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## Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today features four pages of news, a cover page from **TerryWhite Chemmart** plus a full page from **Nova Pharmaceuticals**.

## TWC fee deal

**TERRYWHITE** Chemmart is offering to refund new franchisees' core fees if their stores' gross profit dollars do not grow by more than their first years' franchise fees

See today's **cover page** for more information.

## Elactalyte deal

**NOVA** Pharmaceuticals is offering a 25% discount on orders of 12 units of its Elactalyte effervescent electrolyte tablet range, this month.

Elactalyte is available in strawberry, orange and apple blackcurrent flavours, in packs of 20 tablets, to assist with rehydration.

For more details about the Elactalyte deal see **page five**.

## Data protection critical

**PHARMACY** owners are being urged to review their cyber security measures to ensure patient information is protected, following the recent Optus data breach.

Professional indemnity insurer, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL), told **Pharmacy Daily** that while none of its members have reported being impacted by the Optus breach, it advised pharmacists to "take steps to protect the use of their personal information".

"Pharmacy regulators would be looking to see that community pharmacy owners in particular had adequate cyber protection in place, if there is any risk to customer/patient data being exposed," a PDL spokesperson said.

"Like any business, they would also be required to have a data breach recovery plan in place.

"Organisations like FredIT provide cyber protection services from the pharmacy business perspective, and are probably in a position to provide more advice about this, as perhaps are Guild Insurance as a provider of cyber insurance to pharmacy owners."

With the health sector consistently topping the Office of

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the Australian Information Officer's notifiable data breach reports, PDL recommended that pharmacy owners should take steps to ensure staff engage in good online security practices to mitigate against the risk of malicious attacks.

"We would also suggest a reminder to pharmacists about good cyber security practices including avoidance of sharing passwords with pharmacy staff, regularly updating passwords used by pharmacists in electronic systems such as My Health Record, RTPM systems, vaccination recording systems and caution opening emails or links that could be phishing attacks," the spokesperson said.

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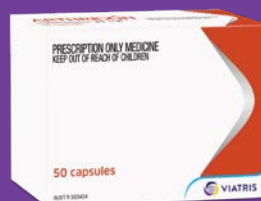
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## AMA backs 'ludicrous' aged care plan

**FUNDING** for the provision of on-site pharmacy services in residential aged care facilities should be distributed through Primary Health Networks (PHNs), the Australian Medical Association (AMA) believes.

In its submission to the Department of Health and Aged Care, the medical lobby group said that a PHN funding model would ensure the "independence of pharmacists from aged care providers", and "ensure that all pharmacists in the area are linked together and are able to develop and support communities of learning and practice".

However, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National Councillor, Natalie Willis, has previously described the idea of PHNs being involved in the proposed program - which is due to come into effect from 01 Jan 2023 - as "ludicrous".

Speaking at Pharmacy Connect last month, Willis said many pharmacies across the country had



challenging experiences with PHNs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"They're like the old Medicare Locals and Divisions of General Practise - they're GP-centric," Willis said.

"They like to claim that they represent pharmacy, when it's in their best interests to do so, but when the rubber hits the road and it's like, 'cough up some money then', there's not a chance in hell they're going to give you any.

"So giving money to PHNs to

employ pharmacists just seems ludicrous - for anyone who tried to get personal protective equipment (PPE) out of a PHN during the pandemic.

"They couldn't even do that let alone organise a payment system for pharmacists - they just have no capacity for this, it's ridiculous."

Meanwhile, the AMA said it would "strongly oppose" any proposals to authorise embedded pharmacists to prescribe medications for aged care residents, in its submission.

## Rego renewal

**PHARMACISTS** have until 30 Nov to renew their professional registration with the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

Pharmacists can renew their registration online through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) website.

"If you submit your application for renewal of general registration on time, or during the following one-month late period, you can continue practising while your application is assessed," the Board said.

"If you don't renew by the end of the late period, 31 Dec, your registration will lapse, you'll be removed from the national register and you won't be able to use the protected titles of the profession.

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## Pharmacist poaching claims

**BRITAIN'S** National Health Service (NHS) is being accused of exacerbating workforce shortages in community pharmacy by poaching staff for general practice.

