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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from TerryWhite Chemmart.

## Shortage goes on

**NOVO** Nordisk Pharmaceuticals has notified the TGA about a critical shortage of the emergency glucagon product, GlucaGen HypoKit.

The shortage, which is due to manufacturing delays, is expected to last until 30 Sep this year.

As people living with type 1 diabetes and their carers need to keep this medicine on hand for emergency use, the TGA stated it is "urgently working with Novo Nordisk, as well as wholesalers and health professionals, to manage the impact of the shortage on people who have recently been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, or who may need to replace a used or expired kit".

For detailed information, including how to access overseas-registered glucagon products, [CLICK HERE](#).

## TWC internships

**TERRYWHITE** Chemmart has opened applications for its 2024 Internships which can provide career pathways that foster both clinical and entrepreneurial aspirations.

To learn more and to apply see [page four](#).

# NSW Premier to headline conference

**THE** Pharmacy Guild New South Wales Branch President, David Heffernan has announced that the Premier of New South Wales, Chris Minns will officially open this year's Pharmacy Connect conference in Sydney on Thu 31 Aug, (*PD Breaking News* yesterday).

The Premier will officially open the Welcome Reception and address the hundreds of delegates registered to attend this year's event.

Hosted by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Pharmacy Connect is an annual conference, being held this year at the Hyatt Regency Sydney from Thu 31 Aug - Sat 02 Sep.

Heffernan said, "it is an honour to welcome Minns back to the conference in his new role as Premier of New South Wales".

"We are very pleased to have Premier Minns officially open the conference.

"Last year, the Premier attended as a key speaker in his role as Opposition Leader, and we proudly welcome him back to reconnect with hundreds of community pharmacists.

"With the introduction of NSW's trial of treating uncomplicated UTIs for women and the role of pharmacists continuing to



expand, Premier Minns is keen to engage with the community pharmacy sector to attain a deeper understanding of the opportunities which community pharmacy can provide the health sector," shared Heffernan.

He also added that the Premier joins a quality line-up of speakers including Infectious Diseases Physician and Ambassador for Health Reform, Dr Nick Coatsworth and Founder and Director of EQ Minds, Chelsea Pottenger.

With a theme of 'Make every connection matter', this year's conference will bring together pharmacists, suppliers and key industry leaders to discuss issues impacting community pharmacy both now, and into the future.

## Priceline chooses a new media partner

**PRICELINE** Pharmacy has selected Initiative as its new media agency, ending a nine year relationship with Omnicom Media Group's PHD, *Mumbrella* has reported.

Initiative's remit will cover all

media strategy, planning and buying for offline and online, including display, performance and addressing growth plans to attract new customers.

The appointment is effective immediately.

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## GP clinics to face closure in "tax grab"

THE doctor's peak body is calling on the NSW Gov't to step in to save local GP practices at risk of closure in rural and regional NSW due to a new application of payroll tax.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has written to the NSW Premier Chris Minns calling for independently contracted GPs to be exempt from additional payroll tax and for the gov't to urgently confirm that general practices are not being targeted for retrospective tax collection.

Practices already pay payroll tax on its employees, including receptionists, GPs in training and nurses, but it hasn't so far applied to GPs as most are not employees, as doctors lease rooms from a practice owner and work under independent agreements.

In a letter to the RACGP earlier this year, NSW Treasurer Daniel Mookhey shared that the state will not be targeting practices for

extra payroll tax on GPs.

However, evidence may now show that NSW practices are being targeted, said RACGP NSW/ACT Chair Prof Charlotte Hespe, calling on the Premier to intervene.

"Several practices in regional NSW received retrospective payroll tax notices, including one for \$450k, and with just 21 days to pay, they are now facing closure.

"Most practices operate on very thin margins and can't absorb an extra payroll tax bill.

"A poll of practices across Australia found only 3% would be able to absorb the costs if GPs were considered employees for payroll tax purposes.

"It's absurdly contradictory that our gov't is offering up to \$20,000 in incentives to get more healthcare workers in regional and rural NSW, while on the other hand it's risking the closure of countless local practices with this tax grab, which is a tax on patients," she said, (PD 14 Aug).

## Tas is well set up for ORT

TASMANIA is the only state to apply a top-up payment to ensure that community pharmacies remain viable when offering opioid replacement therapy, said the Guild Tas branch President, Helen O'Byrne.

"Our State Government has acknowledged the efficient and professional service provided by community pharmacies across the state, with accessible opening hours and convenient locations," shared O'Byrne.

