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\$26m plus revenue lost in tranche one

KEY pharmacy software partner StrongRoom AI told **Pharmacy Daily** that it has estimated the revenue loss due to the implementation of tranche one of 60 Day Dispensing (60DD) to be at least \$26,320,501.

In its sample data that covers 6,000 pharmacies around the country, there was a 16.4% uptake of 60DD in Feb, and a 14.1% uptake during Jan this year.

The uptake percentage has been steadily increasing month-on-month due to delays in uptake by prescribers but also due to a cross-

over period where many patients' existing 30-day prescriptions are still valid for a few months before they require a new prescription, explained StrongRoom AI.

The data further showed that while 44.82% of the uptake received no benefit from the policy, the remaining 55.18% did benefit from the 60DD policy change.

This calculation already considered scripts that were not dispensed to patients, such as various doctor's bag items.

The 44.82% who did not benefit from the policy included 20.63% of

people who are concession holders who have reached the safety net and, therefore, pay zero dollars, and the 24.19% of those whose scripts were dispensed as private or non-PBS, even though they were originally eligible for the PBS, and so did not benefit from the policy as the pricing of these scripts is not set by the PBS, commented StrongRoom AI.

Tranche two was announced on Fri (**PD** Fri Breaking News) listing several hundred medicines covering a range of medical conditions that can now be double dispensed in pharmacy.

Conditions cover menopause, migraine, arthritis and more

StrongRoom AI stated there are 112 drugs, out of the 485 unique drugs in the tranche two list, that are already on the TGA medicines shortage list, and an additional 61 drugs that are on the anticipated shortage list. *JG*

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Healthcare Professionals: Review the full Product Information (PI) before prescribing or recommending DermAid 1% cream, DermAid 1% solution, DermAid 1% spray. Full PI is available from Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd and can be accessed at ebs.tga.gov.au

References: 1. Grieve KA, Barnes TM. Increased bioavailability of hydrocortisone dissolved in a cream base. *Australas J Dermatol.* 2015; 56(2):e30–4. 2. Van Zuurén EJ, Fedorowicz Z, Christensen R, Larjisen APM, Arents BWM (2017) Emollients and moisturisers for eczema. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD012119. DOI: 10.1002/14651858. CD012119.pub2.

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Today's issue of **PD Pharmacy Daily** today features three pages of news plus a full page from **Platform Alliance Group**.

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TGA wants tight control on 'Ozempic copies'

THE TGA began a targeted consultation process last week to remove all medicines containing GLP-1 receptor agonist analogues (GLP-1 RAs), including semaglutide-like medicines known as 'Ozempic copies', from the pharmacist extemporaneous compounding exemptions.

While the expansion of the scale of manufacturing of compounded goods in Australian pharmacies reflects international trends, the TGA stated public health and safety concerns have emerged around the complexity and commercial scale of some compounding of extemporaneously prepared GLP-1 RAs, which are sterile medicines containing high-risk active substances.

As part of a proposal to change the *Therapeutic Goods Regulations 1990*, the TGA has met with state and territory chief health officers and chief pharmacists and the Australian

Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) to discuss the ongoing issue.

There was unanimous agreement that current regulatory arrangements regarding compounded medicines should be strengthened to provide improved public protection, with broad support expressed for a national approach to restrict compounding of medicines containing GLP-1 RAs.

Monash University's Biomedicine Discovery Institute's obesity expert Michael Cowley supports the TGA's move.

"I support the amendment because the compounded versions are similar to, but not the same as, the clinically tested and approved drugs.

"The compounded versions have not been clinically tested in the same rigorous way as the approved versions have," commented Cowley.

TWC wins top retail award

TERRYWHITE Chemmart has just been named the Customer Experience of the Year at the Retailer Awards for a second year.

The gong celebrated TerryWhite's CareClinic program, which featured a wide range of health services from vaccinations and treatment for Urinary Tract Infections to specialised clinics for diabetes, sleep apnoea and more.

One of the judges, Peter Kennedy from the Commonwealth Bank, said TerryWhite Chemmart sets the pace for what the pharmacy of the future comprises.

"It puts the trust back into the local pharmacy as a first point of call for non-emergency medical services," Kennedy commented.

The CareClinic program provides pharmacists with training and a framework to effectively operate as the practice evolves and more services become available through the community pharmacy network.

