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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news including our regular Health & Beauty feature.

## Osteoporosis for PAs



### GUILD

Learning and Development is partnering with Amgen Australia to deliver an online

QCPP Refresher Training course titled Osteoporosis in community pharmacy: 'The role of the pharmacy assistant'.

This course reviews the risk factors for osteoporosis and examines the role of calcium and vitamin D supplementation in maintaining bone health.

The intent of the module is to provide pharmacy assistants with guidance on how to best assist customers to manage their osteoporosis and recognise when it is appropriate to refer customers to the pharmacist.

This activity has been approved for 60 minutes of QCPP Refresher Training for pharmacy assistants.

To enrol visit [guild.org.au](http://guild.org.au).

## MedAdvisor BCA link

LISTED digital medication management company, MedAdvisor, has partnered with the 100% community-funded charity Bowel Cancer Australia (BCA), to raise awareness around early detection and intervention in the treatment of bowel cancer.

MedAdvisor ceo Robert Read said, "The Bowel Cancer Australia partnership enables us to provide important information to those interested in screening according to their personal bowel cancer risk, which varies depending on age, family history, comorbidities and lifestyle factors."

The new partnership will enable patients to use the many adherence functions of the MedAdvisor platform and pharmacists to use it to initiate conversations with patients who may be at risk.

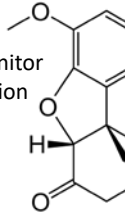
## Opioid script control plan

THE Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt has initiated a process to monitor and control the prescription of opioid medicines in Australia.

The move follows some notable examples of doctors prescribing excess amounts of opioids to individual patients.

Hunt said at a doorstep interview that the government is working with the AMA and the College of GPs "to make sure that doctors know exactly how many prescriptions they've been giving, whether or not they are at the outer edges of prescriptions and therefore they can better moderate and regulate their own actions to protect patients."

"I'm also delighted to announce



that the Australian Government will inject \$80 million into community mental health."

He added that the funding will be matched by each and every state and territory, bringing the total funding to \$160 million.

"That's an agreement with all eight states and territories to boost community health funding, and I thank all the states and territories, and I'm delighted we've been able to make this contribution."

Referencing the reported 400 deaths in Australia from overuse of opioids, Hunt went on to describe how the system will work.

"So we've written to the top 20 per cent of opioid prescribers.

"It's been done with the cooperation and support of the AMA and the College of GPs.

"This means that they're working to ensure that all doctors know where they sit, whether or not they may have inadvertently become over-prescribers, but the vast and overwhelming majority of Australian doctors do the right thing, and overwhelmingly we have the best doctors in the world," Hunt carefully emphasised.

He said that some of the apparent higher-level prescribers may be working in palliative care for example and those elements need to be assessed by the chief medical officer.

"The chief medical officer and the AMA have strongly supported this device which will give Australian doctors the best advice in the world."

## Cannabis drug nod



THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the first pharmaceutical product containing cannabidiol.

The product is called Epidiolex and is approved for seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut and Dravet Syndromes

The FDA approval highlighted necessity of controlled clinical studies, uniformity of drug quality and consistent delivery, as well as intent to take action against non-FDA approved CBD containing product.

ASX-listed medicinal cannabis dermatology company Botanix has welcomed the approval.

Cannabidiol is the drug that Botanix utilizes in its acne, atopic dermatitis and other pipeline dermatology products.

An approval by FDA that cannabidiol is safe and effective (even for a disease such as epilepsy which is not being pursued by Botanix), provides a positive reference basis for Botanix's FDA approval applications, that did not exist previously.

## New PSA director

HIGH-ACHIEVING pharmacist Lauren Burton's appointment as the new Early Career Pharmacist (ECP) director of the peak national body for pharmacists, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), reaffirms the Board's commitment to the future of the profession, PSA said today.

PSA national president Dr Shane Jackson and vice presidents Michelle Lynch and Dr Chris Freeman were also re-elected to the National Board.

Burton's appointment, effective from 01 Jul 2018, follows the retirement of the Board's first ECP Director Taren Gill, who has completed her term as an ECP.

## Swisse & Swinburne recruiting patients

SWISSE Wellness has announced the enrolment of the first participant in the "Memory and Attention Supplement Trial" (MAST Trial).

The MAST trial will be conducted as part of a PhD program at the Centre for Human Psychopharmacology, Swinburne University, and will investigate the effects of chronic supplementation with Swisse Ultiboost Memory and Focus on memory and cognition over 12 weeks as well as how the product affects mood, general wellbeing and response to stress in relevant individuals.

