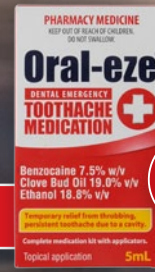


Don't suffer the pain of toothache.

Available from Symbion, Sigma, API & CH2

Always read the label and follow the directions for use.



For the temporary relief of pain from toothache.

Bespoke offering

MEITHEAL Services is offering to help increase revenue and efficiencies to help pharmacies deal with expansion in scope of practice.

Their services aim to cover all models of pharmacy.

See more on **page four**.



MedAdvisor Web Solutions

Digital Grants Now Open

Only 25 Digital Grants available.

Click for more information or submit your application.

Apply Now

Qld Bill angers GP body

THE Cost of Living and Economics Committee's report released on Fri has recommended for the Queensland *Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023* to be passed, angering the peak GP body who wants its key provisions overturned.

The committee has agreed to the following key bill provisions, among others, which include establishing a regulatory council as a statutory body to administer the Act and transfer regulatory functions from Queensland Health to it.

Further, establishing a licensing framework for the ownership of and interests in pharmacy businesses; and prohibiting the regulatory council from issuing a licence if the pharmacy business is located in a supermarket.

However, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has today called for Queensland's pharmacy ownership and location rules to be scrapped.

The call comes following the College's recent submission to the Queensland Parliamentary Economic and Governance Committee inquiry on the *Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill 2023*, which seeks to repeal the *Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2001* and replace it with a modern framework for the regulation of pharmacy ownership (**PD 27 Feb**).

The RACGP stated it has consistently called for changes to rules governing the pharmacy sector, and urged govt to "overhaul outdated and anti-competitive pharmacy ownership and location laws, which limit competition and make it harder for people to access

discounted pharmacy services, resulting in higher costs and limited choice for consumers".

RACGP Queensland Chair, Dr Cathryn Hester, called for overdue reform of the sector.

"Review after review after review has recommended the removal of pharmacy location and ownership rules, but the current *Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill* will keep them in place," she said.

"There is no longer any logical reason why the pharmacy sector should be protected and treated differently," said Hester.

"The pharmacy owner lobby group claims that consumers won't feel comfortable receiving healthcare advice in other settings, like supermarkets."

However, many pharmacies are operating in these settings overseas, she added.

Hester mentioned that "the pharmacy owner lobby claim also belies the fact almost 40% of pharmacy revenue comes from retail products, non-prescription medicine sales and non-evidence-based products unrelated to health, that no GP would recommend".

"GPs and practice teams value the work of pharmacists and pharmacy teams immensely, and we want to make sure all patients have the best access to pharmacy services." **JG**

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news plus full pages from:

- Meitheal Services
- Direct Chemist Outlet

Call out to switch

THE Discount Chemist group is seeking to expand its network and is calling on all interested pharmacy owners to "switch brands" and "compete against market leaders for increased success".

See more on the **back page**.

CONNECT WITH THE DIGITAL PATIENT



#APP2024
STAND
127

MedView

"Blooms didn't just support my journey to ownership; they made it possible. Without their backing and support, I honestly wouldn't be a pharmacy owner today—it's changed my life."

Join a community pharmacy network that shares your values, passion, and purpose.

Blooms THE CHEMIST
We go further together

joinbloomsthechemist.com.au





BP impacts brain

NEW research provides compelling evidence for clinical practice to direct efforts toward preventing white matter damage in patients with hypertension, to help protect against cognitive decline and dementia.

High blood pressure has a negative effect on many aspects of health and is also known to affect both the grey and white matter in the brain during the ageing process.

Grey matter is where the brain cells exist, whereas white matter constitutes the network of nerve fibres that provides the communication connection between different areas of grey matter.

The Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing study, led by Dr Jing Du and A/Prof Wei Wen and published today in *Hypertension*, suggested that compared with grey matter, white matter is more vulnerable to raised blood pressure.

"Because grey matter has a greater amount of small blood vessels, and therefore a greater supply of blood compared to white matter, we wanted to see if white matter is more susceptible to damage from reduced blood flow caused by high blood pressure," said Du.

