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WORLD 25 SEPTEMBER PHARMACISTS DAY

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Chief Pharmacist Brenton Hart

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, a front cover from TerryWhite Chemmart and a full page from Direct Chemist Outlet.

Thank you: TWC

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) is marking World Pharmacists Day on 25 Sep, by thanking all Australian pharmacists for their efforts to protect patients.

See **cover page** for more.

Sydney debut

SYDNEY-BASED pharmacy owners looking to gain a competitive edge are being invited to join the Direct Chemist Outlet network.

With 95 stores nationwide the group is looking to make its debut in Sydney.

See **page four** for more.

Changes needed to boost MMR use

SYSTEM changes are needed to improve access and uptake of medication management reviews (MMRs) for patients aged 75 years and older, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) believes.

Data from the *Fourth Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation 2021*, revealed that 5.4% of people aged over 75 years had at least one Residential Medication Management Review (RMMR) or Home Medicine Review (HMR) in 2018/19.

The Atlas found rates of access was generally higher in major cities than other areas.

"RMMRs are recommended for new residents in aged care facilities, and for existing residents after changes in clinical condition or medicines," the report said.

"System changes are needed to drive implementation of these recommendations across aged care facilities.

"Initiatives to improve medical

practitioner uptake of pharmacist recommendations following MMRs should be a priority."

The Commission added that "team-based models of general practice that include pharmacists could improve collaboration between GPs and pharmacists, and increase the likelihood that a pharmacist's recommendations are acted upon."

It noted that changes were needed to improve access to MMRs for at-risk patients.

"Good working relationships between GPs and pharmacists conducting reviews have been found to influence uptake of MMR services by GPs," it said.

"Some have reported that the role of HMR may be limited in major cities by a lack of opportunity to build relationships between GPs and pharmacists.

"GPs that interact with pharmacists throughout the review process are more likely to initiate reviews and implement



recommendations than those who do not, highlighting the importance of collaboration.

"Australian research has shown that greater collaboration between GPs and pharmacists conducting HMRs can improve management or resolve up to 81% of identified medicine-related problems.

"Changes to RMMR and HMR programs that allow pharmacists to conduct two follow-up reviews could improve collaboration between GPs and pharmacists."

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Star Pharmacy Group eyes growth

SOUTH Australian-based pharmacy network, Star Pharmacy Group, is targeting rapid growth under the leadership of its newly appointed CEO, Peter Piliouras (pictured).

The group announced Piliouras will succeed incumbent CEO, David Clark, on 21 Nov, following a nationwide recruitment process (PD 13 Jul).

Having spent more than 25 years with the Peregrine Corporation, including eight years as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Commercial Officer, Star Pharmacy Group founders, Stan Kontos and Peter Gardiakos, believe Piliouras will bring valuable experience to the network.

“Peter will join us with fresh energy and a wealth of experience to build on the strong foundations laid by our outgoing CEO, David Clark,” they said.

“His leadership is welcomed by

our team of passionate pharmacy and retail professionals, and our experienced and capable executive group.

“We know Peter is as enthusiastic as we are to deliver a true community pharmacy experience that inspires everyone to be happier and healthier every day.”

At the Peregrine Corporation, Piliouras oversaw the management of 250 retail outlets, including On The Run convenience stores.

“I have greatly enjoyed 25 years at Peregrine Corporation, where I have been part of growing a small family business into one of Australia’s largest retailers,” he said.

“Star Pharmacy Group is a South Australian success story with great values and a strong customer offer that will support continuous growth and expansion.

“I am looking forward to being part of Star Pharmacy Group’s next growth phase and working closely



with the passionate and capable teams to deliver fantastic outcomes for our customers.”

Star Pharmacy Group incorporates a network of more than 60 stores across South Australia, NSW and Queensland, including independent community pharmacies, the Star Discount Chemist network, alongside a number of TerryWhite Chemmart franchisees and Priceline Pharmacies.

Five weeks to go until PA2022

AFTER a two-year COVID-19-induced hiatus, the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference 2022 (PA2022) will get underway on 28 Oct.

