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AMAQ admission “extremely concerning”

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia Qld Branch Acting President Rick Xynias said this week that it was a historic moment when the Australian Medical Association Queensland (AMAQ) publicly admitted that women are struggling to get an appointment to see a GP to treat a UTI.



“It is extremely concerning to see the admission of failure by the AMAQ and only reconfirms the Queensland Government’s decision, supported by the Liberal National Party Opposition, to make the UTI service permanently available for all Qld women with uncomplicated UTIs.

“As a result of the statewide Pilot, overworked GPs will have more availability to treat patients who need longer consultation and have more complex needs.

“Through the Pilot, we will work collaboratively to get the best outcome for our patients,” he said.

Community pharmacists can only treat women with an

uncomplicated UTI and if this isn’t the case, the community pharmacist will, in all cases, refer the patient to see a GP, said Xynias adding, “we actually help to triage patients for GPs”.

The AMAQ admits there are limited availabilities of GP appointments, but it is an area where local pharmacists can help.

“Since 2022, gov’t reports state more than 11,841 women have received treatment via community

pharmacy for non-complicated UTIs, meaning Emergency Department figures would have been larger if the UTI service in community pharmacy wasn’t available,” Xynias explained.

“This figure will grow as Queenslanders learn that this service is available throughout pharmacies.

“This is clear evidence that community pharmacists have taken the pressure off Emergency Departments, this is a win for patients and health policy reform,” he commented.

“Enlisting the strong network of qualified community pharmacists to do more and deliver safe treatment for everyday health conditions is the best outcome for patients.

“Expanding the North Queensland Community Scope of Practice Pilot statewide is a huge win for patients as well as the overburdened GPs and Emergency Departments.

“Patients deserve better,” Xynias concluded. JG

Today’s issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of the latest news.

No PD on Mon

THERE will be no issue of *Pharmacy Daily* published on Mon due to the Oct long weekend in NSW.

The next issue of PD will be published on Tue 03 Oct.

From everyone at the team, we hope you have a happy and safe long weekend.

New Board Chair

THE Australian Digital Health Agency has appointed Lyn McGrath as the agency’s new Board Chair.

McGrath’s three-year appointment will take effect from today to help ensure a “seamless and person-centred system that consumers expect”.

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Surgery works

A **STUDY** confirms the long-term benefit of sleep apnoea surgery when continuous positive pressure airway (CPAP) therapy is not effective.

The study observed 36 of the first 48 patients who had upper airway surgery and has confirmed the benefits for better management of moderate-to-severe sleep apnoea; for people who failed to adapt or are not suited to CPAP therapy, say Flinders University and other experts.

The research published in the *Sleep journal* - **HERE**, found consistent improvement in the patients' sleep apnoea status for up to three years later.

"The benefits include less disrupted sleep...and better general health...which is important given we know sleep loss can lead to diabetes... anxiety and other issues," said Prof Simon Carney, ENT specialist at Flinders.

AstraZeneca and SAS look to IT gains

INTERNATIONAL pharma company AstraZeneca has teamed up with AI and analytics provider SAS to help increase efficiency and improve the use of clinical trial data, so new medicines can be delivered faster than before.

It is hoped this initiative will drive automation in the delivery of statistical analyses for clinical and post-approval submissions to regulatory authorities, via SAS's proprietary cloud-based software and technologies.

SAS will also aim to deliver increased capacity, automation, interoperability, and flexibility to bring in and analyse diverse and novel patient data sources (through wearables, sensors, and precision medicine) as part of the submissions process.

This has the potential to provide significant productivity gains by driving faster time to market and reduced IT costs.

It is believed that the SAS and AstraZeneca partnership will enable



teams across the organisation to collaborate and increase clinical research innovation.

Christopher J Miller, VP Biometrics at AstraZeneca, said, "this partnership with SAS supports the transformation of how we use clinical data to support our patient-centric approach and focus on getting medicines to patients faster than ever before".

"It will also allow us to introduce new ways of working and embrace new technologies and trial models to accelerate our portfolio."

Bryan Harris, SAS Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, added, "I'm delighted that SAS is building on the strong

relationship it has had with AstraZeneca over many years by being part of this transformation program".

"The work they do positively impacts the lives of millions of people around the world.

"This is exciting because we have solidified a great foundation between our companies, but we also recognise we are just scratching the surface.

"We pay attention to technology and the advancements in AI, and we thrive on thinking through how our technology blended with AstraZeneca's expertise and insight can create new medical solutions for their customers." JG



CommBank Pharmacy Insights

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Sanofi opens its doors to colleagues

GLOBAL pharma company Sanofi Australia has welcomed pharmacists from all over the world with a tour of its \$45 million facility in Virginia, Brisbane.

Sanofi's Chief Science Officer Dr Josephine Fubara (pictured left) said pharmacists saw demonstrated advanced manufacturing expertise and quality assurance procedures.

"Sustainability, quality, and innovation are key factors to our work, and pharmacists could see our state-of-the-art manufacturing facility so that they can witness firsthand the future of sustainable healthcare at Sanofi," Fubara said.

