

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of pharmacy news plus a full page from Wizard Pharmacy.

POTY WA winner

WIZARD Pharmacy Cannington WA has won the group's prestigious Pharmacy of the Year (POTY) award. Learn more on the [back page](#).

Batch recall on

KIN Fertility is recalling several batches of The Prenatal capsules due to reported leaking, seepage and spotting on the capsules.

The affected batches are listed on the recall alert on the TGA website [HERE](#).

The batch numbers can be found on the back of the jar or sachet, next to the directions for use.

If the product bought is from any of these batches, the advice is to not use it, and return it to the place of purchase for a refund.

If purchased directly through Kin, email [HERE](#) for a refund.

OW plans "mass rollout"

OPTOMETRIST Warehouse (OW) Managing Director Peter Larsen has confirmed it's "business as usual" for the new optometry network after major news last week that Chemist Warehouse plans to merge with Sigma Healthcare to create Australia's largest pharmacy group, potentially worth more than \$8.8 billion, reported *Insight* (PD 07 Dec).

Chemist Warehouse made headlines earlier this year when it announced plans to "disrupt" Australia's optometry market by launching Optometrist Warehouse in the Melbourne suburb of Malvern (PD 03 May).

Open seven days a week, Optometrist Warehouse has state-of-the-art, hospital-grade clinical technology, discounted prices on all optical products and bulk-billing on all eyecare services.



NEW **Ferro-Max C**TM
with Vitamin C to aid absorption.*
Available from Symbion, Sigma, API and CH2.

For use when iron deficiency or iron deficiency anaemia has been diagnosed by your doctor and a therapeutic iron supplement is recommended. Always read the label and follow the directions for use. If symptoms persist, worsen or change unexpectedly, talk to your health professional. *Vitamin C has been shown to enhance the absorption of iron when taken together.




It has since opened a second store in Campbelltown in Sydney, with plans for a "mass network rollout".

Asked about what the merger would mean for Optometrist Warehouse, Larsen said, "at this stage it is business as normal".

"Clearly, we are very excited to be part of an organisation that has so much scale and reach in healthcare," he remarked. *JG*

Rare MGO 2100+

HIGH medicinal-grade Manuka honey can be used for wounds, ulcers, infections, burns and most notably, for antibiotic-resistant infections such as MRSA and golden staph infections.

Biosota Organics has announced the limited production of the highest-grade MGO (methylglyoxal) Manuka honey on record, aiming to set a new standard within the industry.

Consumers will soon have the exclusive opportunity to buy the world's rarest and highest MGO Manuka honey, MGO 2100+, now in three sizes, which is "incredibly rare and rigorously lab-tested to ensure authenticity," the company stated.

New collaboration

FERRING Pharmaceuticals and Zürich-based company PharmaBiome have a research and development collaboration to drive forward microbiome-based biotherapeutics in the field of gastroenterology. Learn more [HERE](#).

Pregnancy no answer for endometriosis

RESEARCH shows patients with endometriosis are being told to plan a pregnancy to help manage or treat the condition, despite a lack of evidence to show it reduces symptoms.

The controversial advice has prompted calls to improve medical education about endometriosis.

More than 3,000 medically diagnosed patients were surveyed across the globe as part of the collaborative study involving researchers from the University of Adelaide, University of Sydney and EndoActive, a charity focusing on awareness, information, and advocacy.

The research, which focused on patient experiences, revealed more than half (1,892 of 3,347 total) were advised to fall pregnant or have a baby to manage or treat endometriosis,

which can include severe pelvic pain and infertility.

Almost 90% (1,691 of 1,892) of endometriosis patients were given this recommendation by healthcare professionals, including gynaecologists and GPs, with 36% told it would cure their painful condition.

"Pregnancy or having a baby isn't a treatment for endometriosis and this advice from health professionals can have negative impacts on those who receive it," said co-author Prof Louise Hull, a fertility expert from the University of Adelaide's Robinson Research Institute.

