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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of industry news, plus a cover wrap from **Symbion** and a full page from **Glucojel**.

The trusted choice

HEAD to the front page to find out all about why Symbion is the leading independent choice for pharmacies.

Lure with Glucojel

STOCKING Glucojel jelly beans can attract more customers to your pharmacy - find out why on the **back page**.

Guild welcomes new NT Minister

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Northern Territory Branch has welcomed the appointment of Eva Lawler as Chief Minister of the NT.

Guild NT Branch President Peter Hatswell congratulated Lawler on becoming NT's 13th Chief Minister, and said she "is known for her willingness to engage and listen".

"On behalf of community pharmacists across the Territory, the Guild looks forward to working with Ms Lawler to advance policies that improve Territorians' access to community healthcare."

FIP: let's talk vaccines

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has launched a new campaign to support pharmacists in increasing vaccination uptake.

The 'Let's talk about vaccines!' initiative aims to heighten awareness and understanding of the benefits of vaccination among vulnerable groups through community pharmacies.

FIP Lead for Practice Development and Transformation, Goncalo Sousa Pinto, said pharmacists can play an important and active role in promoting vaccination and building vaccine confidence.

"Through this initiative, FIP aims to support its member organisations and individual pharmacists in integrating vaccination education into their daily practice," he said.

The Federation has published a collection of free evidence-based materials for pharmacies and the public, which provide reliable, accurate and understandable information on specific vaccines, including influenza and pertussis.

The resources also highlight the benefits of vaccinations for groups at higher risk from vaccine-preventable diseases, such as older adults, pregnant women, and people living with chronic diseases including diabetes and chronic respiratory conditions.

"FIP will be producing different translations of these materials and invites its member organisations to customise the campaign assets not only by translating them but also by



including their logo.

"Pharmacists are also encouraged to adapt their advice to locally applicable vaccination schedules and recommendations," he added.

The campaign assets include posters and a video that can be displayed in pharmacies, short guides with key messages pharmacists can give to patients, a series of FIP CPD Bites (short educational resources for pharmacists, including videos), and flyers for different patient groups.

The 'Let's talk about vaccines!' resources are available **HERE**. *JM*

Xmas shutdown

PHARMACY Daily will return after the Christmas break on Tue 02 Jan 2024 - we wish all of our readers a happy and healthy holiday season!

VPA responds to CWG merger


THE Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) has said it will "closely monitor" the proposed merger between Chemist Warehouse Group (CWG) and Sigma Healthcare (**PD** 11 Dec).

"The VPA remains committed to ensuring that all Victorian pharmacies are owned, operated and controlled only by registered pharmacists and will closely monitor this development as it does other pharmacy industry developments," it stated.

The VPA acknowledged the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Victoria Branch's concerns regarding the merger (**PD** 13 Dec), and said it "is prepared to act in accordance with its powers under the *Pharmacy Regulation Act 2010* to uphold the ownership and control provisions of the Act".

The industry body also emphasised that it will not issue out a licence to a person to carry on a pharmacy business if proposed ownership or commercial arrangements are non-compliant with the Act.

The statement from VPA was made in response to major concerns expressed by the Guild's Vic Branch, including risks related to patient care, community pharmacy ownership, competition and more (**PD** 19 Dec).



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PDL is recruiting

PHARMACEUTICAL Defence Limited (PDL) is recruiting a Professional Officer to provide member support and advice in the event of a medication error, and risk management advisory services for the pharmacy profession.

The member-owned organisation, which supports around 31,000 pharmacist members, is seeking applicants who have current and recent experience in the community and/or hospital pharmacy, and ideally some experience in the educational, tutoring and/or mentoring fields.

Reporting to the CEO, the duties of the role include risk management and advocacy work for the pharmacy profession, the mentoring of pharmacists, and more.

Applications close 12 Jan 2024 - email CEO David Brown at david.brown@pdl.org.au to apply or request more info.

SA expands vax scope

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has welcomed the South Australian Government's decision to expand the scope of pharmacist immunisers.

Announced today, the move will allow the administration of vaccines from five years of age as per both the South Australian and National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedules.

This means that, from 01 Jan 2024, eligible patients can receive all vaccines on the NIP schedule in pharmacies free of charge.

"Improving access to and removing cost barriers to receiving NIP vaccines in community pharmacies is a big win for South Australians," PSA South Australia/Northern Territory President Dr Manya Angley said.

"As a state our focus should be on removing barriers to vaccination, cutting the red tape that prevents qualified pharmacist immunisers from delivering more vaccines to more people while easing pressure

on general practitioners.

"For pharmacists this is not only an opportunity to provide more vaccination services but also to drive public health messaging, encouraging vaccine uptake particularly in vulnerable cohorts," she added.

"Our health system needs all immunisers to play a role in delivering vaccines wherever there is a patient need.

