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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

Telehealth service

TODAY, Sexual Health Victoria (SHV) has introduced a telehealth medical abortion service across the state, through a strategic partnership with a pharmaceutical provider network.

The service addresses the issue of limited access to medical abortion services and medications, particularly in regional areas.

SHV stated that with only one in 10 GPs actively engaged in prescribing abortion medicines, it is hopeful the telehealth service will provide a practical solution.

Consultation on new Aged Care Act

THE Department of Health has announced that a new *Aged Care Act* will be introduced to Parliament this year, with a further amendment bill to be put forward to establish the Support at Home program to start in 2025.

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety had uncovered that the current *Aged Care Act* and its related legislation are no longer fit for purpose.

This is because it was structured around providers and how to fund them, rather than around the people accessing services and what they need, said a Dept statement.

The new rights-based act will put older people who need aged care at the centre of the system.

While the new act will affect everyone involved in the aged care



sector, a key recommendation will be that medical practitioners must trial and document alternative strategies in the care recipient's clinical record before prescribing psychotropic medications.

Practitioners and pharmacists will need to check for any contribution of current medication to confusion, sedation or other side effects

potentially causing distress or behaviours of concern.

Restrictive practices will also be used only as a last resort to help prevent harm to older people in aged care and their carers.

Recent changes to laws strengthen existing requirements and put measures in place to reduce the inappropriate use of restrictive practices.

Healthcare professionals will also need to identify and document the risk of harm to the person or others that medication used as restraint seeks to address.

The Department of Health has also confirmed it is holding another round of consultations up until 16 Feb for people to have their say on the exposure draft of the bill for the new *Aged Care Act*, [HERE](#). JG

Check out the latest in Beauty & Wellness

Every Thursday in Pharmacy Daily



Beauty & Wellness
by Pharmacy Daily

Injections guide

PHARMACEUTICAL Defence Limited (PDL) has released a new guide to support pharmacists and their teams in the preparation and delivery of injectable services.

Injectable services include vaccinations that pharmacists are already familiar with, such as influenza and COVID-19 vaccines, as well as newer medicines and administration routes, including vitamin B12, long-acting injectable buprenorphine and others.

PDL stated the guide is not specific to any kind of medicine or practice setting but is designed to capture a holistic stance on the key considerations every pharmacist must take into account before providing injectable services.

As such, the PDL *Guide to Medicines by Injection* was produced to assist pharmacists in understanding the risks involved and raise awareness of the key considerations before providing the service, as well as during and after the injection has been administered - see more [HERE](#).

Fred IT and StrongRoom AI grow closer

FRED IT Group and StrongRoom AI have announced a partnership which will combine expertise, resources, and insights to benefit pharmacy business owners.

The pharmacy IT solutions provider and the AI company promised to bring onboard the latest tools, ensuring a streamlined experience that can adapt to evolving pharmacy needs in the future.

At the heart of this collaboration is the cutting-edge product, StrongPro, which helps envision a future for pharmacy designed to

empower pharmacists with a better experience utilising AI for streamlined workflows and ensuring safer drug transactions, according to a joint statement.

StrongRoom AI will also be present at APP2024 as the sponsor of a new award called the Harm Minimisation Award 2024 and its education stream.

The new initiative aims to recognise and reward pharmacies that demonstrate outstanding commitment to reducing the harmful effects of drug use and supporting their patient communities.

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Dispensary Corner

IN A twist that unfolded in India's Kolkata city, a packet of biryani became the unlikely hero in preventing a man from making a leap off a bridge on a bustling afternoon last month.

Yes, amidst the honking cars and the typical chaos, it was the aromatic allure of this dish of spiced rice that played a pivotal role in a drama that brought traffic to a standstill.

The story centres on a 40-year-old local, wrestling with the one-two punch of a crumbling marriage and a failing business.

Amid taking his daughter to Science City, he made a sudden stop near a bridge, citing a lost mobile phone.

However, his intentions quickly became clear as he climbed onto the bridge's edge, threatening to jump.

Quick to respond, Kolkata Police, along with the Disaster Management Group and fire department, arrived, turning the bridge into a stage for a negotiation unlike any other.

Understanding the man's distress and tapping into the cultural heartstrings, the officers presented an offer too good to refuse: the promise of employment sweetened with the irresistible lure of a biryani.

This unique rescue mission not only saved the day (and the man) but also highlighted a new potential use for biryani beyond satisfying hunger - it might just save lives.

So next time you're stuck in traffic caused by a dramatic standoff, remember: in Kolkata, biryani isn't just a meal; it's a negotiation tool.

AFT backs One NZ Warriors

AFT Pharmaceutical's pain relief brand Maxigesic has been signed up with the One New Zealand Warriors for the 2024 and 2025 seasons.

The Maxigesic brand name will feature on the front of the players' shorts for all five of the club's teams this season in the NRL: New South Wales Cup, Jersey Flegg Cup (under-21), SG Ball Cup (under-19) and Harold Matthews Cup (under-17).

As the club's official pain relief partner, Maxigesic will also be the presenting partner for a 'Big Hit of the Week' video feature as well as the weekly injury report.

"We've come off a watershed season in 2023, but 2024 is even bigger for us as we field an unprecedented five teams across various competitions," said One New Zealand Warriors General Manager Commercial and Consumer Business, Glenn Critchley.

"So partnering with an innovative brand leader like Maxigesic is



critical, and we're thrilled to have them on board."

AFT CEO Hartley Atkinson said, "having initially developed and launched Maxigesic in New Zealand, and taken on the Australian market and established Maxigesic as the number one selling paracetamol/ibuprofen combination on the other side of the Tasman, we feel a real affinity with the One New Zealand Warriors and their journey and are fully supportive of them wanting to win their first NRL title". JG

Young Scientist Award calls for entries

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation's (FIP) Young Scientist Award 2024 aimed at recognising research excellence is calling on early-career pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists under 35 years to participate.

Entrants will present at the 82nd FIP World Congress from 01 to 04 Sep to develop professional skills and gain exposure to a global platform, which provides collaborating opportunities to enhance careers.

FIP stated interested individuals are invited to submit their abstracts and application forms for either a poster or podium presentation at the Congress.



A webinar will be held to assist those interested in preparing for presenting at the conference.

Both winners in each category (poster/podium) will be honoured during a ceremony at the event.

The submission deadline to enter the competition is 15 Mar.

FIP stated that participants must, in addition to the abstract, submit a brief resume.

For further questions email congress@fip.org.

Cancer study win

A CHARLES Darwin University study revealed that cannabis extract showed positive results in slowing down melanoma cell growth and increasing cell death rates, explained Dr Nazim Nassar, a practising pharmacist and pharmacologist, and the research's co-author.

"The damage to the melanoma cell prevents it from dividing into new cells, and instead begins a programmed cell death, also known as apoptosis," said Nassar.

"This is a growing area of important research because we need to understand cannabis extracts as much as possible, especially their potential to function as anticancer agents.

"If we know how they react to cancer cells, particularly in the cause of cell death, we can refine treatment techniques to be more specific, responsive and effective."

Dr Nassar said the next challenge was developing a targeted delivery system development to the melanoma cells to get it ready for pre-clinical trials.

He said that while the use of cannabis extracts to treat a variety of health conditions is stigmatised, future research into its application could change cancer treatment.

Lead author and RMIT biotechnologist Prof Nitin Mantri emphasised the necessity for a long-term follow-up to ensure the sustained effectiveness and safety of the cannabis extract in cancer treatment over extended periods.