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with Vitamin C to aid absorption.*
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For use when iron deficiency or iron deficiency anaemia has been diagnosed by your doctor and a therapeutic iron supplement is recommended. Always read the label and follow the directions for use. If symptoms persist, worsen or change unexpectedly, talk to your health professional. *Vitamin C has been shown to enhance the absorption of iron when taken together.



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

Tas pilot training

WITH mid-Feb as the start date for the Tasmanian Community Pharmacist Pilot Program for uncomplicated cystitis, the Australasian College of Pharmacy is offering the state's community pharmacists CPD-accredited training so they can provide treatment for the condition.

Pharmacies and pharmacists must be registered with the Tasmania Community Pharmacist Pilot Program to participate (as eligibility conditions apply).

Prior to providing the service, pharmacists will need to be formally certified by the state's Health Dept as authorised health professionals.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Vic Govt extends continued dispensing

THE Victorian Govt has expanded continued dispensing measures in response to widespread flooding in the state's central region.

Introduction of the Public Health Emergency Order 25 yesterday aligns with the Commonwealth Govt's National Health (Continued Dispensing) Determination made in Dec 2023, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) stated.

It said it expands access to more than 750 PBS-listed molecules for people in emergencies who cannot access their prescription or get in touch with their regular prescriber. The Order is set to expire in Feb.

PSA Victoria branch President Dr Amy Page welcomed the Emergency Order, saying that it allowed pharmacists to continue supporting patients' health.

"Continued dispensing plays a crucial role in maintaining the continuity of care for patients, particularly in natural disasters where people can be separated from their regular medicines.



"We know that this is only becoming more common with the effects of climate change."

She added that the temporary expansion of continued dispensing is vital in ensuring access to essential medications without unnecessary delays or interruptions during the current floods.

However, making continued dispensing arrangements permanent for all medicines, for example, would allow pharmacists to take a proactive role in the post-disaster health of their

communities, urged Page.

"We cannot wait for natural disasters to happen before we put measures in place to protect the health and wellbeing of our communities," said Page.

PSA National President Dr Fei Sim (pictured) also again urged the Federal Govt to work with state and territory govts to permanently protect emergency access to meds.

"Regulations should be in place to support the safe and effective use of medicines, not hinder access to them," Sim said.

"Our nation's fragmented approach is affecting the care we can provide patients, preventing continued access to essential medicines and disrupting care when people are already vulnerable to further illness.

"The PSA firmly believes that all PBS General Schedule medicines should be permanently included in continued dispensing arrangements to avoid delays in emergency situations," Sim concluded. *JG*

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Dispensary Corner

KLEENEX is set to disappear from Canadian shelves, *CBC* has reported last week.

It was surprising news, since Kleenex has been a staple in the country since the 1920s.

The Kleenex brand name was coined and marketed by the genius adman Albert Lasker.

He had discovered women weren't using it for makeup removal, but rather they were blowing their noses with it.

He took this finding back to Kleenex's maker Kimberly-Clark, saying the tissues could replace handkerchiefs.

As it happened, the company's Technical Head Ernst Mahler suffered from hayfever, a condition all too familiar in pharmacies everywhere.

Mahler loved the idea. Lasker coined the slogan, "Don't put a cold in your pocket".

Kleenex sales doubled in the first year, fast forward today and the brand is the number one facial tissue in the world.

So why is Kleenex tissues exiting Canada?

The answer, as always, comes down to profit, or lack thereof.

Kleenex was made at one single Kimberly-Clark manufacturing facility in Huntsville, Ontario.

Shipping from there across the country and bringing more product up from the US was proving too costly.

Inflation was another problem. The gap left by Kleenex is good news for Scotties tissues.

With Kleenex gone, its 16% market share might just fall into Scotties' lap, and that's nothing to sneeze at.

CAPS slams funding cuts to Supercare

WITH the last of the Supercare Pharmacies closing their 24-hour pharmacy services throughout Victoria, the Community and Pharmacy Support Group (CAPS) has once again "condemned" the state gov't's decision to cut funding.

CAPS stated that these cuts have made it "impossible" for pharmacies to sustain the extended hours, leaving Victorians with "no option" of accessible medication and advice from any pharmacies after hours (*PD* 05 Jan).

Representatives from CAPS have also remarked that the current financial challenges that pharmacies across Australia are facing as a result of 60-day dispensing (60DD) have made it impossible for small pharmacies to cover the penalty rates and staffing costs necessary to maintain 24-hour pharmacy operations.

"The cuts are disappointing, as other state govts have chosen to invest in 24-hour pharmacies rather than reduce funding," said CAPS spokesperson Christine Kelly.

CAPS has urged the Federal Govt to lead the way for state govts by creating productive policies that benefit the pharmacy industry and its patients, as the effects of the



60DD policy continues to affect the viability of community pharmacies.

Kelly added that the Victorian Gov't's cuts to 24-hour pharmacy operations are another funding cut to add to the list that is causing "irreparable damage" to the whole pharmacy industry.

"Pharmacies cannot even consider opening 24 hours a day when recent policy decisions are making it difficult to keep staff employed and the lights on for even the existing daytime opening hours," she explained.

Cutting funding to services such as 24-hour operations will only result in pharmacies having to make the necessary changes to remain viable, stated CAPS.

"Over the past year, we have seen nothing but reductions in funding to pharmacy, which is undoubtedly

a short-sighted strategy," said Kelly.

"These cuts put patients in a dangerous and potentially life-threatening predicament, forced to risk their health waiting it out until a pharmacy opens up in the morning, or to seek assistance in the overcrowded hospital system where medical professionals are already struggling."

The Albanese Govt promised a sustainable model where pharmacies can provide more to their communities before 01 Mar 2024, and "it is becoming increasingly likely that this promise will not be kept," cautioned CAPS.

Kelly said the group remains determined to create a voice for the concerns of pharmacists across Australia as they embark on what looks like a progressively challenging year ahead. *JG*

Global drug use

RESEARCHERS from The University of Queensland (UQ) have launched the world's biggest drug survey, to gain insight into illicit substance use around the globe.

This year the survey is led by Dr Cheneal Puljevic from UQ's School of Public Health.

It will also be the first Global Drug Survey to ask questions about the use of illicit tobacco.

To learn more **CLICK HERE**.

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