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Incentive to join

WIZARD Pharmacy is inviting new pharmacies to explore its network's benefits for better returns and improved life/work balance, as well as a new pharmacy cash incentive. See more on the **back page**.

PSA awards ACT talent

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has recognised the Australian Capital Territory's top pharmacists as part of the 2024 PSA Excellence Awards in Canberra on Sat (**PD** breaking news).

The ACT Pharmacist of the Year is Kirstin Turner who is a Credentialed Pharmacist and Credentialed Diabetes Educator practising in both general and private practice in the ACT.

Working with patients of all types of diabetes diagnoses, Turner specialises in medication optimisation for elderly patients experiencing diabetes-related complications, and she continues to give back to the profession by mentoring and sharing more than a decade of clinical practice experience with recently credentialed pharmacists.

The PSA's joint ACT Early Career Pharmacists of the Year are Alicia Martin and Jaqueline Lockley.

Martin is a community pharmacist in Canberra's south and is the founder of TaperMate, a mobile app to help patients safely taper off their use of medications that cause withdrawal symptoms, particularly in the mental health space.

Lockley is a community pharmacist in Canberra's inner north suburb, utilising pharmacogenomic testing to



support specialised patient care.

The ACT Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Amanda Galbraith who is the state's Acting Chief Pharmacist.

Galbraith has led work to develop pharmacists' scope of practice through the expansion of pharmacist-administered vaccines and the opportunity for Canberra pharmacies to supply treatment for urinary tract infections, improving access to care for Canberra women.

She has also held a number of leadership positions across the pharmacy sector, including as President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (ACT branch), a Pharmaceutical Defence Limited Director, and presently as Chair of the Australian Pharmacy Council's FARM Committee. *JG*

Five-year strategy

SANDOZ has announced a five-year partnership with Biocon Biologics which will provide it with exclusive rights to promote, sell and distribute biosimilar versions of trastuzumab and bevacizumab in Australia.

Under the agreement, Sandoz will distribute the Biocon Biologics' brands, Ogivri (trastuzumab) and Abvemy (bevacizumab), and facilitate sustained access to these medications, which were previously distributed by another pharmaceutical company to patients.

Clint Holland, General Manager, Sandoz ANZ, said, "following our spin-off from Novartis, our purpose remains unchanged to become the most valued biosimilars company".

"The Biocon Biologics partnership represents a key component of our growth strategy as an independent entity," added Holland.



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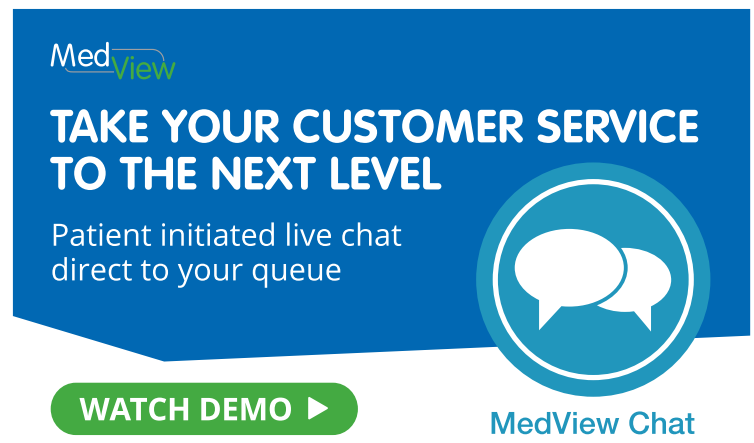
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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of industry news, plus a full page from **Wizard Pharmacy**.



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Tas expands scope for UTIs

FROM 01 Mar pharmacists will be able to provide treatment for uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTIs) in women aged from 18 to 65 years (inclusive), provided they are appropriately trained, working in eligible community pharmacies which are part of the Tasmanian Community Pharmacist Pilot Program.

According to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Tasmanian President Helen O'Byrne, community pharmacies regularly have people presenting with UTI symptoms.

"As a trained professional it is frustrating to have a patient present with a common condition and not be able to offer first line recognised treatment immediately.