The two-day event will feature an education program including Quality Care Pharmacy Program refresher training, networking events and a trade exhibition.

With five weeks to go, organisers are offering a range of registration packages to suit the needs of individuals and businesses.

CLICK HERE for more.



Sleep Week a wake up call for Aussies

THE Sleep Health Foundation (SHF) is hoping to raise awareness of the importance of sleep with its inaugural Sleep Week campaign.

Coinciding with clocks shifting to Daylight Savings on 02 Oct in the ACT, NSW, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria, the SHF aims to highlight how a lack of sleep can impact people.

SHF CEO, Dr Moira Junge, noted that there was increasing evidence to show that sleep can be a preventative measure for minimising the risk of developing physical and mental health conditions.

“So many people are experiencing the burden of



irregular hours and shift work, which routinely causes disrupted body clocks and inadequate sleep, leading to reduced physical and mental health, increased risk of errors and accidents, and high levels of burnout and fatigue,” she said.

Junge added that more than half of Australian adults suffer from at least one chronic sleep symptom that affects their ability to live a healthy and happy life.

Staffing shortages hit Irish pharmacies

WORKFORCE shortages are forcing Irish pharmacies to cut back on their opening hours, impacting patient access to healthcare.

Irish Pharmacy Union President, Dermot Twomey, said some stores were no longer opening on weekends as a result of the staffing crisis, the *Irish Examiner* reported.

“Some are closing on Sats, some who were doing late nights are cutting back,” he said.

“Some are deciding they are not providing certain services like vaccination because they haven’t the manpower to do it.

“A smaller number have closed. “One of my colleagues has



closed their shops for certain days because they couldn’t get the cover.”

Limerick-based pharmacy owner, Ruth Garahy, told the publication that she struggled to find a pharmacist to cover her maternity last year.

“There was no one available,” she said.

“Someone had to come out of retirement to cover for me.”

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Dispensary Corner

IRISH health professionals have once again shown their ingenuity, in the curious case of a woman who recently swallowed over 50 batteries.

In an apparent act of self-harm, the 66-year-old presented at St Vincent's University Hospital in Dublin having ingested an "unknown number" of AA and AAA cells.

A report of the incident in the *Irish Medical Journal* says an X-ray revealed a "multitude" of the batteries in her abdomen, with all of them intact and none appearing to be obstructing her gastrointestinal tract.

Initially the medicos took a conservative approach - meaning they just stood by and observed how many batteries would pass through naturally.

"Over a one-week period she passed five AA batteries, but X-rays taken over the following three weeks showed the vast majority of the batteries had failed to continue progressing through her body," the report noted - with the poor female patient by this stage unsurprisingly experiencing "diffuse abdominal pain".

Subsequent surgical intervention managed to extract 46 AA and AAA batteries from her stomach, plus another four which had progressed into the woman's colon.

A final scan confirmed her body was now battery-free, with the doctors writing "to the best of our knowledge this case represents the highest reported number of batteries ingested at a single point of time".

TWC backs bowel cancer campaign

PHARMACY network, TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC), is partnering with the Jodi Lee Foundation to raise awareness of early onset bowel cancer, and encourage young Australians to check their stools.

As part of the joint push, the organisations have launched a "View Your Poo" chart to help patients identify potential signs and symptoms of bowel cancer when they do a "number two".

TWC Chief Pharmacist, Brenton Hart, said the creative and light-hearted approach to delivering an important health message will help normalise an often taboo topic, and encourage young people to contact health professionals if they have concerns about their bowel movements.

"The View Your Poo! chart is designed to help people better



recognise what healthy bowel movement looks like," he said.

"If what you consider to be normal about your poo changes - like the appearance of blood, or your poo's shape, colour, texture or frequency - the smartest thing you can do is to seek advice from your GP."

The TWC pharmacist noted that the Australian Institute of Health

and Welfare report on Cancer in Australia 2021 found bowel cancer to be the deadliest cancer in 20-39 year-old Australians.

Last year 783 Australians aged 20-39 were diagnosed with bowel cancer and those who were born after 1990 have double the risk of bowel cancer and four times the risk of developing rectal cancer than those who were born in 1950.

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