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AHPRA consults

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia is inviting input on a public consultation about the English language skills registration standard.

Input can be made through to 07 Sep - see ahpra.gov.au.

Meds prices set to rise

EX-MANUFACTURER prices for hundreds of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listed medicines are set to increase significantly from 01 Oct, under a deal designed to combat supply shortages.

The agreement made by the previous Federal Government, will see a sharp rise in the cost of commonly prescribed medicines, including statins, anti-anxiety medications and antibiotics, *news.com.au* reports.

Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, who confirmed his support for the five-year agreement with the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) during a Budget Week address (*PD* 01 Apr) said the deal "was an arrangement inherited from the former government", and reiterated Labor's pre-election pledge to reduce the maximum PBS co-payment to \$30 from \$42.50.

Under the agreement sponsors of medications that receive a price increase will be required to stock a minimum of six months' supply in the country to combat shortages.

The new deal will also stop discounting on ex-manufacturer prices on medication priced under \$4, a move that may make it harder for discount pharmacies to maintain current prices.

However, Chemist Warehouse Director, Mario Tascone, told *news.com.au* that the group has no plans to increase its prices at this point.

"Despite these significant changes to the cost prices of these molecules, Chemist Warehouse



will hold off any price rise to its patients," he said.

"Permanently and artificially raising the wholesale price of prescription medicines (which will flow directly to the bottom line of drug companies P & L) seems like an odd thing to do in times where the cost of living is already rising out of control.

"Previous stock shortages were the result of a once in a lifetime pandemic.

"Not sure a significant and permanent raising of prices is necessary."

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

CRTCA ending

THE Pharmacy Programs Administrator has confirmed changes from 01 Aug which will see pharmacies no longer able to supply any further Rapid Antigen Tests under the temporary COVID-19 Rapid Test Concessional Access (CRTCA) Program.

The change will mean pharmacies also no longer have access to the ProjectCOVID module in GuildCare, with users advised to enter all transactions (claims) into ProjectCOVID prior to midnight on 31 Jul.

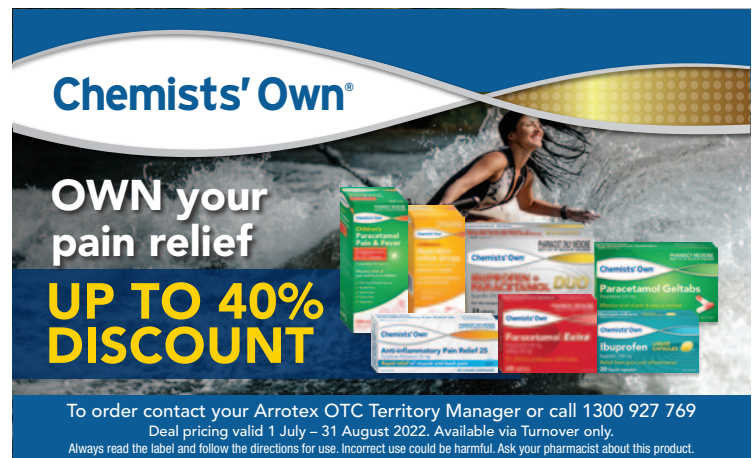
Pharmacies may also wish to consider generating any ProjectCOVID reports and saving them locally, as they will no longer be accessible once the module is deactivated.

Viatrix is rebranding. All packaging will soon feature the Viatrix logo



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NEW

Dispensary Corner

STAFF at a US pharmacy had an unexpected disruption to their day, when lightning struck the store yesterday.

The CVS Pharmacy in Wells, Maine, was temporarily evacuated after the lightning strike sparked a fire in the roof of the store.

Firefighters were able to control the blaze and found the majority of the damage was confined to the roof of the pharmacy (pictured).

The store was given the green light to reopen shortly after, with no injuries reported.



Woonona store claims Priceline PotY

PRICELINE Pharmacy Woonona is celebrating claiming the group's 2021 Pharmacy of the Year (PotY) title, ahead of more than 470 other stores across the network.

The NSW-based pharmacy took home the top honour two years after winning the Priceline Pharmacy Rising Star Award.

Accepting the PotY crown, Priceline Pharmacy Woonona Retail Manager, Suz Forrester, said the team was elated with the win.

"This is absolutely amazing," Forrester said.

"To represent Priceline is one thing, but to represent Priceline at the top level is incredible.

"This is a team win and I'm so stoked, I couldn't be happier".

Priceline Pharmacy General Manager, Andrew Vidler, said the award recognised the store's commercial results, exceptional customer service and participation in brand programs and initiatives, including support of the Priceline Sisterhood Foundation.