The findings suggest that memory and thinking problems are more likely to occur as a result of high blood pressure's impact on white matter.

"Managing blood pressure effectively could help protect against cognitive decline and future efforts should focus on monitoring and managing white matter health in people with high blood pressure."

New asthma control tool



IN THE lead up to World Sleep Day (15 Mar), the National Asthma Council has released a new health professional resource today, outlining how to treat patients who present with poor asthma control and sleep disturbance issues.

According to Australian Asthma Handbook Committee member A/Prof Greg Katsoulotos, the resource is particularly valuable for treating patients with persistent coughing at night-time.

"Asthma symptoms during sleep or on waking indicate suboptimal asthma control and frequent nocturnal symptoms indicate increased risk of acute asthma exacerbations and should not be accepted as normal.

"The resource recommends that health professionals should consider stepping up asthma treatment with anti-inflammatory therapy in a patient with sleep disturbance due to asthma symptoms," he said.

Katsoulotos said nocturnal coughing can occur with or without wheezing and can be a sign of poor asthma control that needs to be addressed with patients who may mistake their cough for a virus or infection.

"Airway inflammation occurs in

asthma, so treatment of airway inflammation is just as important as treatment of airway infection.

"If one or two courses of antibiotics do not help, consider that there may be unstable asthma or an alternative diagnosis.

"Inhaled anti-inflammatory therapy is the cornerstone of asthma treatment, not antibiotics or SABA [Short-Acting Beta Agonists] alone," he explained.

The sleep resource also highlighted key asthma practice points and encourages the use of an asthma symptom tool such as the *Australian Asthma Handbook's* Asthma Control Test.

Katsoulotos said the resource also aims to increase awareness of other causes of coughing for people with asthma that may attract inappropriate use of oral steroids and multiple courses of antibiotics from misdiagnosis.

"Several medical conditions may contribute to both sleep disturbance and poorer asthma control, such as allergic rhinitis, obstructive sleep apnoea, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease and obesity and these should be investigated and managed simultaneously in patients," Katsoulotos concluded. JG

Kaneka wins big

KANEKA Corporation, the manufacturer of the evidence-based antioxidant Ubiquinol, has won the Annual Ingredient Cardiovascular Health Award at the Functional Foods for Wellness Summit (FFWS 2024) industry awards, held in Kuala Lumpur last week.

The FFWS Annual Ingredient Cardiovascular Award recognised Kaneka's contribution to supporting cardiovascular health with more than 45 years of research, 90-plus studies and over 80 patents that support the quality of its manufacturing.

Tsuyoshi Takakuwa, Head of Marketing and Sales at Kaneka, expressed his gratitude and excitement over the win.

"We are deeply honoured to receive this distinguished award from FFWS.

"It is a testament to our commitment to providing high-quality, evidence-based bioidentical Ubiquinol that supports cardiovascular health and overall wellbeing."

In Australia in 2020, there were an estimated 56,700 acute coronary events among people aged 25 and over, equivalent to around 155 events every day.

In 2021, coronary heart disease was the underlying cause of 17,300 deaths or 10% of all deaths, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare statistics.

Kaneka stated studies have shown that supplementing with ubiquinol has led to improvement in peripheral endothelial function in patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction and other cardiovascular issues.



A holistic 3-step Acne Control system with vitamin B5 + booster products to **clear skin from within.**



Dispensary Corner

MALE office workers at a telecoms firm in Tokyo have experienced simulated menstrual pain to help them become more sympathetic toward female colleagues ahead of last Fri's International Women's Day.

EXEO Group workers winced at a company event on Thu as a "perionoid" device sent electric signals via pads placed below the navel to stimulate the lower stomach muscles and induce a cramping sensation.

One employee, 26-year-old Masaya Shibasaki said, "I couldn't move".

"It hurt to the point where I couldn't stand.

"I now understand women have to work while fighting this pain every month, it's actually amazing how they can do that."

The device was developed by Nara Women's University and startup Osaka Heat Cool.

EXEO said it wants to create an environment where its more than 90% male workforce can be more supportive of female peers, including when it comes to taking menstrual leave.

