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Today's issue of PD

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

TWC recognises

TERRYWHITE Chemmart has congratulated the winners of its Early Career Pharmacist of the Year, National Pharmacist of the Year and Community Innovation awards - see page three for more.

FIP digital events

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has several upcoming webinars, with topics including building safer care with patients, and ethical boundaries around AI in pharmacy education.

Non-members are welcome, and recordings are available to watch later - learn more [HERE](#).

Check RSV brand, authorities urge

IMMUNISATION providers are being alerted to increased reports of RSV vaccination errors, where Arexvy has been administered to pregnant women instead of Abrysvo, coinciding with the expanded use of RSV vaccines in older adults under the National Immunisation Program.

Health authorities stress that Abrysvo is the only RSV vaccine recommended for use in pregnancy under the NIP, while Arexvy is registered for use in older adults and should not be administered to pregnant women.

The errors have been attributed in part to the similarity of the brand names, and also the increased availability and use of RSV vaccines in different patient groups.

Vaccinators are advised to follow the 'six rights' of medication administration to prevent errors - right person, vaccine, dose, time, route and documentation.

Pharmacists should also clearly separate and label RSV vaccines

in the vaccine fridge, and store Arexvy apart from vaccines used in antenatal programs where possible.

MEANWHILE, as the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) searches for its next vaccination ambassador (PD 16 Jun), the inaugural holder of the role, Anna Theophilos, has encouraged others to apply.

"Twelve months ago, I put my hand up for a role I wasn't entirely sure I was ready for, and it's been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career," she said.

"From advocating for our profession to connecting with pharmacists across Australia and contributing to key conversations about the future of vaccination, it's been an incredible opportunity.

"If you're passionate about vaccination, advocacy, and improving patient care, I'd strongly encourage you to apply - Australia needs passionate pharmacists leading these conversations."

EOIs close 30 Jun - more [HERE](#). KB

APC seeks input on prescriber education

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has released the revised draft *Accreditation Standards for Pharmacist Prescriber Education Programs* and is inviting public feedback.

The revised standards reflect current practice and healthcare delivery, as well as relevant emerging practice and technologies, and play an important role in ensuring pharmacists are equipped with the education and skills required to safely and effectively prescribe medicines.

"The current standards have been successfully applied across jurisdictions, and these revisions are intended to reflect current practice while ensuring we continue to meet evolving needs and support the endorsement," said chief standards officer Kate Spencer.

Visit the consultation webpage [HERE](#) to have your say.



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Dispensary Corner

AN UNEXPECTED meeting of minds across the ideological divide has seen MAHA (Make America Healthy Again) 'moms' and Marxists take to woollen nappies for the supposed health of the baby and the planet, reports the *New York Post*.

Using wool nappies instead of disposables is said to reduce babies' exposure to potentially toxic chemicals and plastics, while also saving loads of water because they only need to be washed once a month.

Yes, you read right. The wool nappies are part of a two-part system comprising a washable liner, typically cotton, and the outer wool cover that holds it in place.

A paediatrician explained that when urine leakage comes into contact with lanolin in the wool, it breaks down into water and salt, and after removal and air drying, the nappies can be reused for four weeks or so.

Obviously leakages of the more solid variety will require the nappy to be washed.

While they are not cheap, costing as much as US\$100 (A\$140) a piece, lifetime costs are comparable to disposable nappies and there is a booming secondhand market for them.

RTPM cuts high-risk scripts

VICTORIA'S real-time prescription monitoring program (RTPM) SafeScript has been linked with a significant reduction in patients being prescribed high-risk medicines such as opioids and benzodiazepines by multiple doctors, according to an Australian-first study recently published in the *MJA*.

In Australia, prescription drug monitoring programs alert prescribers when a patient has been prescribed high-risk monitored medicines - including opioids, benzodiazepines and stimulants - from four or more doctors within a 90-day period.

The researchers from Monash University set out to examine the association between SafeScript's implementation and changes in multiple prescriber rates, analysing more than 6.7 million prescriptions for over 810,000 patients across the state between 2017 and 2023.

When the program was introduced voluntarily in Apr 2019, there was an instant 15% drop in patients seeing four or more prescribers for monitored medicines, with further declines over the following year.

Prior to RTPM, 85% of multiple prescriber episodes involved at least one opioid prescription, and people who were older, male, living in metropolitan areas, or had a documented substance use disorder.

The study also found that 96% of multiple prescriber cases occurred within the same clinic.



Study lead Dr Louisa Picco said the findings pointed to clear benefits of prescription monitoring for patients prescribed high-risk medicines.

She noted that before SafeScript, it was difficult for prescribers to identify when multiple doctors were prescribing high-risk medicines to the same patient - even within the same clinic.

"These findings highlight the important role prescription drug monitoring programs can play in helping doctors identify patients receiving high-risk medicines from multiple prescribers," Dr Picco said.

Prescription drug monitoring programs can support better continuity of care, with improved patient outcomes and reduced mortality, she explained.

"The goal of these alerts is to support a clinical conversation, not to cut people off from their medication," Dr Picco pointed out.

"Abrupt changes to a patient's treatment have been linked to serious harms, including overdose and transition from prescription to illicit drugs - gradual, patient-centred approaches are essential."

Read the study **HERE**. KB

TGA and CMO warn over peptides

IN A joint statement with Australia's Chief Medical Officer (CMO), the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued warnings about the growing availability, promotion and use of unapproved peptide products (**PD 14 Apr**), urging people not to buy or use them.

Serious adverse effects associated with the use of unapproved peptides include liver damage, severe allergic reactions requiring hospitalisation, inflammation, and other health complications requiring medical attention.

Many of these products are supplied as powders or injections in poorly labelled or unmarked vials, making it difficult or impossible to verify their ingredients, or the safety of how they have been manufactured.

ABC News has reported that senior doctors in Melbourne have come across multiple cases of life-threatening illnesses resulting from people taking counterfeit weightloss peptide retatrudide, including six cases of acute liver toxicity.

Retatrudide manufacturer Eli Lilly said it is still conducting clinical trials on the drug, and it has not been approved for use in any country.



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