Although the advice is well-meaning, in modern practice, there are better ways of dealing with fertility concerns for people with endometriosis, commented the researchers.

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Dispensary Corner

LEARNING about how the human body works scientifically is important for all, but an activist history teacher failed a Seattle student on a quiz for saying only women can get pregnant and that only men have penises.

A 10th grade Ethnic Studies World History teacher at Chief Sealth International High School gave students a quiz, titled 'Understanding Gender vs. Sex', to answer either true or false, or questions with multiple choices.

Question four was a true or false question with the statement, 'All men have penises', to which the student noted the statement as 'true' since it is, in fact, true, but the teacher penalised the answer, marking it incorrect, claiming women can have a penis.

Similarly, question seven was a true or false question with the statement, 'Only women can get pregnant', again, the student marked the statement 'true' because only women can get pregnant, again, the teacher penalised the student, insisting the answer is false.

The teacher believes men can get pregnant.

The student's mother wrote to the Jason Rantz Show on *KTTH* expressing her "frustration and anger" at the teacher, and was glad her son stuck to his answers.

She said she expressed concerns to the school, but was "met with silence".

Seattle Public Schools, through a spokesperson, defended the quiz as "inclusive", arguing it was appropriate for an Ethnic Studies course.

Guild Vic branch against CWG listing

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Vic branch has expressed major concerns about the proposal to reverse list Chemist Warehouse Group (CWG) on the ASX via Sigma Healthcare (**PD 07 Dec**).

Branch President Anthony Tassone (**pictured**) said it is incumbent on the Vic govt, led by Premier Jacinta Allan, and the Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) to ensure the interests of patients are not compromised, and the deal is compliant with existing pharmacy business ownership rules.

"We expect the VPA to run a fine-tooth comb over each detail of this proposal, and to protect the ownership regulations that preserve patients' health ahead of profits," Tassone asserted.

The Vic govt have long been supportive of profession-only



ownership of pharmacies in the interests of patients, and "we expect them to ensure the intent of these laws are upheld," he added.

The Guild stated franchising can, and does, support many community pharmacies to provide healthcare to patients, but laws across Australia prevent non-pharmacists from holding a 'financial', 'ownership', or 'proprietary' interest in a pharmacy.

"Those rules guarantee that community pharmacies remain an essential layer of the health system.

"Community pharmacies provide accessible healthcare at a time when other healthcare providers are falling apart," Tassone said, adding, the VPA must be wary of increased corporatisation in the community pharmacy sector.

"It is not in the interest of patients, or their communities, to have community pharmacies that put shareholders first.

"The language of those pushing this proposal is about a 'unique opportunity for healthcare businesses,'" he explained.

"Medicines are not ordinary items of commerce, and community pharmacy's primary responsibility must remain to patients, not shareholders," urged Tassone. *JG*

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Mag-Sup Powder - a better way to absorb magnesium

Mag-Sup powder is a high absorption magnesium supplement for use in magnesium deficiencies. It contains magnesium aspartate which has increased bioavailability compared to other forms of magnesium. Magnesium aspartate has a better oral absorption than magnesium citrate, magnesium glycinate, magnesium chloride and magnesium oxide.

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Congratulations to our 2023 Pharmacy of the Year



WIZARD *pharmacy*

Winner | Cannington | WA

Wizard Pharmacy Cannington has taken out the prestigious Pharmacy of the Year Award, sponsored by Swisse, for the second time in four years.

The Cannington team have a great work culture, clearly shown in how well the team works together and supports each other. All team members are committed to continuous learning and development with the support of Customer Success to achieve their KPIs.

For the last part of 2023, the pharmacy scored consistently above 90% for Mystery Shopping and they sit above benchmark YTD. They have also seen an increase of 7.2% in scripts and an increase in Webster Packs and Scripts on File patients thanks to the excellent customer service in the dispensary.

Well done Team Cannington - incredibly well deserved!

Better Care - Better Returns - Better Lifestyle | Better Get In Touch

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[FIND OUT MORE HERE >](#)