"Based on the uptake of services in other states - 9,000 women in NSW alone have accessed this service - we anticipate that over 1,000 Tasmanian women will benefit from timely treatment of UTI's at their local community pharmacy, in this year alone."

The standard therapeutic guidelines for the treatment of UTIs is well recognised and accepted and pharmacists will be working through a protocol to determine if the effective treatment is suitable.

The Tasmanian Govt is working with the Department of Health, Primary Health Tasmania, GPs, pharmacy and consumer groups to consider further pharmacy-led services as part of the state gov't's Review of Pharmacists Scope of Practice, meaning over time scope will expand further.

Hundreds use 24/7 store

MORE than 440 people visited or contacted Norwood National Pharmacies at night in its first week operating 24/7, showing a strong demand for after-hours medication and health advice.

Norwood National Pharmacies is South Australia's first 24/7 pharmacy operating under a new State Govt scheme, with 384 people visiting the pharmacy, located in central Adelaide, between 10pm and 8am from Sun, 04 Feb to Sun, 11 Feb.

A further 65 people called after hours for advice from pharmacists. More than 240 prescriptions were dispensed to after-hours customers for medications, including antibiotics, for pain relief and migraine medication.

Pharmacists were busy giving advice over-the-counter and over the phone on UTIs, children's pain relief, infant colic treatments, baby formula, COVID tests, cold and flu treatments and antihistamines.

The staff also gave advice on how to use medications, including to one patient with an inhaler and spacer for asthma, who had recently been discharged from the hospital, along with a number of other inhalers for asthma helping to prevent potential visits to an emergency department.

Women and couples used the 24/7 pharmacy the most, followed by seniors and young adults.

National Pharmacies CEO Vito Borrello said the number of people from across Adelaide coming through the door after hours in the first week of 24/7 trading had highlighted the need for extended pharmacy services.

"Our expert pharmacists have been able to assist worried parents, carers, shift workers and others in the community who previously



would have had to seek help elsewhere," said Borrello.

"We've been delighted by the response to our 24/7 service and look forward to continuing to serve the needs of our community when they need it, day or night," he said.

Health and Wellbeing Minister Chris Picton said the gov't had been "blown away" by the response from South Australians who have accessed the new late-night pharmacy service.

"These people may have had to otherwise go to an emergency department to get the medication they required," said Picton.

Two more 24/7 pharmacies will soon open to service Adelaide's northern and southern regions.

A community pharmacist will be on staff 24 hours a day at each of the three pharmacies to provide specialist health advice, dispense medicines and provide professional pharmacy services.

The three pharmacies will also have added security including on-site security guards overnight.

In another important pharmacy expansion to the scope of practice, from next month, South Australian women aged 18-65 with uncomplicated urinary tract infections will be able to access antibiotic treatment through participating pharmacies, without needing to visit a doctor.

And from May, eligible women will also be able to visit a local pharmacy to access a resupply of their oral contraceptive pill, without needing a doctor's appointment. JG



Dispensary Corner

PEOPLE climbing Mount Everest will now have to clear up their own poo and bring it back to base camp to be disposed of, authorities have said.

"Our mountains have begun to stink," Mingma Sherpa, chairman of Pasang Lhamu rural municipality, told the BBC.

The municipality, which covers most of the Everest region, has introduced the new rule as part of wider measures being implemented this year.

Due to extreme temperatures, excrement left on Everest does not fully degrade.

While there are no official figures it estimated there could be around three tonnes of human excrement between camp one at the bottom of Everest and camp four, towards the summit.

"We are getting complaints that human stools are visible on rocks and some climbers are falling sick," said Mingma.

Climbers attempting Mount Everest will be asked to buy so-called poo bags at base camp, which will be "checked upon their return".

Stephan Keck, an international mountain guide who also organises expeditions to Mt Everest, said the South Col area has gained a reputation as an "open toilet".

At 7,906 metres high, South Col serves as the base before climbers attempt to reach the Everest and Lhotse summits.

Here, the terrain is very windswept.

"There is hardly any ice and snow, so you will see human stools all around," Keck said.

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