The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) reported that staffing costs have become unmanageable for community pharmacies in recent years.

"While we understand and want to help relieve the pressure on our general practice colleagues, the NHS tactic of poaching community pharmacy staff to work in general practices is absurd and having very damaging consequences for community pharmacies," the PSNC said.

## Hazzard backs UTI trial in NSW

**NSW** could be the next jurisdiction to authorise pharmacists to prescribe antibiotics for uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTIs), with State Health Minister, Brad Hazzard, asking NSW Health to explore a trial.

The move comes after the Pharmacy Guild of Australia urged State and Territory Governments to follow Queensland's lead in making diagnosing and prescribing for UTIs a permanent part of pharmacists' scope of practice (**PD 04 Oct**).

Hazzard told *Nine Entertainment* that pharmacists haven't proven they can play a greater role in the provision of primary healthcare services.

"There's a very clear message from COVID that is that pharmacists have been able to step up where needed to fill gaps," he said.



"There are parts of the State where it is extremely tough to get in to see a GP and there are some conditions, like UTIs, that I think lend themselves to the possibility of pharmacists having an expanded scope of practice."

An economic analysis of the expected financial benefits of pharmacists in NSW being able to treat UTI, presented at the Guild's Pharmacy Industry Roadshow last

month, estimated that it would generate savings of \$297.2 million over a 10-year period.

The Guild has forecast the authorising pharmacists to diagnose and prescribe treatments for UTI in NSW would reduce healthcare costs for the State Government by \$12.1 million annually, while saving the Federal Government \$9.4 million, in addition to \$8.4 million in productivity gains.

## Pope set to canonise pharmacist

**FORMER** hospital pharmacist, Artemide Zatti, will be canonised as a saint by Pope Francis this weekend.

Born in Northern Italy in 1880, Zatti moved to Argentina in 1897, where he initially studied to become a priest, but had to abandon the seminary after contracting tuberculosis in 1901.

He subsequently went on to become the manager of a hospital pharmacy.

Pope Francis signed a decree in Apr recognising Zatti's intercession in the healing of a man in the Philippines who

had suffered a stroke and a "voluminous" brain bleed - the second miracle attributed to the pharmacist.

The current pontiff previously investigated the first of Zatti's miraculous intercessions, as coadjutor Archbishop of Buenos Aires, in 1998.

Zatti was subsequently beatified in Apr 2002, by the late Pope John Paul II, after a medical board approved the initial miracle.

The former pharmacist will officially be named as a saint on Sun.

## PDL Student Grants winners named

**PROFESSIONAL** indemnity insurer, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL), has named four winners of its Students Grant program.

Established in 2020, the program aims to help pharmacy students to attend a conference or event of their choosing to further their interest in pharmacy.

Announcing the winners, University of Sydney's Sanam Fath Abadi and Kingston Yeung, Alicia-Maree Pyke from Queensland University of Technology and University of South Australia's Joby Elias,

PDL CEO, David Brown, said it was pleasing to see students benefiting from the program.

"Now in its third year, the PDL Student Grants Program has seen the number of applicants continue to grow each year," Brown said.

"We see it as another way PDL can contribute to the pharmacy profession, by supporting students to attend conferences and events where they can experience high quality education from world-renowned speakers and connect with inspiring leaders."

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## Dispensary Corner



**KENYA'S** pharmacy regulator is warning women not to use an unapproved herbal oral contraceptive pill that is circulating in the east African nation.

Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) CEO, Dr Fred Siyoi, said the product called Sophia, was sub-standard and posed a great risk to the health and safety of the public.

"The PPB has become aware of reports in the media regarding an oral contraceptive (pill), named Sophia, that is suspected to be circulating in the Kenyan market.

"The PPB would like to inform the public that the medical product is not registered by the PPB and therefore is not authorised for use or distribution in Kenya.

"The PPB also warns the members of the public against trading distributing, wholesaling, retailing, issuing, or dispensing this product as it amounts to illegal activities and endangers the safety and health of the public.

"The PPB shall take stern legal and regulatory actions against perpetrators of such offences."



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