"We are committed to empowering pharmacists and



making a positive impact on communities across Australia," said Brenton Hart, Chief Pharmacist at TerryWhite Chemmart.

"This award is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the teams, as well as our unwavering commitment to supporting pharmacists to practice at their full scope and realise their role in the healthcare ecosystem." JHM

Pictured: Accepting the prestigious award on behalf of the network is Janice Hoogveen, Head of Marketing along with Natalie Lindquist, Commercial Development Manager.



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Dispensary Corner

SAN Francisco fentanyl users have formed a habit of ransacking a “daringly delicious” Salt & Straw ice cream shop in Hayes Valley, stealing five to 10 pints (2-4kg) every day from the store’s freezer, according to store manager Brennan Curtis.

Studies have shown a strong correlation between opioid usage and sugar intake, with drug users saying sugar helps them combat withdrawals as the effects of fentanyl are shorter than other drugs.

Curtis said his store is increasingly under siege by sugar fiends, with some swiping five pints at a time, and many of whom are repeat offenders.

He said he’s noticed that their favourite flavours are Chocolate Goopy Brownie, followed by Salted, Malted Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough.

Ice cream, candy and other sugary items are a favourite at the city’s illegal night markets, with vendors selling duffel bags gushing with sweet treats faster than dealers can shift fentanyl.

Tasmania makes UTI treatment easy

TASMANIAN women can now seek treatment for a suspected Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) at their local pharmacy (*PD* 12 Feb).

Appropriately trained pharmacists working in community pharmacies and participating in the Tasmanian Community Pharmacist Pilot Program will now be able to provide safe and effective treatment for the condition for women within the program’s approved age range of 18 to 64.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia’s Tasmanian Branch President, Helen O’Byrne, said she was pleased that the Tasmanian Government has recognised the accessibility of community pharmacies as well as the capacity of pharmacists to provide effective first-line treatment for uncomplicated UTIs.

“Utilising the skills of pharmacists working within the existing community pharmacy infrastructure is such a positive step forward for accessible healthcare in our state,” O’Byrne commented.

“Our patients have always recognised the intrinsic value of their local community pharmacy in the health ecosystem; however in the past it has often been overlooked as a provider of primary



care by bureaucrats at both state and federal levels.”

“I would also like to thank the stakeholder group for supporting the recommendations from the Government’s Independent Review into Tasmanian Pharmacist’s Scope of Practice,” she added.

A consumer awareness marketing campaign to support the new UTI service will run on social media, in pharmacies, on buses and in TV commercials highlighting treatment is ‘Easy Peesy’ at your local community pharmacy.

O’Byrne said that the campaign is aimed at highlighting the service

participating pharmacies can provide in a fun and simple way.

“The Tasmanian UTI Pilot will run for 12 months, with an evaluation of the service to be undertaken during this time, to ensure that it is meeting the needs of the patients,” O’Byrne said.

Pharmacists in Tasmania have undertaken accredited training which has been approved by the Tasmanian Department of Health after consultation with the Pharmacist’ Scope of Practice reference group which includes GPs, epidemiologists, pharmacists and consumer representatives. *JG*

Low milk supply linked to no size change

A NEW study has revealed why some new mothers produce less breast milk than others.

Led by La Trobe University researchers, and published in *PLOS One* on Fri, the survey of almost 500 women in Australia, US, and the UK, found that women with low milk supply often did not notice an increase in breast size during pregnancy.

They could also have had breast hypoplasia or may have been

overweight as a teenager.

Study lead Renee Kam said, “this study showed that 72 per cent of women with low milk supply reported that their breasts did not change appearance during pregnancy”.

“Most women’s breasts increase as their pregnancy progresses, so lack of change could now be considered a sign that milk supply may become an issue after the baby is born.”

Fined for importing unregistered meds

THE TGA has issued two fines totalling \$37,560 to Queensland-based company Akula Foods Pty Ltd for the alleged unlawful import of unregistered complementary medicines.

It is alleged the company attempted to import Himalaya branded Ayurvedic medicines for wholesale supply to retailers.

One of the products, Himalaya-branded Neem tablets, contained the ingredient *Azadirachta*

indica, commonly known as neem, informed the TGA.

Neem (except debitterised neem seed oil) is categorised as a Schedule 10 substance in the Poisons Standard.

This means it is considered dangerous to human health and is prohibited from supply and use in Australia.

The other product is not included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.



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