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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from Glucojel.

No more allowed

AS PART of the reforms to the regulation of vaping products, the TGA stated that the Advertising Permission for Nicotine has been repealed.

This means that pharmacies can no longer advertise the availability of prescription nicotine to their customers.

The advertising permission was introduced to temporarily support the changes to the regulation of nicotine that were made in Oct 2021.

The scheduling changes have now been in place for more than two years and with further reforms to vaping products coming into effect, the TGA has determined that it is appropriate to repeal the advertising permission.

Tas palliative care program launched

EIGHTY-THREE pharmacies have signed up to ensure palliative care patients in Tas who choose to stay at home can readily access end-of-life medications from their local community pharmacy as needed, with more to come on board.

Announced by the state's Health Minister Guy Barnett in Launceston yesterday, the Community Pharmacy in Palliative Care Tasmania (ComPPaCT) program supports community pharmacies to continuously stock essential palliative care medicines.

Pharmacies that sign up will be identified on the Guild's 'Find a Pharmacy' website and will display a ComPPaCT window decal.

Fully funded CPD accredited training for pharmacists around palliative care and the core medicines is being developed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and Primary Health and will be rolled out over the coming months.

PSA Tasmanian branch President



David Peachey said the joint approach demonstrated a commitment to improving palliative care for all Tasmanians.

"Timely access to essential medicines is essential to a quality end-of-life journey for patients and their families," Peachey said.

Palliative medications are needed within hours, not days, which is why it is so important that they are easily accessible to all within the community, he explained.

"Having more Tasmanian

pharmacists educated and trained to supply palliative medicines means that we can make their safe and quality use more accessible to more people at the end of their lives," commented Peachey.

Guild's Tasmanian Branch President Helen O'Byrne said that many terminally ill people want to remain at home for end-of-life care.

"To be able to remain in their own home and not have to be admitted to hospital or go into hospice care, patients must be able to access the palliative care medicines they need from their local community pharmacy," O'Byrne added.

PSA National President Dr Fei Sim also welcomed the move, remarking, "pharmacists will increase collaboration and coordination of local palliative care services, reducing unnecessary hospital presentations".

"We look forward to evolving the support for pharmacists within the palliative care team as part of the ComPPaCT initiative," Sim said. JG

PSA24 will help connect you to peers

THE PSA24 will be held from 02 to 04 Aug at the International Convention Centre Sydney offering over 40 curated educational sessions.

In collaboration with the Australian Pharmaceutical Science Association, the PSA24 will display your abstracts in two categories, research papers and practice pearls, with the call for submissions opening on 26 Feb and closing on 02 Jun.

There will be several networking opportunities such as the Members Breakfast, Welcome Reception, Early Career Pharmacists Party, PSOTY Grand Final and the Gala Dinner.

The popular Pharmacy Shark Tank will return to help you pitch your ground-breaking idea to a panel of sharp-minded leaders and investors.

To book your tickets for the conference [CLICK HERE](#).



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Dispensary Corner

AN ONTARIO woman's unusual talent earned her a Guinness World Record when she blew a 44.1-decibel whistle using her nose, reported *UPI*.

LuLu Lotus of Mississauga, who learned she could whistle using her nose at the age of seven, earned the record for the loudest nose whistle in the world when she visited Aercoustics Engineering Ltd and had her whistle loudness measured in a specialised room designed for precision recording.

Lotus, who has very clear sinuses with no need for any over-the-counter meds, said she may make another attempt to beat her own record.

"I would love to attempt an even louder whistle," she told Guinness World Records.

The nose whistler said her five-year-old son is following in her footsteps and recently discovered his own nose-whistling ability.

"It would be a dream come true if he beat my record one day," she said.

No news of 8CPA progress

LACK of progress on the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA) from the Federal Govt has been flagged by spokesperson for the Community and Pharmacy Support Group (CAPS), Emil Demyane, in a video where he also emphasised the significance of the Canberra protest planned for the 06 Feb (*PD* 10 Jan).

Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler announced in Aug last year that the 8CPA negotiations with the Pharmacy Guild would begin early.

Demyane stated in the video that since then, there has been an absence of communication from the Govt with no indication of a finalised deal by the nominated date of 01 Mar 2024.

He said, "this Govt has made a mess, they don't listen, they don't care, and they clearly don't understand the detriment of not putting together an 8CPA".

The prospect of productive talks caused CAPS to pull back late last year on protests to give the govt a chance to develop the 8CPA, but with the Mar deadline looming, Demyane noted that the inaction by the Govt will only cause increasing fear and concern



through the pharmacy industry.

"I'm scared for my business and I'm sure the rest of you are," Demyane commented.

"It's jeopardising patient health, it's jeopardising the pockets of our patients, and it's jeopardising the viability of community pharmacy in Australia," he warned.

Demyane urged CAPS members to be proactive and spread the word regarding the protest planned for 06 Feb on the lawns of Parliament House in Canberra, and to be prepared for potential announcements on the day. *JG*

Valproate study

THE European Medicines Agency commissioned a new study which suggests there may be an increased risk of neuro-developmental disorders in children fathered by men on valproate medication in the three months prior to conception, compared with men on other anti-seizure medicines.

In the study, around five children in 100 born to fathers treated with valproate around the time of conception were diagnosed with a neuro-developmental disorder.

This was compared to three in 100 children whose fathers took other antiseizure meds lamotrigine or levetiracetam around conception.

The risk was much smaller than the risk associated with valproate in pregnancy.

The study results have been received and are being rigorously analysed, stated the Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, and independent expert advice will be sought on valproate from the Commission on Human Medicines.

More grants funding for endometriosis

THE Federal Government has announced the recipients of the \$2.019 million in grant funding given to support women living with endometriosis.

The Australian Coalition for Endometriosis will receive \$255k to drive improvements and support in the endo community.

Endometriosis Australia will receive \$255k to build on their work, \$787k to develop workplace guidelines, and \$286k

to reach priority groups with accessible and fit-for-purpose resources to help improve lives.

QENDO will get \$436k to develop a national mentor program.

The funding is part of the Govt's \$58.3 million package for endometriosis and pelvic pain, announced in the 2022-23 Budget, which included the establishment of 22 dedicated Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinics across Australia.

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