



**The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia**

# Industry Update

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**Prof TRENT TWOMEY** National President

**ANTHONY TASSONE** National Vice President Health  
Economics and Policy



# Acknowledgement of Country





# Regions affected by floods

- Pharmacies having to relocate temporarily should contact their Guild Branch
  - Department of Health & Services Australia have disaster management arrangements
- Patients evacuating may not have their medicines or prescriptions
  - May attend local pharmacies or in surrounding regions
  - Expanded Continued Dispensing in place until 30 June 2022
  - State Emergency Supply provisions available for S4 medicines
- If prescriber is contactable – Digital Image Prescriptions or ePrescription options





# Vaccine deliveries in flood affected areas

- **Deliveries are affected to flood areas** in Queensland and New South Wales
- The Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) is working with the QLD and NSW Health Departments and the Delivery Partners to provide alternate means for COVID vaccine deliveries
- **Pharmacies will be contacted where their deliveries are impacted by floods**
- Redelivery of vaccines and consumables will be organised when it is safe to do so, and when it is suitable for the pharmacy
- **Further information will be provided as the situation changes**



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# COVID Treatments



# Streamlined approval codes for Molnupiravir (Lagrevrio ®)

Streamlined Authority Code	Description
12583	If immunocompromised, regardless of vaccination status
12582	75+ with one other risk factor for severe disease
12582	65+ with two other risk factors for severe disease
12584	Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander who is 50+ with two other risk factors for severe disease





# PDE Codes

Order Requirement Min. Qty		Supplier PDE numbers				
		API	CH2	Sigma	Symbion	CHS
LAGEVRIO® (molunpiravir) 200mg / 40 capsules	1	74221	2571481	10029790	074632	1046689
		Barrett's	National Pharmacies			
		108405	2138589			

MSD will be contacting pharmacies to advise you can order LAGEVRIO® from your preferred wholesaler with a 'sale or return' offer commencing 1 March 2022 and ending 31 March 2022

- You must purchase one pack of LAGEVRIO by 31 March to receive the 'sale or return' offer from your wholesaler
- 'Sale or return' offer on your first pack order only when stock expires end of January 2023



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# Covid-19 Rapid Test Concessional Access Program (CRTCA)

**ProjectCOVID**





# CRTCA Program Update

- Program is from 24 January to 30 April 2022
- As at today, 3 million patients received 15.3 million RATS through this program
- Over 5568 pharmacies involved
- **Over \$100 million paid to pharmacy (across two payments)**





# Proposed payment schedule

Transaction Batch Period	GuildLink to export ProjectCOVID transactions and provide acceptable data file to PPA by:	PPA to process payments* based on received transactions by:
24/01/2022 to 30/01/2022	–	<b>Paid 15/02/2022</b>
31/01/2022 to 13/02/2022	–	<b>Paid 23/02/2022</b>
14/02/2022 to 27/02/2022	Monday 7 March 2022	Sunday 13 March 2022
28/02/2022 to 13/03/2022	Monday 21 March 2022	Sunday 27 March 2022
14/03/2022 to 27/03/2022	Monday 4 April 2022	Sunday 10 April 2022
28/03/2022 to 10/04/2022	Monday 18 April 2022	Sunday 24 April 2022
11/04/2022 to 24/04/2022	Monday 2 May 2022	Sunday 8 May 2022
25/04/2022 to 30/04/2022	Monday 16 May 2022	Sunday 22 May 2022



# Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs)

- RACFs have access to testing under State and Territory arrangements.
- RACF resident (or their carer/family) who holds eligible concession card can present to a participating pharmacy for RATs under this program.



**RACF representatives cannot collect RATs on-behalf of residents.**

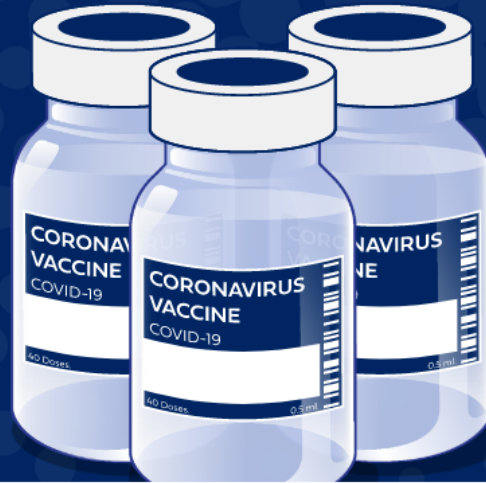


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# COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout UPDATE

LOCAL COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS  
HAVE ADMINISTERED OVER

6,000,000  
COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES



Book your vaccine today



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# Today: 6,021,000 vaccines in pharmacy



