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Tas pharmacists can give flu vax to 5+

PHARMACISTS can now administer influenza vaccines to all Tasmanians aged five and older.

The move brings regulations on pharmacist-administered influenza vaccines in line with pharmacist-administered vaccines for COVID-19.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Tasmania Branch President David Peachey applauded the Tasmanian Government for the common sense change.

“Pharmacists are well placed to support the uptake of influenza vaccines in young Tasmanians.

“Pharmacists that are specifically trained to vaccinate children were able to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to patients aged five years and older, it only makes sense that we are also able to deliver influenza vaccines too,” Peachey said.

“Almost all Tasmanians can now go into their local pharmacy and receive their influenza vaccine, making it easier for families to protect their health this winter.”

“PSA has strongly advocated for pharmacist-immunisers to be able to deliver more vaccines to patients of all ages. This is a great first step

for pharmacists to be able to do more to support the health of our communities, but there is more work to be done.

“In our submission to the 2023-24 Budget Consultation, PSA called for all National Immunisation Program vaccines to be accessible via pharmacists.

“Not only would this boost vaccination rates and reduce the incidence of vaccine preventable disease, but it would also increase vaccine access and uptake, reducing vaccine-preventable disease burden.

“We look forward to working with Premier Rockliff and his Government to ensure that all Tasmanians have equitable access to vaccines,” Mr Peachey concluded.

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References: 1. Grieve KA, Barnes TM. Increased bioavailability of hydrocortisone dissolved in a cream base. *Australas J Dermatol.* 2015; 56(2):e30–4. 2. Van Zuuren EJ, Fedorowicz Z, Christensen R, Lavrijsen APM, Arens BWM (2017) Emollients and moisturisers for eczema. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD012119. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD012119.pub2.

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See the **cover page** for more.

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See more on **page six**.

Saving time

TERRYWHITE Chemmart's purpose-built myTWC app will help save time in the pharmacy and grow script numbers.

See more on **page seven**.

Lifeline turns 60

LAST week marked 60 years since Lifeline opened its telephone lines for the first time in Australia.

Since 16 Mar 1963, Lifeline has provided Australians in crisis with a listening ear to be heard and a community-based network of support.

In that time Lifeline has built a network of 41 centres across the country, answered approximately 23 million calls and now receives a call from a help seeker every 30 seconds.

"It has been a constant in modern Australian life", shared Federal Assistant Minister, Emma McBride.

"Lifeline Australia has become synonymous with suicide prevention, as the leading crisis support service for those in need."

Over 60 years, more than 100,000 volunteers have been trained as crisis supporters.

Last year, with support from the Australian Government, Lifeline launched 13YARN, a national crisis support line for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Guild donates \$10k for brain cancer

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia will be raising much needed funds to support APP2023's official charity partner, Cure Brain Cancer Foundation, this week on the Gold Coast.

Around 2,000 people in Australia are diagnosed with brain cancer every year.

Over the last 30 years, the survival rates of people with other types of cancer has steadily increased.

However, only two out of 10 people who are diagnosed with brain cancer survive for five years from diagnosis.

In recent times, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has been touched by brain cancer with a beloved Guild staff member, Ann Dalton, tragically passing away from this horrible disease.

In honour of Dalton, and others who have been victims of brain cancer, the Guild will be encouraging delegates to raise

funds for brain cancer research.

APP2023 Conference Convenor Kos Sclavos AM said he is proud to partner with this incredible charity and applauds the Foundation for their tireless dedication for those with the disease and those supporting loved ones who care for those with brain cancer.

"Cure Brain Cancer Foundation is an outstanding charity whose mission is to rapidly increase brain cancer survival and improve the quality of life for people impacted by the disease.

"I commend their work in research and clinical trials and encourage all of our delegates to make a generous donation leading up to and during the conference.

"The Pharmacy Guild has kicked off the fundraising by making a \$10,000 donation," Sclavos said.

To make a donation to the Foundation **CLICK HERE**.



