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## RACGP continues attacks on UTIPP-Q

**MOVES** to enable pharmacists to work to their full scope of practice through the Urinary Tract Infection Pharmacy Pilot - Queensland (UTIPP-Q) put convenience over safety, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) claims.

In its latest bid to sway Queensland policy-makers to abandon plans to extend the services community pharmacists can offer patients, the RACGP Queensland Branch Chair, Dr Bruce Willett, called on the State Government to release an independent evaluation report produced by Queensland University of Technology (QUT) about the trial.

Speaking to the RACGP's *NewsGP* publication, Willett questioned the independence of the as yet unpublished evaluation, noting that the Pharmacy Guild of Australia "appears to have knowledge of the report that others don't".

"It is very much time to release the details of this report," he said.

"I think there is a public safety

issue at hand here."

Willett added that comments from pharmacy stakeholder groups highlighting customer satisfaction with the trial suggested the study was "really all about convenience, rather than safety or efficacy".

"If this pilot was conducted at a supermarket where people could just go in and buy [the antibiotics] then the measures would be even more strongly positive," he said.

The RACGP's criticism of the UTIPP-Q comes days after the Australian Medical Association Queensland Branch (AMAQ) released the findings of a survey of its members showing that 240 patients who had participated in the trial have subsequently presented to GPs and specialists with complications stemming from misdiagnoses by pharmacists (*PD* 09 May).

Representatives of the Queensland branches of the Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) have defended the trial.



A Guild spokesperson told *Pharmacy Daily* that the AMAQ was attempting to "scare women about a safe and effective treatment option for an uncomplicated UTI", with "totally false claims".

While PSA Queensland Branch President, Shane MacDonald, said the fact that patients had been referred to other practitioners highlighted the success of the trial (*PD* 10 May).

Today's issue of *PD*

*Pharmacy Daily* today features two pages of news.

## Butler commits to cheaper meds

**SHADOW** Health Minister, Mark Butler, has reaffirmed Labor's commitment to cheaper medicines, if elected.

In a post on Twitter this morning Butler acknowledged cost of living pressures have seen patients go without prescribed medicines.

He said Labor's plan to cut the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme general co-payment would mean that patients filling two scripts a month could save up to \$300 a year.

Butler has previously said Labor would move to ensure no patients were inadvertently disadvantaged by the policy (*PD* 04 May).

## DRAW THE LINE... when it comes to Cold and Flu relief



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## Dispensary Corner

**THE** owner of a Porsche Panamera 4 E-hybrid might be looking for something with a little less poke in their next car after smashing into a pharmacy in the UK.

With the capacity to go from 0-100km/h in less than five seconds, it appears the high-performance sports car was a little too powerful for its owner, who hopped a kerb in a carpark before careening through the shutters of a Boots pharmacy in the town of Daventry.

The impact saw the car crash into shelving inside the store, before the ceiling collapsed, *NorthansLive* reported.

Somewhat miraculously no one was injured, with the driver able to walk away from the scene, and the car being towed away with some scratches and a broken headlight - minor damage compared to the pharmacy.

While the incident appears to highlight the car's safety features, Australian motoring website, *drive.com.au*, has previously noted that "the braking system lets the team down in the driving experience".

Northamptonshire Police attended the scene and a spokesperson confirmed that "no offences were committed".



## Dental knowledge gaps

**COMMUNITY** pharmacists' knowledge about dental conditions is "suboptimal", researchers from the University of Western Australian and Monash University believe.

A case vignette study of pharmacists' ability to identify the indications for dental prescriptions, published in the *International Journal of Pharmacy Practice*, found just 54% of the 202 participants were able to correctly answer more than half of the nine questions posed in an online survey.

The study found that less than 14% of respondents were able to correctly answer questions around peri-implantitis, while 95.5% were able to provide the right answer when presented with a case regarding trigeminal neuralgia.

While the study identified gaps in pharmacists' knowledge, the authors found that pharmacists' self-reported perceptions of prescriptions for different dental ailments were largely positive.

Almost two-thirds of respondents felt confident in their ability to safely and effectively dispense dental prescriptions.

"The knowledge demonstrated by participants through correct identification of the dental



prescription indications was suboptimal," the authors said.

"There were knowledge gaps for various dental conditions such as dental implant infection, aphthous ulcers, dental trauma and anti-inflammatory choices.

"However, pharmacists with postgraduate qualifications or extended clinical experience (greater than 10 years of practice) were more likely to provide correct answers to survey questions."

The authors added that determining specific knowledge gaps related to prescriptions for dental medicines could open the door for professional development for community pharmacists.

## APC turns 40

**THIS** year marks the Australian Pharmacy Council's (APC) 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which it will celebrate with a special event in Nov.

In light of the milestone, APC will also showcase a series of stories from leaders in pharmacy education, as well as those who have contributed their time and expertise to the APC over the years.

APC CEO Bronwyn Clark, who has led the council over the last nine years, said, "I have wonderful staff, a wonderful Board, Committees in exams and accreditation, and working groups."

"We have assessors who are pharmacists and academics from across Australia, who assess pharmacy programs, and we have subject matter experts writing and validating our exams."

"Throughout this year we'll share content with you about our story, our history, the people who have contributed and where we see pharmacy education moving," Clark concluded.

## Asthma update

**THE** National Asthma Council Australia has published the Australian Asthma Handbook V2.2, a national source of advice about asthma diagnosis and care for GPs and other healthcare professionals.

The updated handbook includes new medicines and addresses clinical issues for best practice asthma management.

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