"Priceline Pharmacy Woonona has become the destination for locals seeking outstanding customer experience centred around friendly, personalised care," he said.

"After winning the Priceline Pharmacy Rising Star award in 2019, we knew it wouldn't be long before they'd be on the podium again, taking out our brand's top honour."

Meanwhile, 2019 Priceline Pharmacy PotY winning co-owner, Jenna Cormack (PD 21 Aug 2020), claimed the group's 2021 Pharmacist

of the Year title.

The Priceline Pharmacy National Retail Manager Award was jointly presented to Monique Galati from the group's inaugural store at Melbourne's Highpoint Shopping Centre, and Queenslander, April Wheeler, from Priceline Pharmacy Morayfield.

Pictured, Priceline Pharmacy Woonona Dispensary Manager, Amy Gall, Retail Manager, Suz Forrester, and the PotY winning store's co-owner, Bis Aly.

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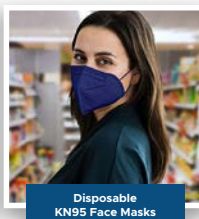
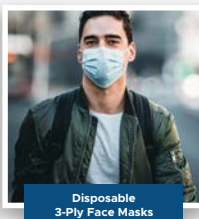
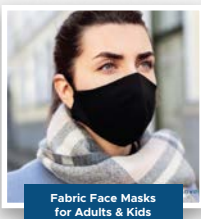
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Blooms marks 40 years

BLOOMS The Chemist franchisees met up on Hayman Island for the group's first Partners' Conference in more than 1,000 days to celebrate its 40th year in business.

More than 200 pharmacy owners, suppliers, sponsors and guests made the trip to the Queensland-based resort for a series of sessions exploring themes of equity, sustainability and governance, as well as guest speakers from the group's charity partners.

Blooms CEO, Emmanuel Vavoulas, said he was pleased to be part of the event.

"It's an honour to be hosting our first Partners' Conference in more than three years, and to be able to celebrate, in person, our 40-year milestone of delivering essential healthcare to our Australian communities," he said.

"The founders of Blooms The Chemist established a partnership model designed to mentor young pharmacists into ownership and give them the opportunity to positively influence their communities' health and wellbeing."

Blooms Chief Operating Officer, Pamela Bishop, reiterated the group's commitment to having a positive impact on the community.



"We are proud of the contributions we've been able to make so far," she said.

"Our work with our major charity partners and other organisations such as the Australian Red Cross and The Butterfly Tree Charity in Zambia supports some of our most vulnerable people in society; kids with critical illnesses, expectant and new parents experiencing perinatal depression and anxiety.

"Our corporate social responsibility plan has grown from community support in the areas where our stores operate, to making a significant contribution to many more Australians and beyond.

"We are now taking a more formalised approach to engaging with ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance), tackling other key priorities such as Modern Slavery, Sustainability, and Reconciliation."



Weekly Comment

Lead by example

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Brenton Hart, Chief Pharmacist at TerryWhite Chemmart.**



where they can, and strong hand hygiene – because we all know that protecting our teams first, is the best way to ensure we can continue to protect our communities.

We're also continuing to support our communities by ensuring they are up to date with their COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations and also by ensuring COVID-19 treatments are readily available and easily accessible across our network for those who need them. As we all appreciate, vaccination is our best defence against these serious illnesses and as always, TWC pharmacy teams stand ready and able to care for our communities through the coming months.

AS LEADERS in community health and care, we must lead when it comes to protecting our teams and communities from the current surge of COVID-19 infections.

As a brand, TerryWhite Chemmart are making the recommendation to our store teams to lead by example and re-introduce strong personal hygiene factors – including mask wearing, physical distancing

TA mourns Australian Open pharmacist

AUSTRALIA'S tennis community is mourning the passing of pharmacist and former Australian Open Tournament Director, Colin Stubs.

Having played professional tennis in the late-1960s and early 1970, Stubs went on to own Wheeler's Hill Pharmacy in Victoria.

He sold his stake in the pharmacy in 1978 to develop a sports marketing and management business.

When he became Australian Open Tournament Director,

he also double-jobbed, as the event's pharmacist, taking calls from international stars and dispensing medications.

Tennis Australia (TA) CEO, Craig Tiley, paid tribute to Stubs, who passed away last week, describing him as "a great pioneer of tennis".

"He put players first and gained their trust," he said.

"The was an astute and widely respected tennis businessman who invested everything in showcasing the sport and staging tennis events of the highest order."

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Pharmacy Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

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