

NEW PATENTED
Fast relief from dry eyes
 Hydrates
 Protects
 Restores
Revive Tears
 LUBRICATING EYE DROPS
 DRY EYE RELIEF
 MOISTURISING & SOOTHING
 HYPER-OXYGENATING
 Available from Symbion, Sigma and API
 Always read the label. Follow the directions for use.
 Petrus

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from Sigma Healthcare.

Ethical program

PHARMACY owners can now register their interest in participating in the Amcal Ethical Partnership Program. See page four for more.

Thank you Australian community pharmacies

Delivering over **10 million** Rapid Antigen Tests in 24 days

Learn more



GuildCare **NG**

Floods show need for long-term CD

LEGISLATION to empower pharmacists to dispense emergency supplies of prescription medicines needs to be implemented on a permanent basis, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) believes.

PSA National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, said that while patients impacted by flooding in south east Queensland and northern NSW will be able to access vital medications under emergency continued dispensing (CD) measures, there is a need for a long-term solution.

"One of the greatest public policy initiatives to come from the 2019/2020 bushfires and the pandemic, has been the ability for Australians to access lifesaving medicines from their pharmacist without a prescription under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) during an emergency," he said.

"With the CD rules currently set to expire on 30 Jun, these floods are a timely reminder we need to make them permanent.

"Pharmacists have already been



working with emergency services to support people isolated and in need and have been doing an incredible job of ensuring continuity of health care and medicine supply to these affected east coast regions.

"I thank you all for your efforts and implore you to stay safe."

PSA NSW Branch President, Chelsea Felkai, said the lives of patients in flood-affected areas were being turned upside down.

"We want all Australians to know, that in order to access essential medicines, they can go to any

pharmacist during an emergency, and we are here to do whatever we can to help," she said.

"The special authority arrangements allow patients to continue their vital medicines in the event that they cannot access a GP.

"Continuity of these medicines during this time is absolutely crucial.

"Whilst many areas are not through the worst of it, the health and wellbeing of all residents will be a priority as we recover from this."



SPECIALISING IN PHARMACY & HEALTH

Powerhouse Pharmacy Brands Australia is a trusted Pharmacy & Health Sales Agency supporting retail nationally with a Portfolio of Multi Award-Winning Brands



DISTRIBUTION • PRODUCT PLACEMENT • SALES
 MARKETING STRATEGY • TRAINING • CONSULTING

For further information, please contact us via:

1300 359 885

sales@powerhousepharmacybrands.com.au

www.powerhousepharmacybrands.com.au



Late RAT boom boosts Sigma's earnings

SIGMA Healthcare is expecting to report a 10% to 15% increase in its underlying earnings before interest tax depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) for the year to 31 Jan.

The updated guidance marks a significant shift in the wholesaler's fortunes in the final weeks of the year, having previously warned shareholders of a potential 10% decline in its underlying EBITDA compared with the 2021 financial year (PD 06 Dec 2021).

"The improved financial

performance primarily reflects the rapidly evolving COVID-19 environment and the sudden increased demand for rapid antigen tests as a diagnostic tool, which resulted in significant volume growth in the month leading up to our 31 Jan financial year close," the company said.

Despite the strong earnings growth, Sigma anticipates it will deliver a \$5 to \$10 million loss for the year, largely associated with a software as a service (SaaS) accounting policy change.



With fully integrated e-Prescriptions, dispensing has never been easier.

Contact us today to find out how to start dispensing with Dispense Works.
 www.posworks.com.au | enquiries@posworks.com.au | 07 3277 9488

DISPENSE WORKS
 PHARMACY SOFTWARE

PDL's PI reminder

HOLDING relevant professional indemnity (PI) insurance is crucial for registered pharmacists, even after they retire or leave the profession, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL) says.

In a practice alert issued yesterday, PDL urged pharmacists to be aware of their obligations to hold PI insurance to secure their professional registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), noting that without it they could "find themselves in the uncomfortable position of having to explain their oversight" to the regulator.

PDL added that while non practising registrants and those who have left do not require PI cover while they are not working, they are advised to have run-off insurance to indemnify against claims made when they are not practising.

Pharmacy critical to COVAX rollout

COMMUNITY pharmacies are continuing to play a key role in the national COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) program with the sector administering more than six million doses in the last seven months.

Acknowledging the milestone, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, said that the decision to activate community pharmacies to join the vaccination rollout was a pivotal element in maximising uptake of the vaccines.

"Community pharmacies have been accessible, staying open later and on weekends, and providing vaccinations where people want them, and when they want them," he said.

"The acceptance of communities to receiving vaccinations in pharmacies is reflected in just how quickly the uptake has been.

"In mid-Jan we reached the figure of four million vaccinations through pharmacy and in early Feb we hit the five million mark.

"And now we have arrived at the



six million vaccinations delivered mark.

"To reach such a number in such a short time is a remarkable achievement and has been instrumental in helping lift the number of Australians vaccinated which in turn has led to the easing of restrictions in many jurisdictions."

Twomey added that in recent months pharmacies have been central to the nation's COVID-19 response, distributing millions of

rapid antigen tests (RATs).

"These tests are critical tools in helping us to achieve a COVID-normal lifestyle and to date 15 million have been provided through pharmacies, further underpinning just how significant the roll of community pharmacy is in combating the virus," he said.

