

### Dispensary Corner

**PHARMACISTS** are often treated far worse than they deserve by customers, as one pharmacy employee in the English city of York recently discovered.

Methadone patient, Carla Graham, 43, had a reputation for behaving badly while collecting her prescription, often arriving drunk.

The situation became so inflamed her local Boots pharmacy arranged for her to collect her drugs from another store.

Under new legislation in the UK patients prescribed methadone can only get the drug from a nominated pharmacy, and they must take the drug under supervision in-store.

When a pharmacist told her of the new rules in May, Graham spat in her face - leading to a criminal charge.

During a court case the prosecutor said the pharmacist feared she may have been exposed to illness through the saliva that landed on her face.

Graham pleaded guilty to assault, but avoided jail time, after the magistrate heard of her hard work with a rehabilitation agency and her self-reformative probation service.

The court handed down a three-month suspended sentence.

Graham's solicitor Keith Waterhouse explained his client "felt she was being ordered about a little bit like an animal rather than like a human being."

## Priceline, SiSU extend deal

**AUSTRALIAN** Pharmaceutical Industries (API) will expand the health station offering across the entire national Priceline Pharmacy network, extending its exclusive partnership with SiSU Health Group for a further five years.

SiSU's free health check stations have so far completed more than 900,000 diabetes risk assessments and measured significant improvements in health risks, API CEO, Richard Vincent, said.

"More than 10,000 customers every week are using the health stations, showing us they want easy access to reliable, accurate information which helps inform them about how to better manage their healthcare," he said.

"Our pharmacy teams will remain the front line for helping customers through their healthcare journey,

and the health stations allow us to triage customers that are at risk through to the pharmacists.

"We're increasing the footprint to put the health stations into more stores, including our company stores, so they are more easily accessible for all our customers."

The health station checks take four minutes on average, and the companies said that over the next three months the health stations will add the identification of atrial fibrillation, which can often be undiagnosed without regular heart health check-ups with a GP.

SiSU Health Group CEO, Noel Duncan, said "it is likely that we are running Australia's largest ongoing health program which we can demonstrate is delivering benefits and significant results for the participants".

## MMR approval

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has granted Section 19A approval for a new MMR (Measles-Mumps-Rubella) Vaccine, due to a current shortage of Australian registered products.

Details at [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## Portal checker

**THE** Pharmacy Programs Administrator has added a new "Service History Checker" option to its 6CPA portal.

The enhancement allows users who are linked to an approved HMR, RMMR or MedsCheck Service Provider to check whether a patient has received a previous service within the relevant eligibility period - see [ppaonline.com.au](http://ppaonline.com.au).

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