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Symbion's Elite Rewards

SYMBION has launched its new Symbion Elite Rewards program which enables wholesale pharmacy customers to earn points and access rewards by paying their Symbion statements via the Symbion Elite Rewards platform.

Customers can earn up to one Symbion Elite Reward point for every dollar on bill payments made through the Symbion Elite Rewards platform, which is operated and powered by EonX Services.

Symbion Elite Rewards points can be used to pay future bills, redeemed for rewards with retail brands, or transferred to participating airline partners for domestic and international flights, flight upgrades and more.

Pharmacies can link multiple Symbion accounts to a single Symbion Elite Rewards account to schedule automatic payment of monthly Symbion statements.

The Symbion Elite Rewards payment gateway accepts VISA, Mastercard and American Express

credit and debit cards, BPAY and Direct Debit.

To access Symbion Elite Rewards, Symbion pharmacy customers can register for a Symbion Elite Rewards account.

"We're extremely excited to be launching our new Symbion Elite Rewards program to our pharmacy customers", enthused Symbion General Manager for Pharmacy, Andrew Crawley.

"With points redeemable across sectors such as hospitality, retail, groceries, entertainment, and fuel, there is a reward to suit everyone." Visit Symbion at [APP](#) or [HERE](#).

Kickstart growth

WHOLELIFE Pharmacy and Healthfoods helps bring more customers through the door.

The network helps deliver larger basket sizes and broaden product offerings.

See more on the [back page](#).

CWH starts up about 300 flu vax clinics

CHEMIST Warehouse is again providing Australians with its in-pharmacy influenza vaccination service in nearly 300 Chemist Warehouse stores around the country.

Bookings can be made via their online booking system now, with appointments available from mid-Mar to 10 Jun.

The group is offering the updated 2023 quadrivalent influenza vaccine.

The 2023 vaccine contains the influenza strains recommended for the Southern Hemisphere by the World Health Organization and by the Australian Influenza Vaccine Committee.

The strains recommended for the Australian influenza season in 2023 are egg-based quadrivalent influenza vaccines:

- an A/Sydney/5/2021 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus;
- an A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus;
- a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/

Victoria lineage)-like virus; and

- a B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus.

Cell-based quadrivalent influenza vaccines include:

- an A/Sydney/5/2021 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus;
- an A/Darwin/6/2021 (H3N2)-like virus;
- a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus; and
- a B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus.

Immunisation against influenza can take up to two to three weeks to take effect.

Immunisation remains one of the key defences against the flu.

The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care have advised that vaccination against influenza remains important this year.

Pharmacists can advise customers who are planning international travel to ensure they have had a 2023 influenza vaccination before departure.



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SA prescribing a 'disaster'

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is warning that expanding pharmacy prescribing powers across South Australia will compromise patient safety and wellbeing.

It comes following the Professional Pharmacists Australia's (PPA) submission to the state's Select Committee on Access to Urinary Tract Infection Treatment inquiry.

The PPA, which represents more than 7,000 pharmacist and pharmacist technician members, has outlined a number of concerns including workforce shortages and doubts over the capacity of employee pharmacists to absorb further demands, particularly in rural and regional communities.

RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins said the PPA's warnings should be heeded.

"The South Australian Government should sit up, take notice, and listen carefully to what this union is saying," Higgins said.

"Pharmacy prescribing, including for urinary tract infections, is a recipe for disaster.

"Now we have confirmation from this union and professional association that pharmacists just don't have the capacity to take on these additional responsibilities.

"The union's state director Paul Inglis has said that workforce shortages and demands on pharmacists' time are already resulting in high levels of work stress and burnout.

"So, any additional work, such as pharmacist prescribing, will only add to this burden.

"His submission also hits the nail on the head when it comes to why we have always separated prescribing and dispensing powers.

"Inglis states that his organisation is concerned about how the potential conflict of interest between prescribing and dispensing medications will be managed.

"I couldn't have said it better myself, let's stop this madness before it's too late."