If you have patients who may be suitable, contact Lauren Young on 03 9214 3793 or email [laurenyoung@swinburne.edu.au](mailto:laurenyoung@swinburne.edu.au).

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## Pharmacy future: meds mgt

**COMMUNITY** pharmacies of the future will have a greater focus on services for the safe administration and management of medicines as they become more complex and are customised for



### The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

patients, a major research project undertaken by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has concluded.

This medication management will be underpinned by a workforce trained and skilled in the delivery of these services and in providing value to patients and to the community pharmacy sector itself.

But the research also warns that failure to prepare for the changes and adapt the model of community pharmacy to the new environment could result in loss of relevance and revenue, and an increased trend towards deregulation of the sector.

The Pharmacy Guild initiated the research project, Community Pharmacy 2025 (CP2025), to determine what Australian community pharmacies will look like in 2025 and beyond.

Project findings have been made available to Guild members.

The CP2025 report has found management of medicines, as they increase in complexity and become customised for patients, will assume an increasingly important role for pharmacies.

Coupled with this, patient health literacy will become a core speciality for community pharmacies.

The report also suggests there will be a move to pharmacies becoming centralised health hubs.

"Understanding of other healthcare providers' practices through a central location will allow better management of, and care for, patients by pharmacists," the report said.

"Complex medicines (eg immunotherapy) are dangerous without a patient's health history, current medications, and, as DNA technology advances, genetic makeup.

"Pharmacy can become the central hub where all of this data is utilised in any patient's medicines regime."

Key to the success of all this vision will be "a skilled and highly trained workforce".

The research identified nine pathways that represent the best opportunities

for community pharmacies to make the most of the changing operating environment: online services and processes, health service on a broad brush level, community-based health hub, business operations, automation via technological advances, new products, brand leveraging, in-home services along with coordination, accreditation and partnerships with other health-related services and Government.

The Guild said it has identified the first four of these pathways as representing the highest priorities for community pharmacy.

## TGA consult outcome

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has posted a note of thanks to all respondents who provided submissions to the consultation 'Management and communication of medicines shortages'.

A total of 50 submissions were received from all sources:  
 2 were from government bodies  
 18 were from industry suppliers/sponsors/manufacturers  
 5 were from industry organisation  
 16 were from health professionals, medical institutions or health professional bodies  
 9 were from consumers or consumer organisations.

All submissions that gave permission to be published on the TGA website are now available at [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

Virtually all stakeholders supported the need for better management and timely communication of medicine shortages, the TGA said.

Other stakeholder responses are summarised on the TGA website along with some detail around the determinations by the regulatory body for future direction.

## USP updates standards

**WORLD** authority on safety in drug manufacturing, United States Pharmacopeia (USP), has announced that this year they will be updating their standards for the compounding of medications in traditional compounding pharmacies.

USP is based in the United States, however it's standards are recognised as best practice worldwide and many Australian compounding pharmacies, including National Custom Compounding, maintain and calibrate their equipment and organise their documentation, according to them.

Specialist pharmacist Matthew Bellgrove from National Custom

Compounding welcomed the news saying it would help to build trust in the sector.

"Anything that's designed to improve the standard of safety and quality in compounded medicine, or any medicine for that matter, is welcome as far as I'm concerned," Bellgrove said.

The standards currently being reviewed by USP include reducing the risk of contamination, infection or incorrect dosing of compounded sterile as well as nonsterile drugs.

This includes facilities, equipment, components, documentation, quality controls and training and much more.

The new standards are expected to be released by USP in Dec 2019.



## Blackmores running training

### BLACKMORES

Sydney Running Festival says,

"We've got you covered - from stretching to nutrition we're

here to help you smash your running goals".

The Blackmores Sydney Running Festival is a sporting event organised by Pont3, owned by Athletics Australia and supported by the NSW Government's tourism



agency, Destination NSW.

Blackmores says that runners should sign up for

their free training program to get free tips on nutrition, fitness and making it to the finish line.

"Train better, feel better and Be a Well Being," Blackmores says.

Visit [Blackmores.com.au](http://Blackmores.com.au) to sign up for the free training program.

## WIN WITH LITTLE BODIES

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Little Bodies are giving away a Little Bodies soft toy and a \$30 Coles/Myer gift card.

