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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a fact sheet from GS1 and full pages from:

- Pharmacy Assistant National Conference
- PharmXchange

Reckitt joins up

PHARMXCHANGE has just announced that it is expanding its supplier network with Reckitt Health, making its wide range of brands and products easily available to order.

Steve Mallin, Head of Pharmacy at Reckitt Health said by partnering with PharmXchange, "we aim to make it easier for more community pharmacies to connect with the Reckitt brand portfolio, in a content-rich environment, take advantage of our promotions, and drive efficiencies through digitisation of the ordering process".

"Legal chaos" to unfold

THE Federal Health Minister Mark Butler (pictured) has warned of impending "legal chaos that would unleash on thousands of general practices and pharmacies" if on 04 Sep another disallowance motion against the 60-day dispensing (60DD) is lodged, while on 01 Sep the measure takes effect.

Butler, speaking in the media this week, emphasised that 60DD "will certainly take effect".

"It's really gob-smacking that the Coalition would continue to try to block access to these cheaper medicines for six million patients.

"But that's what they did on the last parliamentary sitting week... but...then the Senate voted on that motion, and the majority of the Senate supported our measure, so it will go ahead on the 1st of Sep."

Butler shared that Ruston, the Shadow Health Minister is "intending to lodge another motion to try and block this again, but that obviously can't be dealt with until after the measure has already taken effect".



"The legal chaos that would unleash on thousands of general practices and pharmacies, and more importantly, millions of patients, really boggles my mind," said the minister exasperatedly.

"So, after the circus of the last couple of days, and after the clear expression of the will of the Senate, why the Coalition would want to continue to stand alongside the pharmacy lobby instead of alongside patients and try to scuttle this really important cost-of-living measure is beyond me," Butler stressed.

Embrace learning

THE Pharmacy Assistant Conference 2023 helps educate and reward your staff and bring them up to date with all the industry changes.

To register & view the full program, see **page four**.

Luxury experience

PHARMXCHANGE is offering a luxury experience with two Business Class tickets to London and travel vouchers for eligible entrants who sign up to the supplier network.

See more on **page five**.

2D barcode uses

GS1 has a fact sheet for Aug which explains the advantages of choosing camera-based scanning technology in-store which reads 2D barcodes that can store a lot of useful data.

See more on **page six**.



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More treatment options listed on PBS

NEW medicines listed on the PBS by the Gov't include Vyepti (eptinezumab) which is an intravenous calcitonin gene-related peptide inhibitor treatment for the prevention of migraines, with over 4,500 patients expected to benefit from this treatment option.

Yondelis (trabectedin) will also be on the PBS for the first time to treat patients with leiomyosarcoma or liposarcoma.

Leiomyosarcoma and liposarcoma are types of soft tissue sarcoma, a rare cancer that around 1,600 Australians are diagnosed with each year.

Around 50 additional patients are expected to benefit from this new treatment option.

Xtandi (enzalutamide) will be expanded to include the treatment of metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer giving more treatment options.

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AI in healthcare

MEDICAL care delivered by human beings should never be replaced with Artificial Intelligence (AI), but AI technology can potentially achieve improved healthcare, according to the Australian Medical Association (AMA).

The AMA's first Position Statement on the use of AI in healthcare, **HERE**, outlines a set of ethical and regulatory principles based on safety and equity which should be applied to the application of AI technologies in healthcare.

The position statement covers the development and implementation of AI in healthcare and supports regulation which protects everyone and their data.

AMA President Steve Robson would also like to "see a national governance structure established to advise on policy development around AI in healthcare".

QUT bags Pharm. Student of the Year

A **FOURTH**-year Queensland University of Technology B. Pharm (Honours) student has been named Australia's Pharmacy Student of the Year by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

Samantha Montgomery (**pictured**) was awarded the title at a national final in Sydney, recently.

The annual awards showcased the skills of outstanding pharmacy students who were assessed in a live session on their clinical knowledge and communication skills to identify the most appropriate course of treatment and advice, reported the PSA.

Finalists represented seven universities, as well as a wildcard entry selected from the Jan 2023 National Australian Pharmacy Students Association Congress.

As the overall winner, Montgomery received a \$3,000 cash prize to support her studies and pharmacy career.

"I was after something a little bit different for a career in helping



people out, so here I am in pharmacy," Montgomery said.

"I have the goal to be as diverse as I can be in the profession and give everything a go.

"I'd like to locum and travel in Australia, become a consultant pharmacist and work in many settings to keep changing it up.

"That is the beauty about pharmacy, there is an endless list of things you can do."

Samantha said pharmacists filled a vital place within integrative healthcare.

"Patients are finding it more and more difficult to access healthcare, and they trust their community pharmacist," she said.

"We can be the bridge of communication between hospitals and GPs, the hotline for patient concerns, the barrier to an adverse medicine event through intervention and problem solving, especially in rural areas.

"I do believe the scope of practise within pharmacy will expand in the future, and it is an exciting time to enter the profession."

QUT A/Prof Andrew Hale, from the School of Clinical Sciences, said, "to win the Queensland heat was quite some achievement but then to go on and win the national competition, up against the best students from all the other states and territories, is amazing".

PSA President Dr Fei Sim said, "PSA is committed to making pharmacy an attractive career path and celebrating success regardless of where you are in your career".



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¹Koetter U, et al., *Phytopher Res.* 2007;21:847-851. ²Fussel A, et al., *Eur J Med Res.* 2000;5:385-390.