"We are grateful that the Government also understands that the pharmacy infrastructure which supports patient care, including the professional role of the pharmacist needs to be appropriately compensated for, to ensure the continued provision of this important healthcare service."

O'Byrne also thanked the Tasmanian Health Department for working closely with community pharmacies to deliver a new injectable long-acting opiate replacement therapy program.

This program she added will provide suitable patients with enhanced quality of life, convenience and normality as the therapy is injected and releases slowly over 30 days.

Pharmacists with previous experience in vaccination and opioid replacement therapy can now undertake a free Health Department-approved online training course to administer the therapy on supply of a valid prescription.

"It's great to see community pharmacists' skills utilised in



this way, and importantly it also means the patient doesn't have to organise another appointment with their treating GP," explained O'Byrne.

"Feedback from pharmacists who have completed the training and who have been able to administer the therapy is that this service has been extremely positive for patients and professionally rewarding for the pharmacist."

Earlier in the year the Government changed state-based opiate replacement schemes, with community pharmacies now able to deliver Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme-funded opioid dependency therapies.

O'Byrne said that because of differences in the State and Commonwealth funding many Tas pharmacy owners had concerns regarding the cost implications of continuing to service patients under the new arrangements with some owners reconsidering their ongoing participation in delivering the therapy.

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### Dispensary Corner

**DESPITE** the growing cost of living, Australians are buying takeaway food up to three times a week with Canstar Blue reporting that on average, Aussies spend \$60 a week on takeaways.

Meal delivery service, Lite n' Easy, has decided to taken on Hello Fresh and Marley Spoon with its new family friendly offering, Xpress Meal Kits.

The new hybrid meal kits, available nationally, aim to be a quicker and easier version of the regular meal kits on the market, supposedly to take the hard work out for busy families.

Celebrity Chef and Lite n' Easy ambassador, Matt Sinclair said, "these dinners are great to have in the fridge as an option for a healthy meal when I haven't got time to prepare anything myself".

"For me and my young family, juggling the restaurant and other food projects, it's all about convenience.

"I came home from the gym the other night and had the chicken schnitzel meal kit ready for the family in a flash.

"I did the schnitzels in a hot oven, but they can also go in a pan or in the air fryer, whatever is most convenient for people," he added.

Lite n' Easy states the new meal kits, need an average of only 13 mins of prep time, include several family favourites such as Pasta Bolognese with Garlic Bread, Margherita & Classic Supreme Pizzas, Chicken Schnitzel and Butter Chicken with Naans, but minus the extra calories and saturated fat.

## Quest to quantify impact

**AUSTRALIANS** living with one of 200 chronic conditions may now be eligible to participate in what may well become the world's largest study into the economic impact of medicinal cannabis treatments on health and quality of life for patients.

The Global QUEST study, led by Curtin University and sponsored by ASX-listed medicinal cannabis supplier Little Green Pharma, will aim to assess whether medicinal cannabis reduces the economic impact of chronic disease, by reducing both the number of medications a patient requires and their need for healthcare services.

Lead researcher A/Prof Richard Norman, from the Curtin School of Population Health, said Global QUEST is looking into real health challenges faced by many.

"People living with chronic conditions such as pain, anxiety, insomnia and mood, development or movement disorders face significant challenges that impact their everyday life.

"Using medicinal cannabis as a treatment option can help to improve their outcomes and reduce their level of suffering and this study is an opportunity to quantify this," Norman explained.

"As part of the study, participants can access pharmaceutical-grade cannabis oils and flower medications made locally, as well as book a range of affordable, independent doctors who are experienced medical cannabis prescribers."

Pharmacists & patients can participate and learn more about the Global QUEST Initiative, **HERE**.

## Affects exercise

A **NEW** study published in the international *Journal of Reconstructive Surgery* further strengthens calls for more accessible, publicly-funded breast reductions and other interventions as needed in some cases.

The study, **HERE**, intends to investigate how breast size impacts the exercise habits of women, and how this compares to women who have undergone breast reduction surgery.

Lead author Dr Claire Baxter, a clinical registrar in reconstructive surgery at the Flinders Medical Centre said, "our study found that breast size affects exercise habits and that breast reduction surgery changes women's willingness to exercise".

## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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# Applications for Intern Pharmacists are now open!

“

*I have been with TWC Findon since my 2nd year in uni. My mentors Matt, Colin, and Linh have truly helped to support and guide my career path.*

*Being part of the TWC team as an intern has given me a firsthand view of how TWC aligns with how I see community pharmacy going and it's a great start to my career and journey.*”

- Jen Chao, Pharmacy Intern  
TerryWhite Chemmart Findon  
& Intern of the Year 2023



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