

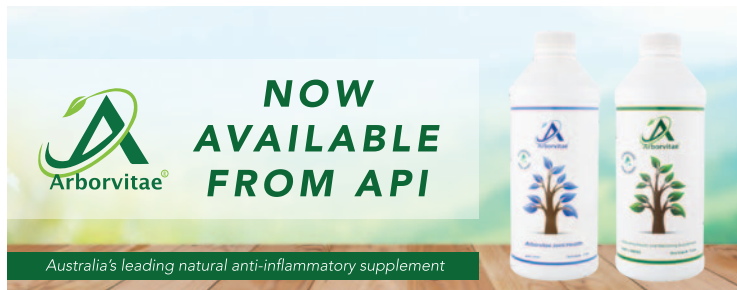
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Pharmacies braced for more bushfires

PHARMACISTS working on the NSW Far South Coast and Southern Tablelands are bracing themselves for a second week of severe fire conditions, and the potential for interruptions to supplies.

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily*, Capital Chemist Group Business Manager, Andrew Topp, said up to eight pharmacies in Braidwood, Ulladulla, Batemans Bay and Narooma had been impacted in some way by the fires since late last month.

"The Braidwood fire to the west of the town saw Bente Hart, one of the owners, defending her property, so she was unable to work on Sat (30 Nov)," he said.

"The replacement pharmacist from Canberra was unable to get through due to road closures so the pharmacy could not open on Sat.

"Conditions did settle and on Sun the pharmacy opened to fill public need.

"Access to Braidwood has been intermittent with road closures on and off and the fire is still active to the north, south and west of town.

"Meanwhile, 50km to the east, the Currowan fire to the north of Batemans Bay flared, by Mon it was large enough to have blocked the



northern access highway into the Bay - the Princes Highway has been mostly closed for a week now.

"Villages along the coast (Bawley Point, Kioloa, North and South Durras, were evacuated north to Ulladulla or south to Batemans Bay; the pharmacies in the Bay saw numbers of evacuees without medications and worked hard to fill their needs after consulting with their regular pharmacies or doctors to get appropriate informations and prescriptions to supply."

Topp said the fires had seen an increase in demand for asthma medication, eye drops and hydration products as patients prepared.

He added coastal pharmacies had missed deliveries on a couple of days as a result of road closures, but Symbion, their main wholesaler, had re-routed to a longer drive to access Batemans Bay from the west rather than the north.

"The pharmacies in the Bay have also struggled with staff unable to attend because of road closures - this got significantly worse on Thu as the Currowan fire reached the coast and started heading south towards the northern suburbs of Batemans Bay," he said.

"The town is still on the highest degree of alert with surrounding villages inaccessible and/or evacuated, and a return to hot and windy weather early this week."

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a front cover wrap from **Webstercare**.

FIP's world of opportunity

AUSTRALIAN pharmacists need to embrace the chance to make a difference to the profession globally through international organisations, International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Young Pharmacists Group (YPG) steering committee President-Elect, Dr Renly Lim believes.

The University of South Australia School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences Research Supervisor, was one of three Australians elected to the YPG (PD 05 Dec).

Lim told *Pharmacy Daily* she would like to see more Australian pharmacists involved with FIP and the YPG.

"FIP actively influence policy and decision making at an international level through partnerships with global bodies like the World Health Organisation," she said.

"It is imperative that Australian pharmacists recognise this an opportunity to make a difference in the global arena."

As President-Elect, Lim said the YPG will be looking to expand its engagement with key stakeholder groups, including the Global Health Workforce Network, and regional and national YPGs.

"We would also like to develop mentorship and internship programmes to provide opportunities for young pharmacists, in particular pharmacists from low and middle income countries," she said.

"We have started running a monthly online leadership development program which aims to develop the pharmacy and pharmaceutical leaders of the future."

Labor backs Data-matching Bill

THE Australian Labor Party has voiced its support for the Federal Government's Health Legislation Amendment (Data-matching and Other Matters) Bill 2019, in the Senate.

The legislation will allow the Commonwealth to data-match across the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) for Medicare compliance.

Labor Senator, Carol Brown, backed the Bill, saying it would "help to identify and take action against the very small number of health providers who make inappropriate Medicare claims."

Senator Brown welcomed the Government's assurance that compliance activities under the data-matching legislation



would not be automated, which she said "would be akin to the disastrous robodebt scheme".