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**ASTRAZENECA**  
**1,240,000**

**PFIZER 12+**  
**1,380,000**

**NOVAVAX**  
**15,300**

**MODERNA**  
**3,250,000**

**PFIZER 5 - 11**  
**135,700**

**MODERNA 6-11**  
**0**

Number of pharmacies administering by state

Vaccine	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	TOTAL
AstraZeneca	65	1151	19	760	283	97	715	455	3545
Moderna	65	1123	17	742	280	94	708	448	3477
Pfizer	53	869	10	476	214	61	509	353	2545
<b>Pfizer 5 - 11</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>1907</b>
<b>Novovax</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>1120</b>

# COVID Vaccines



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	5-11 years	12-17 years	18 years +	Booster
<b>AstraZeneca</b>				If mRNA vaccine contraindicated from 18 yrs or if patient declines mRNA as booster
<b>Moderna*</b>	From 6-11 years 			From 18 years 
<b>Pfizer 12+ (Purple)</b>				From 16 years 
<b>Pfizer 5-11 yrs (Orange)</b>				
<b>Novavax</b>				If no other COVID vaccine suitable – from 18 yrs





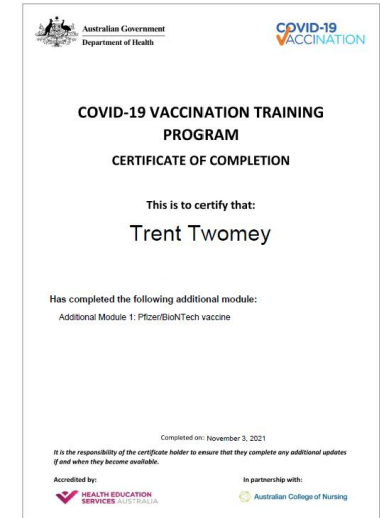
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# Pharmacist Training

Pharmacist immunisers must undertake  
Commonwealth COVID-19 training

<https://covid19vaccinationtraining.org.au>

1. COVID-19: an introduction	4. Multi-dose vial training and delivery
2. Handling and storage	5. Documentation and reporting
3. Communication and purpose	6. Safety surveillance and reporting of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI)



AstraZeneca vaccine

Moderna vaccine

Pfizer vaccine

Pfizer vaccine (5-11 yrs)

Novavax



Moderna (6-11 yrs) subset  
module to the Moderna module



# Moderna 6 – 11 booking portals

## Vaccine Clinic Finder

- From Monday 7 March, the Vaccine Clinic Finder will **display two Moderna vaccine services based on age cohort** – one for *Moderna 6-11* and the other for *Moderna 12+* cohort
- If you plan not to administer the Moderna vaccine to the 6-11 cohort, contact **PPA Support Centre to be removed from the VCF listing** for this service

## Findapharmacy

- Update the services you offer via the myGuild portal. Instructions are on [guild.org.au](https://guild.org.au)



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# Affordable Medicines Now Campaign

affordable  
medicines  
now.





# Affordability an issue for Australians

Studies have identified affordability of prescription medicines is an issue:

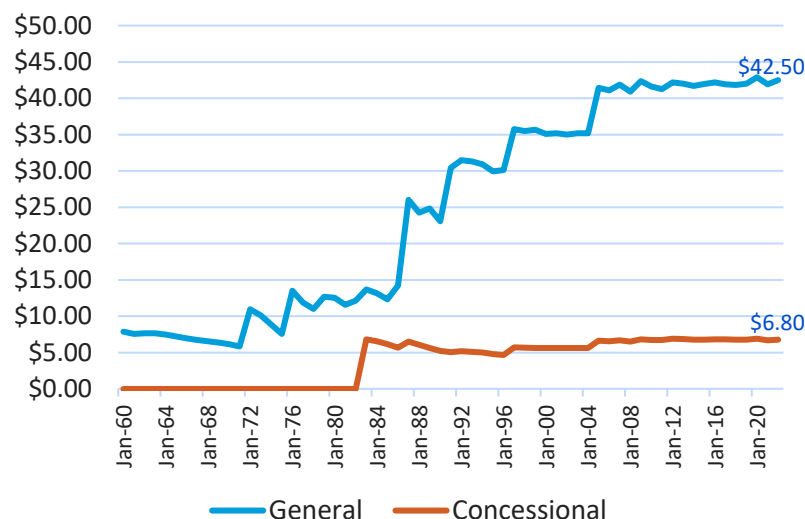
- Research by the Australian Patients Association found that more than 1 in 5 people aged 18-64 describe prescription medication as unaffordable.
- The ABS has found that 900,000 Australians delayed or didn't get a script filled in 2019-20 due to cost.