Tas Libs say they will extend pill supply

THE announcement on Fri that a re-elected Liberal Government would allow pharmacists to supply the oral contraceptive pill to women with a current prescription for an extra year, has been welcomed by the Tasmanian Branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Branch President Helen O'Byrne said that women should have easier access to oral contraceptives and for many, taking the pill is a regular part of their health and wellbeing.

Currently, all pharmacists in Tasmania can only provide a limited amount of emergency supply of an oral contraceptive.

Patients are still required to visit their GP to receive a new script to continue a medicine that they may have been taking without complications for many years.

"Pharmacists are well placed to provide contraceptive services to women," O'Byrne said.

"While the Government's announcement is a step in the right direction, the Guild believes that pharmacists who have undergone further training should be able to initiate the oral contraceptive pill for healthy females."

"Most of my colleagues across Tasmania have experienced women coming to the pharmacy requesting



the 'morning after pill' to avoid a potential unplanned pregnancy."

O'Byrne explained that pharmacists who supply the emergency 'morning after pill' provide counselling and advice.

"They are very aware that there are many Tasmanian women of reproductive age who are currently not taking the pill."

"In many cases, it is due to women not having regular access to a GP," O'Byrne said.

She mentioned Tasmania has one of the highest rates of unplanned pregnancies, and the difficulties people have in accessing a GP in Tasmania, even more so in rural and regional areas.

"Increased out-of-pocket costs to see a GP also means that many women in the state are not receiving timely care."

O'Byrne added women tend to be higher users of the health system throughout their lives, due to menstruation, contraception, fertility, pregnancy and menopause and as pharmacists working in our local communities, "we are well placed to be able to better support healthcare access to the females in our community".

Tasmania has also commenced the 12-month Urinary Tract Infection Pilot to help women receive timely treatment for this condition (PD 04 Mar). JG

Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

CONSIS.C The latest in pharmacy robotic automation

No matter the size of your pharmacy, contact us for a confidential discussion to explore the options available.

www.willach.com.au
Tel: (03) 9429 8222
info@willach.com.au

find out more



Willach | Pharmacy Solutions



Chat to us at APP2024

Limited places left!

☎ 0447 008 968

[BOOK NOW](#)



Tailoring Pharmacy Success

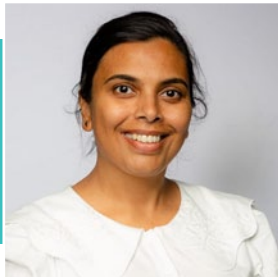
At Meitheal Services, we understand the evolving challenges of today's pharmacies. We will help you increase revenue, increase efficiencies in the execution of expanded scope of practice and improve workforce engagement, ensuring consistent services delivery to all of your customers. We offer unparalleled flexibility and expertise, ensuring that no matter where you are, or what model of pharmacy you have, we can provide the support and solutions you need.

Elevate Your Pharmacy With Meitheal Services

YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR MISSION



KRYSTI-LEE PATTERSON
Managing Director



SUMATI PRASAD
Head of
Learning & Development

Ask us how we can transform your pharmacy.

☎ 0447 008 968

✉ info@meithealservices.com.au

Why Choose Us:

Nationwide Flexibility



Ready to collaborate from any location, we're here to support pharmacies of all sizes and models, tailored to your unique circumstances.

Operational Excellence



We ensure your operations are streamlined and aligned with QCPP standards for consistent, quality service delivery.

Customised Solutions



Forget one-size-fits-all approaches. We listen and adapt to your specific needs, aiming for the outcomes you desire every time.

Strategic Advisory



With bespoke planning, we help you navigate the complexities of the pharmacy sector, leveraging your existing data without any hidden agendas.

Learning & Development



Our bespoke learning approach is designed to engage and upskill your team, addressing the specific needs of your frontline workforce.

Switch Brands!



Join us

To compete directly against the market leaders

Bring new life and success
to your Pharmacy by turning:



THIS

INTO

THIS



**DIRECT
CHEMIST
OUTLET**

**Discount
Chemist®**

For more information contact us today:

www.directchemistoutlet.com.au/join-us

Direct Chemist Outlet Support Centre

(03) 9562 0388 info@directchemistoutlet.com.au