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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news as well as a full page from Pharmacium.

Measles alert

NSW Health is urging passengers on two flights and those who spent time in Sydney International and Domestic Airports on Wed 15 Feb to be alert for signs and symptoms of measles after an ACT resident who flew into Sydney was diagnosed with the illness.

The infection was caught while travelling in Asia.

Pharmacists can help by checking if their customers have recently arrived from overseas, especially passengers on QF42 from Jakarta to Sydney, and on QF1433 from Sydney to ACT, or have any of the symptoms of measles.

Have your say on practice standards

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has invited pharmacists, consumers and other members of the healthcare team to provide feedback on the revised draft of the Professional Practice Standards (PPS) Version 6 released this week.

PSA's PPS articulates the values of the pharmacy profession and expected standards of professional behaviour of pharmacists towards individuals, the community and society.

The PPS underpins the professional practice of all pharmacists in Australia.

The PPS consultation will collate feedback from pharmacists from all areas of practice and specialities, pharmacy bodies, consumer groups, other members of the healthcare team and subject-matter experts across various areas of pharmacy practice.

PSA National President Dr Fei Sim urged all stakeholders to give their feedback on the revised PPS draft.



"The practice of pharmacy has evolved significantly in the past five years.

"Regularly revising the Professional Practice Standards is an opportunity for clinical governance to stay up to date with the evolving roles of pharmacists," Dr Sim said.

"The Standards reflect the important role of pharmacists in the fast-changing healthcare sector, with a focus on patient-centred collaborative care.

"It's vital that we have diverse voices included in the Standards, including pharmacists, healthcare teams and consumers so that

they accurately reflect both the expectations of the professional requirements of contemporary pharmacist practice and patients."

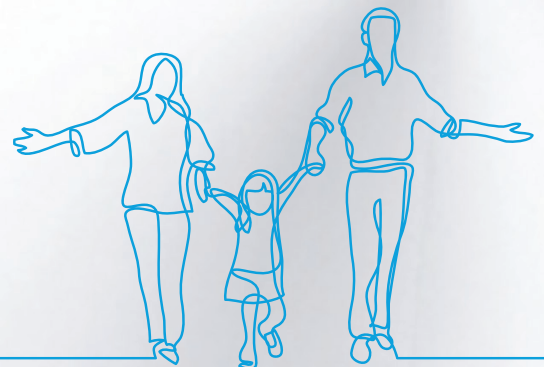
The draft revision of Professional Practice Standards and feedback can be accessed [HERE](#).

TGA vax approval

THE TGA has granted provisional approval yesterday to Moderna's bivalent COVID-19 vaccine: elasmomeran and davesomeran (Spikevax Bivalent Original/Omicron BA.4-5) for use as a booster dose in individuals aged 12 years and older.

This is the second bivalent vaccine targeting the Omicron BA.4-5 subvariants that has been provisionally approved by the TGA and follows provisional approval of Pfizer's Comirnaty Bivalent Omicron BA.4/BA.5 COVID-19 vaccine.

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Dispensary Corner

CAT owners who love to take pictures of their furry friends now have a new excuse to pull out their smartphones and take a snapshot: it may actually help the cat, reported *Yahoo! News*.

A Calgary, Alberta, animal health technology company, Sylvester.ai, has developed an app called Tably that uses the phone's camera to tell whether a feline is feeling pain.

The app looks at ear and head position, eye-narrowing, muzzle tension, and how whiskers change, to detect distress.

A 2019 study published in peer-reviewed journal *Scientific Reports* found that the so-called 'feline grimace scale', or FGS, is a valid and reliable tool for acute pain assessment in cats.

"It helps human cat owners know if their cat is in pain or not," said Miche Priest, Sylvester.ai's venture lead.

"We were able to train a machine using machine learning and a series of images."

The app could help young veterinarians, said Dr Liz Ruelle of the Wild Rose Cat Clinic in Calgary, where developers trained the algorithm.

"I love working with cats, have always grown up with cats," she said.

"For other colleagues, new grads, who maybe have not had quite so much experience, it can be very daunting to know - is your patient in pain?"

An app that learns patterns from images of cat faces can be helpful but cat owners should also look at their pet's whole body for clues of their wellbeing.

Medical certs approved

THE NSW Government has just announced that pharmacists who treat patients under the state's Urinary Tract Infections (UTI) trial can issue medical certificates for the condition treated.

The Pharmacy Guild says this will make it "so much easier for women who are suffering from a UTI to get a medical certificate so that they can rest and recover.

"It means more accessible primary healthcare, and we're proud to play a part," the Guild said.

This news comes off the back of yesterday's move by the NSW Government approving a prescribing trial for the treatment of UTIs and oral contraceptive pill through all 2,100 pharmacies in the state (**PD** 20 Feb).

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia NSW President Chelsea Felkai (**pictured**) said the profession is committed to working with the whole health sector.

"Pharmacists participating in



the pilot program will undergo additional training, including identifying signs of complex health conditions that require a referral to a GP or hospital.

"Pharmacists are well-positioned to deliver quality, timely care to NSW patients having uncomplicated UTIs.

"The GP crisis shows no signs of easing, so we need every healthcare professional to be working to their top of scope.

"Congratulations to PSA NSW Vice-President Dr Sarah Dineen-Griffin and the University of Newcastle for their work in getting the UTI clinical trial up and running," Felkai concluded.

Pawsitive change

RESEARCHERS at the University of South Australia (UniSA) are calling for the Federal Government to mandate financial support for pets in aged care to help improve the mental health and wellbeing of residents.

The call coincides with yesterday's Love your Pet Day, and follows UniSA research, which explores a practical model of hosting companion animals in aged care, including foster animals and pets.

The research shows the most unrecognised issue of ageing is touch deprivation, and how pets can make a difference.

Learn more **HERE**.

Save more hearts

THIS Heart Valve Disease Awareness Week (20-26 Feb), charity hearts4heart is urging reform to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items for heart checks, saying current settings risk overlooking less well-known heart conditions.

Hearts4heart CEO and founder Tanya Hall said: "There are many different types of heart disease, and focusing primarily on cardiovascular disease overlooks patients at risk of other heart conditions, such as heart valve disease". Currently under review, these MBS items are due to expire in Jun this year.

Read more **HERE**.

Guild Update

Invaluable advice for early career pharmacists

THIS year's APP conference at the Gold Coast will be providing early career pharmacists with some helpful and important advice.

The delegates will be encouraged to build a stronger emotional connection to their work and peers in order to boost confidence and improve communication with their patients.

The advice will be given by the 2022 Queensland Young Australian of the Year and Founder of Hand-n-Hand Peer Support Inc, Dr Tahnee Bridson, who will be presenting on this topic in the Early Career Pharmacist (ECP) Stream at APP2023 (23-26 Mar).

Bridson, a psychiatry registrar, is an advocate for the wellbeing and mental health of healthcare workers and believes that not only is pharmacist networking the highest source of new employment, it also helps achieve career goals.

This year's session is being held from 4pm to 5.30pm on Fri 24 Mar.

To reiterate the focus of the stream, the session will be followed by networking drinks.

APP offers discounted registration to ECPs.

For further details and pricing, visit: www.appconference.com.



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