# Co-payments keep rising

- The PBS is becoming split between the 'haves' and 'have-nots'
- The co-payment for people not eligible for concessional status keeps rising
- There are 19 million people who now have to pay up to \$42.50 for a PBS prescription

PBS Co-pays 1960 to 2022 (2022 dollars)





# Risks

- Not taking up scripts due to cost results in medication non-adherence which creates pressure on hospitals and other parts of the system





# Community opinion research



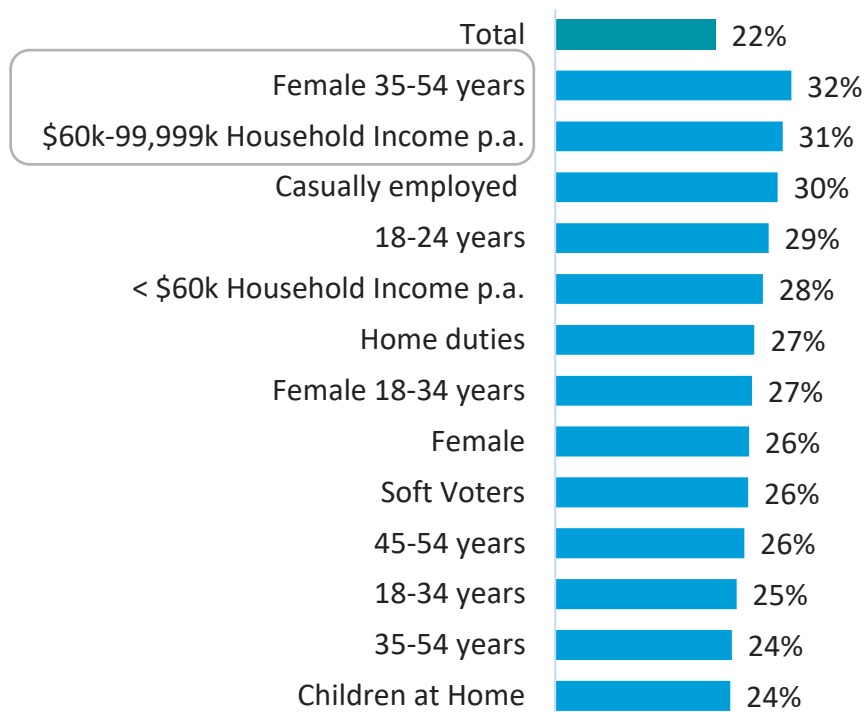
- **Qualitative:**
  - 6 x voter focus groups around Australia - December
- **Quantitative:**
  - In 15 marginal Federal electorates
  - 15-minute survey of n=2021 voters
  - Fielded January 6 – 16 2022
  - Margin of error on the total sample is +/-2.83%





# People hardest hit include females 35-54 and middle income earners

Non-Concession Card Holders: Most Difficult to Afford - % Yes by Subgroups



In the past 3 years, have you and your family ever found it difficult to afford to pay for your prescribed medications?

^Small Sample Size

## So what now?

- Community pharmacies are raising the alarm
- Raise awareness in target audience of the recent increase to the cost of prescription medicines.
- Drive direct community action to voice concerns to government
- Commenced virtual roadshows this week in 15 electorates with members having the opportunity to hear from subject matter experts and have a two-way conversation





# Campaign messaging

- The maximum cost of PBS medication for non-concession card holders has doubled since 2000.
- On January 1 the cost rose again to \$42.50.
- This affects over 19 million Australians, and as the cost of living continues to increase, many are being faced with a choice between vital medications and other essentials.
- Community pharmacies across Australia have seen first-hand the impact of unaffordable medicines for their patients. We have assisted our communities through a global pandemic and understand their health concerns intimately.
- At the current rate of increase, these Australians will find themselves paying nearly \$50 a script for some PBS medicines within the next five years.
- This means there is no real universal access to the PBS which is the foundation of our health system.



# What next? We need your help.

## Fears cost of medicine forcing hard choices

TAMARA MCGRATH

PHARMACISTS four patients are being asked to choose between putting food on the table and taking their prescribed medicine and facing costs.

Benevolent Pharmacy pharmacist Scott Wilson said with the cost of living going up, he feared people were skipping doses of medication.

"I find particularly people, a pack of (diabetic) medication might cost 20 bucks, they're spending it and not making it last 30 or 40 days," Mr Wilson said.

"That's a health issue we're interested about."

With the cost of living going up, spending on becoming more common.

He said patients were having to choose between medication or putting food on the table.

People not coming to collect medication was particularly prevalent at times such as school starting and rates being due, he said.