Visitors saw the installation of more than 1,500 solar panels spanning the large rooftop of the Brisbane manufacturing campus, which saves approximately 720 tonnes of CO2 and delivers 1GWh of electricity to the site per year.

In 2021, the business announced the move to a hybrid car fleet; Jun 22 saw the launch of an industry partnership with Return Unwanted



Medicines; and earlier this month took joint steps with TerryWhite Chemmart to promote the Return of Unwanted Medicines (RUM) program (PD 13 Sep).

Sanofi's Consumer General Manager Gladys Ambrosio Peters said the business has invested over \$40m into its local manufacturing in recent years to accommodate increased demand.

"This investment has allowed us to produce over 18.4 million tablets per year," Peters said.

"To keep pace with the booming local and international demand, we have continued to invest, to ensure we stay at the forefront of Australian new product development and manufacturing."

With a dedicated team of over 200 people in development, testing, manufacturing, and packing, Sanofi's Virginia plant is also home to one of Sanofi's three global innovation hubs, a partnership with local universities and the gov't. JG

Women at risk

WOMEN may be at greater risk than men of injection site and systemic reactions to the seasonal flu jab, regardless of age or vaccine type, according to Canadian scientists.

They brought together and re-analysed the data from 18 previous studies, including more than 34,000 people, and found the risk of an injection site reaction was higher in women than it was in men for both, people under 65 (29% higher) and those older than 65 (43% higher).

Women were also at heightened risk of systemic reactions, regardless of age, with a 25% higher risk for younger women and 27% higher for older women.

The risk of a severe reaction was twice as high in women as it was in men, and about 50% higher in younger participants for systemic reactions.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

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Dispensary Corner

HYGIENE definitely wasn't top of mind for a US woman who became trapped in a cesspit after dropping her prized Apple Watch into the toilet.

Police in Bagley Township, about 400km from Detroit, Michigan, were called to rescue the unfortunate lady from the outhouse after she lowered herself in to retrieve the gadget and became trapped.

Conservation officers, state troopers and local police said they removed the toilet and then used a strap of some kind to haul her out of the revolting predicament.

A media release advised the public "if you lose an item in an outhouse toilet, do not attempt to venture inside the containment area...serious injury may occur".

It is unclear at this stage whether the watch was safely extracted - although the hapless woman would of course be able to use Apple's "find my device" feature to track its progress through the septic system.

DHL's 'one-stop-shop' signs up Alcon

DHL Supply Chain, the global provider of contract logistics solutions and the international eye care company, Alcon, have signed a new partnership in Australia.

Building on the long-standing partnerships in Chile and New Zealand, DHL's newest Life Science warehouse in Sydney will store pharmacy brand Alcon's vision care and surgical vision products.

Inbound and outbound shipments will cater to Alcon's Australian market needs for conditions like cataracts, glaucoma, retinal diseases, and refractive errors.

Behind Alcon's decision, to partner with DHL (pictured above), is the quality compliance required for medical devices and the flexibility of the DHL network to scale operations.

"We're very pleased to provide Alcon with a dedicated third-party logistics solution," said Steve Thompsett, CEO of DHL Supply Chain Australia.

"As the global leader in eye care, Alcon has an incredible range of stock-keeping units which saw several thousand pallets moved seamlessly across to our Life Sciences facility over three weeks.

"The dedicated rework area and



cold chain facilities enable us to operate as a 'one-stop shop' for Alcon," added Thompsett.

The multi-customer site in Horningsea Park (pictured below) has a five-star rating and is a temperature-controlled facility powered by green electricity.

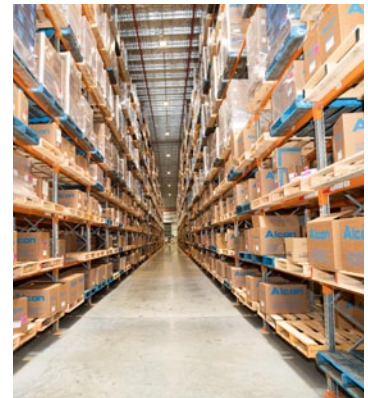
Commenting on the partnership, Penny Stewart, Cluster Franchise Head Surgical and Country Manager for Alcon Australia and New Zealand, said, "at Alcon, innovation is at the heart of what we do, and this includes innovating our commercial services".

"So, that we can deliver world-class products more efficiently and reliably to our customers to help more people 'see brilliantly'.

"We are thrilled to partner with DHL to get our products to our customers from all corners of Australia and New Zealand more efficiently," Stewart said.

DHL Supply Chain Australia claims to be the largest third-party logistics provider for the life science and healthcare industry and ensures label claim compliance (delivery as per the temperature instructions on the product's packaging) as manufacturers prescribe.

With about 395,000 employees in more than 220 countries and territories worldwide, the group generated revenues of more than EUR94b (A\$155b) in 2022 and is aiming to achieve net-zero emissions logistics by 2050. JG



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