"I am proud to see years of PSA's advocacy has led to real outcomes not only for the pharmacists who will be able to play a greater role in delivering vaccines, but for our communities who will be able to access eligible vaccines closer to home, at their convenience.

"We look forward to continuing to work with South Australia Health and the South Australian Government to ensure that all South Australians have access to quality health care, no matter where they live," Angley concluded. JM

Chatbox for TBI

CHATBOT technology can help patients recover after a traumatic brain injury (TBI) by keeping at-home rehabilitation on track, fresh research from New Flinders University in Adelaide has shown.

The small-scale study found that a specific chatbot called RehabChat, developed by the uni's research team, can help participants stay motivated and on top of goal setting between face-to-face visits.

Flinders researcher Dr Judith Hocking said the interactive tool can support TBI patients to overcome common issues by keeping them engaged in their rehabilitation goals and agreed practice activities.



Sigma has supported independent community pharmacy for over 110 years, and we are preparing our business to support you for the next 100 years.

We know that pharmacy owners and their teams work incredibly hard and diligently to service their communities and we remain committed to support each and every pharmacy.

From the team at Sigma, we wish you all a safe, healthy and wonderful festive season.

Visit our website
www.sigmahealthcare.com.au

Season's Greetings from
Sigma Healthcare



Dispensary Corner

THIS month, Japan has taken a big stride towards improving the way patients receive prescribed medications, after Japan Airlines partnered with several other companies to conduct a demonstration of Level 4 drone flights for pharmaceutical delivery.

Part of a wider project to implement drone logistics services in Tokyo, the landmark flights took place from 14-20 Dec in the capital's Hinohara Village, marking the first time such flights have been conducted in Japan.

The week-long trial followed the legalisation of Level 4 drone flights ("unmanned flights beyond visual line of sight in populated areas"), with the goal of enabling faster and more efficient transport of pharmaceutical products from clinics and hospitals to patients.

The drone flights show how pharmaceutical delivery can eliminate the impact of traffic conditions, road congestion, or disasters, with more trials set to be conducted next year.

Guild welcomes diversity



ENTRIES are now open for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's inaugural Cultural Engagement Video Competition for 2024, with the theme being 'Prescribing Health, Welcoming Diversity'.

The Guild is inviting all community pharmacies to submit a video between one to two minutes in length showcasing how they promote health and wellness while at the same time welcoming and celebrating the diversity of cultures within their community.

There are several questions that entrants can address in their video, including 'do they cater to a community with diverse cultures?'; 'do they promote or have staff who

participate in culturally significant events in the community, such as NAIDOC Week?'; 'have they learnt about the different nationalities and groups who may reside in their local area and access their health services?'; and many more.

"We want you to share your meaningful stories on how your pharmacy provides a culturally safe environment and is engaged with and responsive to the needs of culturally diverse populations in their local community, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, to ensure their health care needs are met," the Guild said.

Enter the competition **HERE** before 12am AEDT on 16 Feb. JM

Support needed after vape ban

YOUTH Support Services in Australia have expressed concern about the potential impact that the upcoming national vape ban will have on young people.

NSW-based youth worker Lani Pomare told *ABC News* this week that young people will need additional help to manage withdrawals when single-use vapes are banned on 01 Jan (**PD** 18 Dec).

"I'm worried about seeing [an] escalation of violence amongst young people and just escalation of emotional outbursts," she explained.

"Once [more vapes are] taken away I don't feel like there is a good safety net for young people at the moment to be able to access any help or support."

Pomare has urged the NSW Govt to provide details about how it will support people suffering from withdrawals.

According to the latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, one in six people aged 15-17 have vaped, with that figure rising to nearly two in five for the 18-24 age group.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From Business Publishing Group



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Pharmacy Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

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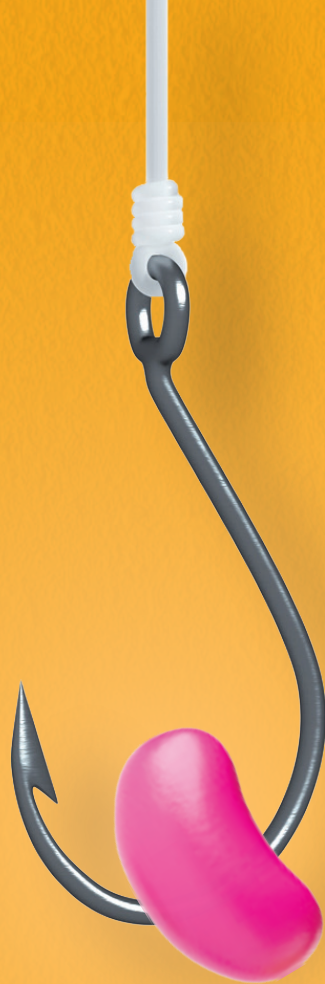
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business events news



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So, if you want feet through your door, you need Glucojel on your shelves.

*Source: Bliss Mobile post campaign reporting



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