While she supported the Bill, Senator Brown warned fraud was not the only threat facing Medicare.

"The real risk to Medicare is the cuts and neglect we have seen from this Government over its three terms," she said.

E-script webinars

THE Australian Digital Health Agency will host two webinars on the topic of electronic prescribing this week.

The online sessions target organisations planning to develop e-prescribing functionality, or those who might be interested in an introduction to the concept.

On Thu 12 Dec the "Electronic Prescribing - Introduction" webinar will take place from 1.30pm-3pm AEDT - to register for online attendance **CLICK HERE**.

And the following day, Fri 13 Dec another session titled "Electronic Prescribing - Architecture and Conformance Overview" will take place from 1.30-3pm - **REGISTER HERE**.

EFC info review

THE Health Department has updated the publicly available information on the Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy initiative, with links to EFC medicine item lists for public & private hospitals - pbs.gov.au.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is



Marta Stybowski, pharmacist and General Manager, Pharmacium.

When was the last time you did a spot check of your pharmacy? Here are 3 quick tips to get you started

EVER driven home, deep in thought, only to pull into the driveway with the realisation that you can't actually recall half of the journey? Working in the same four walls of your pharmacy can have a similar effect and decrease your eye for detail - so here are three quick tips to help you get a fresh perspective for a spot check of your pharmacy:

Take 5

Step out of your daily routine – when was the last time you stood back at the front of the pharmacy and really looked at how it presented? Have you ever stood in a different corner of the shop and really taken in what you see? Ditch the uniform, grab a notepad and observe.

Write a list

Think about what you look at when next shopping. Clean, well-stocked shelves? Presentation of service counters? Presentation of staff? Uniforms? Clear pricing? Write a check list of these 'first impression' elements.

Schedule and delegate

Make it part of your teams' SOP's to reference the checklist – create a scheduled roster for regular spot checks of the pharmacy.

A repetitive daily routine can impair our ability to notice the things that impact the 'look and feel' of the pharmacy. Faded shelf tags, tatty promo posters and tired dusty looking stock detract from giving your customer the best first impression – and it's this small stuff that can have a big impact, so start your check list today!

Pharmacist saves life

A **QUICK-THINKING** Irish pharmacist is shining a light on the role of the profession after saving a man's life with an EpiPen last month.

Tanya Knox, administered the adrenaline when a man presented at the pharmacy with a severe rash, facial swelling and was complaining that his throat was tightening.

Having seen the condition the patient was in, Knox grabbed an EpiPen and brought him into a consultation room away where she injected an initial dose of adrenaline while a colleague called the emergency services.

Speaking to local newspaper, the *Tipperary Star*, Knox said the experience showed the important role pharmacists can play in primary care.

"Having received my qualifications in 2012, I was proud to have earned the title of pharmacist knowing it meant something profound in the community," she said.

"As a pharmacist I wanted to make a difference and help others.

"By administering the appropriate medical care to this passer-by, I made a vital, lifesaving intervention.

"The patient's life was saved



within two minutes - he would not have made it to hospital [without the shot of adrenaline]."

Knox also noted that Irish pharmacy was facing similar workforce challenges to the profession in Australia, with many graduates pursuing careers in other sectors, reducing numbers across the country.

"A lot of pharmacists are choosing other career paths," she said.

"And if things don't change fewer pharmacists means fewer pharmacies, which means that many have died."

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Travel & Cruise Weekly



Dispensary Corner

WE'RE sure it seemed like a good idea at the time.

Japanese department store giant Daimaru has scrapped a new "period badge" for female staff to wear when menstruating, after the concept sparked a social media storm.

The voluntary initiative, in a Daimaru store near Osaka, was the outcome of a proposal by some staff who said it could alert colleagues that co-workers having their period might require longer breaks, or extra assistance lifting heavy items.

However, when the plan was reported by local media some customers took to Twitter to question the merit of the "period badge," according to an AFP report.

Apparently the idea of the badge came during staff engagement, which was part of the launch of a new store section for young women dedicated to feminine hygiene.

The funky new department, which launched late last month, featured a mascot called "Seiri-chan" whose name means "Little Miss Period".

Seiri-chan is a Japanese cartoon character who visits women every month, and whose adventures were recently featured in a new movie.

A Daimaru spokeswoman said due to the public reaction the store would use an alternative way to indicate when it was "that time of the month".

"Most of our staff are women, and staff members support this program. We will continue in a better way," she said.



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