PHARMACEUTICALS

Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

### Interested in an internship with Priceline Pharmacy?

We want Pharmacists to feel they *matter*

SCAN HERE TO APPLY



priceline pharmacy | a festival of you

priceline.com.au/pharmacist-internship-program

## Viatis is rebranding. All packaging will soon feature the Viatis logo

© 2022 Viatis Inc. All Rights Reserved. VIATRIS and the Viatis Logo are trademarks Viatis Inc. Alphapharm Pty Ltd (trading as Viatis). ABN 93 002 359 739. Viatis Pty Ltd, ABN 29 601 608 771 Upjohn Australia Pty Ltd, ABN 50 629 389 91. Level 1, 30-34 Hickson Road, Millers Point NSW 2000. Tel: 1800 274 276. www.viatis.com. NON-2022-7456. SSW. VIA-002965-00. Date of preparation: May 2022.



**2022 AMH AGED CARE COMPANION IN BOOK OR ONLINE. ORDER NOW.**

To find out more go to [www.amh.net.au](http://www.amh.net.au)

**AMH**  
AUSTRALIAN MEDICINES HANDBOOK

## Dispensary Corner

**RESPONSIBLE** drinking campaigns usually focus on encouraging people to minimise their alcohol consumption.

However, Japanese authorities seem less concerned about the potential adverse impacts of overindulging in saké, with the National Tax Agency (NTA) launching a competition aimed to revitalise the nation's drinking culture.

As part of the Saké Viva! campaign the NTA is asking 20- to 39-year-olds to come up with ideas to encourage people to booze-up, in an effort to combat sliding tax revenues.

According to NTA data, annual alcohol consumption in Japan has dipped from 100 litres per person in 1995 down to 75 litres in 2020, with the dip in drinking adversely impacting the Budget.

The NTA noted that taxes on alcohol have been on the decline for more than 40 years, falling from 5% of Japan's tax revenue in 1980 to 1.7% in 2020.

"As working from home made strides to a certain extent during the COVID-19 crisis, many people may have come to question whether they need to continue the habit of drinking with colleagues to deepen communication," a NTA spokesperson said.

"If the 'new normal' takes root, that will be an additional headwind for tax revenue."

While the NTA is keen to see people reach for a bottle and get boozy for their country, Japan's Health Ministry has stressed that people should only drink the "appropriate amount of alcohol".

## Brace for rent increases

**PHARMACY** owners are being urged to prepare for rental rates to jump by 7 to 8%, in line with current inflation figures.

Speaking on the latest edition of the *Sirianni Market Update*, Medici Capital Managing Director and pharmacy economist, Frank Sirianni, noted that rising inflation is set to hit pharmacies with leases linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

"From my point-of-view it is best for most pharmacies that they don't have a CPI-indexed lease, [but] most landlords would want something like that for various reasons," he said.

"CPI has been fairly benign over the last 10 years or so... so it's not been a problem.

"[But] now we're looking at CPI getting close to 7%, and whilst many pharmacies have had solid growth, the number of pharmacies that would see their overall business growth beyond 7% is fairly limited.

"There are obviously cases that are the exception to that, but from my point-of-view, now is the time to start talking to their landlords and perhaps [start] thinking about having the discussion about the abnormal, or the extraordinary,



aspect of these price rises, particularly where they pertain to supply chain issues or the Ukraine war.

"It is an issue that you really now need to factor in a 7 to 8% [increase in rent].

"That will be fairly short-term - the expectations are that we'll get [inflation] between 3 and 5% in 2023, and that's on the expectation that the issues in Ukraine are resolved in some way in the next year."

While there has been a significant jump in inflation levels recently, Attain Business Brokers Director, Natalie Sirianni, noted that CPI-indexed rental increases have been "quite low" in recent years "compared to historic levels".

## MDR completes entitlement offer

**AUSTRALIAN** Securities Exchange (ASX) listed medtech firm, MedAdvisor (MDR), has confirmed it has completed its Retail Entitlement Offer, raising close to \$4.4 million.

In a statement to the ASX, the company revealed that eligible retail shareholders took up approximately \$2.3 million worth of fully paid ordinary shares through the scheme.

The shortfall of 14.9 million shares worth \$2.1 million will be settled by joint underwriters, MA Moelis Australia Advisory Pty Ltd and Peloton Capital Pty Ltd.

The retail offer was issued after a successful institutional entitlement office earlier this month, which saw the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Guild Group Holding arm become MDR's largest shareholder (**PD** 09 Aug).

New shares issued under the retail entitlement offer will be allotted on Mon 22 Aug, and commence trading the following day.

## Early bird gets the discount

**PHARMACY** owners wanting to send their staff to the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference (PA2022) have two weeks to secure early bird rates, before the offer ends on 01 Sep.

The two-day event will take place in Brisbane on 28 and 29 Oct.

**CLICK HERE** to register.

## DEMOMODEKS CREATIVE SPACE SOLUTIONS

Increase Productivity, Efficiency & Optimise valuable floor space with Demodeks Dispensary Drawers & Fast Mover Shelving Systems



Phone: 1300 553 291

Email: [info@demodeks.com](mailto:info@demodeks.com)