In January, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme co-payment increased again.

The co-payment is the amount patients pay towards the cost of their PBS subsidised medicines.

From January 1, patients may pay up to \$6.50 for most PBS medicines or \$6.80 if you have a concession card.

The federal government pays the remaining cost.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia said the patient contribution was on track to hit almost \$100 by the end of the decade.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia national president Professor Tim Toppin said many Australians were finding it harder to afford essential medicines.

New research conducted by independent researchers found that the cost of a 12-week supply of insulin was a \$100 (10 per cent) of median household income (\$10,000 to \$12,000) without a concession card and \$200 (10 per cent) of median income for concession card holders, answered



Mr Davis said it was "absolutely" rough that the PBS co-payment kept going up, and said he believed glucose monitoring devices and medications for diabetics should either cost significantly less or be free.

than 2000 new or amended items on the PBS.

The spokeswoman said there were two PBS safety net thresholds to assist in keeping co-payments low.

"The general patient safety net threshold is currently \$142.15, which equates to approximately 57 weeks," she said.

When a person's family's total these amounts, they may apply for a safety net card.

With the cost of general patients will pay no more than the co-payment or co-payment amount of \$6.80 (plus any applicable concessional pharmaceutical benefits for the rest of that calendar year).

At present, Mr Davis said, he was about \$400 a month in insulin, insulin, blood glucose monitoring devices and appointments.

He said he was struggling to manage his type 1 diabetes.

The diabetes medication was diagnosed with the condition when he was only three years old and requires four insulin injections a day.

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Mr Davis said it was "absolutely" rough that the PBS co-payment kept going up, and said he believed glucose monitoring devices and medications for diabetics should either cost significantly less or be free.

"The thing that gets me upset and grinds my gears is people can get free rapid antigen tests but there's a medication I need to take to stay alive and have to pay for it," he said.

"It's a bit of a kick in the guts."

Putting a patient's face on the problem brings the issue powerfully to life in the media.

Do you know anyone who would tell their story?

EMAIL: [campaigns@guild.org.au](mailto:campaigns@guild.org.au)



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# Other Updates



# PPE: Distribution Update

- PPE bundles are free to immunising pharmacists – as made available from the National Medical Stockpile.
- **PPE deliveries will be made directly to pharmacies**, removing the requirement for PHNs to be an intermediary distributor.
- Improved ordering system with tracking number
- Transition phase over the next four weeks while PHNs run down current PPE stock levels
- PPE Fact Sheet on **completing the new pharmacy PPE order through their PHN available**

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-completing-new-ppe-order-form-pharmacy>





# Digital enablement for government services (13 March deadline)

TO ENSURE YOUR PHARMACY MAINTAINS ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING KEY SERVICES:

PBS Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Check with your dispense vendor that your pharmacy's PBS PKI site certificate has been renewed or will be renewed before 13 March.</li></ul>
Electronic prescriptions and IHI Service (My Health Record)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Check with your dispense vendor that your pharmacy will still have access to and be able to dispense electronic prescriptions using the Prescription Delivery Service (eRx and/or MediSecure)</li><li>▶ Or you can initiate the renewal of your certificate with Services Australia (HPOS) if you have the information you need from your dispense vendor – visit <a href="http://www.digitalhealth.gov.au">www.digitalhealth.gov.au</a> for guidance.</li></ul>
AIR Real-Time integration	<p>If your pharmacy is <u>not</u> set up with Real-Time AIR integration, by 13 March any vaccination services performed at your pharmacy need to be manually submitted via HPOS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ <b>STEP 1: Complete and submit your <a href="#">HW027 Form</a> as soon as possible using the <a href="#">Guild's Form Guide</a>.</b></li></ul>





## Guild Corporate Flu Vax Program

### **2021 Flu Vax program**

- 147 corporate clients
- 22,168 services
- 982 registered pharmacies
- Approx. \$500,000 income for pharmacies



## Guild Corporate Flu Vax Program

- Didn't participate last year?  
Time to register
- **Scan the QR code to complete the  
Guild Corporate Flu Vax Registration  
Form**
- All participating members with current  
Guildcare subscription will gain access  
to the module from 11 March





# The Workforce Capability Project



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- To compile a comprehensive outline on the workforce's capability, capacity and employability needs within and for pharmacy
- Anticipated the project will assist in effective advocacy and strategic decision making relating to primary healthcare within pharmacy, including supply & demand modelling, remuneration, career pathways, qualifications, training needs, employment classifications and pharmacy 'scope of practice'
- The project team will be at APP2022 and would love to hear from you. Come and visit them on the Guild stand or look out for the 'Workforce Capability Project' QR codes to provide your insights



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