"They have responded magnificently to the needs of the communities they serve.

"They have been always there, always committed, always caring."

Serve maskless quickly to get them out

PHARMACY staff in Ireland are being urged to serve customers who refuse to wear a face mask "quickly so they can leave", as COVID-19 restrictions ease.

While mask mandates have been scrapped for people visiting retail stores in Ireland, they are required when going into a healthcare setting, the *Irish Independent* reported.

Irish Pharmacy Union Secretary

General, Darragh O'Loughlin, urged pharmacy workers not to get involved "in confrontations with hostile and aggressive customers who adamantly refuse to wear a mask, despite public health advice".

"[It's] safer to serve them calmly and efficiently, than to escalate," he said.

However, he added it was not "a queue-jumpers' charter".

APC offers workforce shortage solution

OVERSEAS-TRAINED

pharmacists seeking to move to Australia can access a free skills assessment through the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC), as part of the Federal Government's Migrant Skills Incentive Program.

APC CEO, Bronwyn Clarke, said the program would help improve the employability of migrants who are in Australia and ready to work, while also meeting the needs of the profession's workforce needs.

"Many of our pharmacists have been on the front line whilst grasping at straws to fill gaps in their workplaces, and interns have been thrown into the deep-end into fairly unconventional environments due to staff shortages," she said.

"The incentive also provides individuals an opportunity to apply when they may not have been able to otherwise.

"We hope it helps."



Under the program migrants who have "unrecognised or under-recognised skills" in pharmacy will be able to gain the necessary approval to join the workforce and contribute to Australia's post-COVID-19 economic recovery.

To be eligible for a free skills assessment with APC, individuals must: have not previously submitted a skills assessment application with APC, be living in Australia when they submit their application, and be on a permanent family, partner, humanitarian or refugee visa that was granted on or after 01 Jan 2019.



APP 2022
24-27 MARCH
GOLD COAST

3 WEEKS TO GO!

Can you afford not to be at APP2022?

BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

100% refund guarantee* *T&Cs apply.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

TOURISM & EVENTS Queensland

A COVID SAFE EVENT



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

To find out more go to www.amh.net.au



Dispensary Corner



QUICK-THINKING pharmacist, Matt Kirby, is being hailed as a hero after performing CPR when a customer collapsed while shopping in his pharmacy in North Olmsted, Ohio.

News 5 Cleveland reported that regular customer, Janet Coleman, had bent down to check the expiration date of a loaf of bread, when she fell to the floor.

Kirby rushed to her aid after seeing she was turning blue and commenced CPR.

"[I] never even got around to the breaths," he said.

"On compression 22 she came back and ended up being okay."

A medication review found that a combination of the medicines Coleman had been prescribed had caused the life-threatening event.

After being released from hospital, Coleman did not forget Kirby's heroics, inviting him to join her family in celebrating her 50th wedding anniversary.

In addition to thanking him for his valiant efforts, Kirby has been recognised by the American Red Cross earlier this week, presenting him with a Lifesaving Award for Professional Responders certificate.



NEW PRODUCTS

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Systane® COMPLETE Preservative-Free

Alcon has again expanded its range of preservative-free eye drops, introducing Systane® COMPLETE Preservative-Free Lubricant Eye Drops in a bottle format.

Systane® COMPLETE utilises Systane®'s Intelligent Delivery system combined with nano-lipid technology to support all layers of the tear film and relieve the symptoms of all types of dry eye (Aqueous Deficient, Evaporative and Mixed Dry Eye) for up to 8 hours.^{1,2,6}

The bottle features patented PureFlow technology.⁵

*Recommendation based on expected on-eye viscosity.
2022 Alcon Laboratories Pty Ltd. Australia: 1800 224 153. Auckland, New Zealand: 0800 101 106. ANZ-SYX-2100028 .References available on request

Stockist: Available through all major pharmacy wholesalers

RRP: \$26.99

Website: <http://systane-au.myalcon.com>



HEALTH & BEAUTY

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Protec - Vitamin E cream

Protec is proudly Australian owned and made. Vitamin E cream promotes your skin's water-binding ability to help reduce dry or cracked skin and the appearance of scar tissue. This light, non-oily deep moisturising cream is for your face, hands & body.

Protec Vitamin E comes in 3 sizes and is cruelty free

- 30g RRP: \$3.99
- 75g RRP: \$9.95
- 250g RRP: \$14.95

Supplier: Available from Key Sun Laboratories via 1800 791 381 or customerservice@keysun.com.au or order directly through Purveyance <https://retailer.purveyance.biz/Account/Login>

Website: www.keysun.com.au



Amcal Ethical Partnership Program

A market leading Ethical Partnership Program that is more than just a generic program, but a total dispensary solution to support your business.

This enhanced program can help drive pharmacy profitability through participation in an expanded dispensary services offer with program performance measured through intelligent reporting dashboards.



- + Opportunity to increase business performance and productivity
- + Stock supply assurance mechanisms
- + Branded Pharma Product Deals
- + Dashboard to optimise opportunity
- + Ethical Patient Support Programs

Click here to register your expression of interest

For more information on how to register your expression of interest, please visit the link above

Alternatively, if you're an Amcal member, speak to your Business Development Manager