³Lataster MJ, et al., *Notabene Medici.* 1996;4:182-185.



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Dispensary Corner

THE UK gov't will seek views on adding pack inserts into tobacco products to encourage more smokers to quit.

Placed inside the packaging of cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco, they would contain positive messages to encourage people to quit and signpost them to advice and support.

The messages will set out the health benefits of quitting, for example, improvements to breathing within a matter of days and a 50% reduction in the risk of heart attack within a year, as well as showing smokers how much money they stand to save by giving up, with the average person likely to save over £2,000 (A\$3,916) per year if they quit.

Smoking results in nearly 4% of all hospital admissions each year, equivalent to almost 450,000 admissions.

Tobacco-related harms are also estimated to cost taxpayers an estimated £21b (A\$41b) every year, including over £2b (A\$3.9b) in costs to the NHS.

Medcan's huge new plant

QUEENSLAND'S Medtech footprint has expanded today with the official opening of the tech-advanced medicinal cannabis facility in Brisbane.

Medcan Australia's state-of-the-art 3,000sqm vertical farming facility can produce six-million grams of dried cannabis flower, twice as much as it's currently selling.

Aside from producing an estimated \$60 million worth of product from the new site, the team expects to create more than 100 new jobs in the next 12 months.

"Up until now, we have been selling more medicinal cannabis than we can produce," said Medcan Australia CEO and co-founder Craig Cochran.

"The Heathwood facility, which has been purpose built and uses a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system, allows us to perpetually harvest our crop in an environment that is totally controlled by our cultivation team," he said.

Medcan has invested more than \$12 million in developing this fully automated vertical farming operation that encourages



consistent quality growth.

Cochran and his business partner Gareth Ball have spent the past seven years perfecting Medcan's processes.

In doing so, they've crafted an 'environmental recipe' that is consistent and able to support its continually expanding patient and doctor network.

"In terms of indoor cultivation, by Australian standards our facility is one of the biggest.

"The HVAC system we use is similar in size to what an international airport terminal uses."

Pictured: Joint CEOs and co-founders of Medcan Australia Craig Cochran and Gareth Ball.

Pharmacy Guild Update

Roadshows postponed

THE Pharmacy Guild has taken the difficult decision to postpone its recently announced State of the Industry Roadshows for 2023.

In an email sent last Fri to members and the wider sector, the Guild cited its ongoing battle with the government on 60-day dispensing as a reason to postpone the roadshows.

"In light of the current events, we believe all resources are best utilised to support our members through this difficult transition and in fighting 60-day dispensing," the email read.

"We feel it's important to reevaluate the events so we can best serve all our members."

A Guild spokesperson said, "feedback from our members is that they expect the Guild leadership to be in Canberra until the 60-day dispensing issue is resolved".

The Guild will inform its members of new dates when they are finalised, with the State of the Industry Roadshows expected to take place in the first half of 2024.

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Pink Ladies to gather at MCG in support

AROUND 10,000 people will don pink and blue ponchos and gather on the hallowed turf of the MCG to form Breast Cancer Network Australia's (BCNA) iconic Pink Lady in support of all Australians affected by breast cancer.

The sixth Field of Women will precede the Melbourne v Hawthorn Pink Lady match.

It's five years since the last Field of Women, in that time over

100,000 Australians have been diagnosed with breast cancer, enough to fill the entire MCG.

BCNA stated that the return of this event is poignant and emotional for those who have been diagnosed, and for their family and friends who have been part of their breast cancer journey.

The Field of Women is an all-day family event commencing at 10.30am on 20 Aug.



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System recommendations for Australian Pharmacy Camera-based scanners and standards capability

The use of '2D' barcodes has been increasing organically within healthcare for many years, with a significant focus on traceability and batch management driving this change. With the introduction of new regulations by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), an increased focus on product authentication and the greater focus on inventory management and supply chain due to shortages increased 2D barcodes are appearing on prescription and OTC products. Being sure that all systems in pharmacies can handle these

barcodes is a must, this means there is a need to look at scanning equipment and systems to ensure that can manage the barcodes and the data they hold.

Choosing camera-based scanning technology and ensuring that solutions or applications can read data from the 2D barcodes and can parse the data string following global data standards should now be included in the digital strategies across healthcare.

What's in the barcode?



(01) 0 9312345 531370
(17) 201231
(10) ABCDEF123456
(21) 10022337269ABCDEF

(01)09312345531370

(01) The Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) formerly the EAN. A 14-digit system capability is a must to be able to process this correctly

(17)201231

(17) The Expiry Date in a 6 digit machine readable format of YYMMDD. It can be presented within a system or for staff in a more human friendly field

(10)ABCDEF123456

(10) The Batch/Lot Number of up to 20 Alpha Numeric characters

(21)10022337269ABCDEF

(21) The Serial Number of up to 20 Alpha Numeric characters

The barcode is a GS1 DataMatrix. Its format and the data within it are all based on standards used globally

What do your technology solutions need?

All Inventory, Dispensing and Point of Sale systems need to be able to interpret the data from these barcodes. You can check your systems, report issues and source advice by [visiting here](#)

Need Advice?

E healthcareteam@gs1au.org T 1300 227 263

Do you have camera-based scanners?

Whilst traditionally we have had linear barcodes being used and these only needed linear scanners, these new barcodes need camera-based, imaging scanners. Though a camera or Charged Coupled Device (CCD) based scanner can still read a linear code for traditional barcodes unfortunately the reverse is not true, therefore with any upgrades to scanners, a change to camera-based scanners is recommended.