The RACGP President said concerns raised in the submission regarding indemnity were particularly alarming.

"The PPA submission raises fears about increases to professional indemnity insurance for pharmacists if their scope of practice is extended to prescribing.

"At the end of the day any increased costs will unfairly fall on working pharmacists.

"Many of the pharmacists that that I speak to, both locally and further afield, are very concerned about diagnosing and prescribing.

"They're concerned that they'll be put at risk because they are doing new tasks that we know carry significant risks.

"The skill of general practice is knowing when not to prescribe, having the ability to examine the patient, and be able to investigate for other causes."

Higgins said it was ominous that the push for pharmacy prescribing was driven by the Pharmacy Guild and not by the interests of either pharmacist employees or patients.

"The Pharmacy Guild represents the pharmacy owners, not the workers," said Higgins.

Bayer's Nubeqa gets TGA registration

BAYER Australia has announced that the TGA has registered Nubeqa (darolutamide) for metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer, an aggressive form of prostate cancer.

With this extended indication, Nubeqa can now be used in combination with the existing standard of care of docetaxel and androgen-deprivation therapy (ADT), giving clinicians the opportunity to utilise an

'intensive' treatment approach.

Taken as a tablet twice a day, Nubeqa is an androgen receptor inhibitor that works by blocking the activity of male sex hormones (or androgens), such as testosterone, preventing prostate cancer cells from growing and dividing.

The combination of Nubeqa with docetaxel and ADT targets the disease from multiple angles resulting in an intensive approach.

Mob Smiles resources for First Nations



FOR the last three years, the World Dental Federation has used World Oral Health Day on 20 Mar to campaign for everyone around the world to 'Be Proud of Your Mouth'.

However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and adults continue to have poorer oral health than non-Indigenous Australians.

Indigenous dental practitioners have mentioned that the available resources for use with children and adults in Australia do not resonate with this target population.

Poor oral health can affect

quality of life and exacerbate chronic health conditions.

Unfortunately, access to affordable, and culturally appropriate dental care is difficult for many Indigenous Australians.

To combat this the Australian Dental Association (ADA) has launched culturally appropriate oral health education resources as part of its new Mob Smiles initiative.

Mob Smiles resources consist of posters, flyers and fact sheets for various ages including toddlers, teenagers, pregnant women and the elderly.

Meet Hayley Ryan, Wounds Australia Chairperson

Understand the importance of wound care. Hear more on Wounds Australia's work with the guild on developing wound care support in pharmacies.

Friday 24th March, 12.30pm, Stand 4

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Dispensary Corner

ALTRUISTIC people sometimes donate their bodies to science, but usually they imagine they will be used to train medical personnel or help learn about diseases or other conditions.

However that didn't end up being the case for a woman in Arizona in the USA, whose corpse ended up being sold to the US Army for use in a so-called "blast testing" experiment.

Newsweek has reported on the case of Doris Stauffer, who suffered from Alzheimer's Disease in her final years before dying aged 74 in 2013.

Her son Jim donated the body to the Biological Resource Center in Maricopa County, and some days later received a wooden box containing her ashes without an explanation of how the body was used.

Assuming it was part of brain research, he was shocked some time later to find that the body was instead used by the military to measure damage caused by roadside bombs.

"She was supposedly strapped in a chair on some sort of apparatus, and a detonation took place underneath her to basically kind of get an idea of what the human body goes through when a vehicle is hit by an IED," he told news reporters.

Stauffer said a box on the consent form had specifically mentioned something about explosions, "and we said no, we checked the 'no' box on all that".

Reuters says at least 20 bodies donated to the Center were sold to the army for blast experiments.

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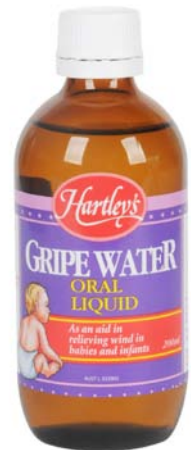
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