From the makers of Dermal Therapy, comes Little Bodies, a clinically tested, steroid free children's eczema management range. From personal experience, we understand the challenges that children with eczema face on a day to day basis. We know that keeping a child's skin healthy and managing flare-ups requires more than just an eczema cream, it requires a regimen of care. Visit [www.littlebodies.com.au](http://www.littlebodies.com.au) to find out more.



To win, be the first from WA to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

True or False: The range is petrochemical, fragrance and steroid free.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Nicole Teefy from Chempro.

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## Dispensary Corner

**RATS!** Well might you exclaim if you happened to be the owner of the bank in India where an enterprising rat helped himself to a AU\$25,000 meal.

Police say at least one rat slipped through a hole in the back of an ATM in northeastern India and started eating, shredding enough notes to give anyone heartburn - pass the omeprazole.

"The ATM was out of order for a few days and when our technicians opened the kiosk we were shocked to find shredded notes and a dead rat," said SBI branch manager Chandan Sharma.

**RELIGIONS** take many forms, but here's something different.

If you want to escape the Earth-bound rat-race for good, you can now join the nation of Asgardia, which promises to colonise the moon and set up "space arks" with artificial gravity in outer space where humans could live permanently.

Just 20 months old, the "nation" has around 200,000 citizens, a constitution, an elected parliament and a leader, Igor Ashurbeyli, inaugurated Monday.

It also said it wants to build up a population of 150 million within 10 years.

Asgardia - named after Asgard, a world in the sky in Norse mythology - says its citizens now live in more than 200 countries, outnumbering the United Nations' 193 member states.

Becoming a citizen online is free, but ongoing membership costs 100 Euros plus some taxes on income.

So, pharmacists in space?

## Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy. Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### QV Flare Up Cream by Ego

Pharmacy-only company Ego Pharmaceuticals has a range of QV Flare UP products to help relieve the symptoms of eczema and dermatitis flare ups. The QV Flare Up range includes a bath oil, a wash and this cream, all of which contain phenoxyethanol and hydroxybenzoates. **QV Flare UP Cream** is an emollient cream for topical relief of the symptoms of atopic eczema and dermatitis. It also contains glycerol to help improve suppleness, decrease roughness, and improve barrier function while being free from lanolin, propylene glycol, and fragrance. Avoid eyes. For external use only. Keep out of reach of children. If symptoms persist consult your healthcare practitioner.



**Stockist:** 03 9586 8800

**RRP:** \$13.95

**Website:** [www.qvskincare.com.au](http://www.qvskincare.com.au)

### Reversaderm Glycolic Cleanser

While chemical exfoliation may sound harsh, it's often more gentle to the skin than using a traditional exfoliating scrub. Dr Lewinn's **Reversaderm Glycolic Cleanser** resurfaces and corrects skin tone and imperfections. With 12% glycolic acid, this deep micro-exfoliating cleanser effortlessly lifts away daily residue, minimises pores and removes tired, dead skin cells. Glycolic is for brightening and hyaluronic is for moisturising which means there is an acid for every skin concern, and leading to more youthful and glowing skin.



**Stockist:** 02 9555 8309

**RRP:** \$34.95

**Website:** [www.drlewinns.com.au](http://www.drlewinns.com.au)

### Swisse Ultiboost Immune Forte



Swisse **Ultiboost Immune Forte** is a premium quality formula containing standardised andrographis extract, herbs, vitamins and minerals, to help relieve symptoms of tonsillitis, sinusitis and upper respiratory tract infections. With echinacea, sambucus, vitamin C and zinc, Swisse Ultiboost Immune Forte tablets nevertheless have no added lactose, gluten,

yeast, egg, artificial colours or artificial flavours, making it suitable for vegetarians and vegans. Use only for the duration of the infection. If symptoms persist consult your healthcare practitioner.

**Stockist:** Major wholesalers

**RRP:** \$29.99

**Website:** [www.swisse.com](http://www.swisse.com)

### Hot Film Hard Wax - BeautyPRO



This waxing hair remover is ideally suited for all skin types and stubborn hair areas. Wax with

confidence on arms, legs, backs and tummies and even on more challenging areas such as underarms and the bikini line. The ingenious design of BeautyPRO **Hot Film Hard Wax** is that it is segmented into pieces like a bar of chocolate, so that the wax heater can be topped up at anytime. BeautyPRO says no wax strips are required.

**Stockist:** Major wholesalers

**RRP:** \$24.70

**Website:** [www.i-glamour.com](http://www.i-glamour.com)