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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, a **Fact Sheet** from PharmXchange, plus full pages:

- Compeed
- EllaOne

PharmXchange - get the facts

MORE than 50 leading brands are already available on the new PharmXchange online platform, which connects pharmacies to a full range of suppliers for seamless and efficient inventory ordering.

PharmXchange is free to use for all pharmacies, and as well as connecting with key suppliers, also gives access to special promotions and offers.

Payments are also easily facilitated via the PharmXpay gateway, with more details on the special fact sheet on the **last page** of today's PD.

ACP launches accreditation training

THE Australasian College of Pharmacy (ACP) this morning announced it will offer accreditation training for all pharmacists from 2023 onwards.

The ACP is the latest organisation to take up the accreditation training mantle, following the news that the Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy (AACP) will be formally wound up at the end of the year (**PD** 26 Sep).

The AACP is jointly owned by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, which last week announced it would launch its own pharmacist accreditation program (**PD** 08 Dec).

Today's announcement from Australasian College of Pharmacy President, Michelle Bou-Samra, confirmed that current pharmacists already undergoing accreditation with the AACP will be able to complete their training as a member of the ACP after AACP ceases operations.

"The College is dedicated to

supporting all pharmacists to practice to their full scope and, as such, encourages all pharmacists to undertake accreditation training as a step towards this," Bou-Samra said.

"The College is dedicated to supporting the education needs of all pharmacists across Australia, including accredited pharmacists.

"Practising to full scope and equipping yourself with the knowledge and skills allows you to provide greater healthcare services for the patients in your community and throughout Australia," she said.

"Accreditation not only supports pharmacists to provide Home Medicines Reviews and Residential Medication Management Reviews, but the skills and knowledge required to do any type of medication reviews."

Bou-Samra said the College was also supportive of removing the re-accreditation requirements for accredited pharmacists, which was seen as a significant barrier.

"If you are already an accredited

pharmacist, the College will support you in maintaining your accreditation status with the Pharmacy Programs Administrator," she confirmed.

"If you are not a member of the College, we encourage you to join to undergo accreditation and to gain access to the education and support needed to maintain your CPD requirements.

"Once again, the College recognises and acknowledges the work of AACP and the education services provided to accredited pharmacists...we continue to work closely with AACP to ensure the continuity of accreditation training and provision of support provided to current and upcoming accredited pharmacists," Bou-Samra said.

Pharmacists interested in accreditation are being urged to visit the College website at acp.edu.au and complete an expression of interest form, to be kept up to date when accreditation training enrolments open for 2023.



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FRED

Compeed deals

SPECIAL offers are available on Compeed plasters, which promise to increase healing and overall basket value - for details see **page four**.

EllaOne studies

THE makers of EllaOne are today showcasing efficacy studies contrasting ulipristal acetate with levonorgestrel for emergency contraception - info on **page five**.

Dancing Caroline

CAROLINE Diamantis from Sydney's Balmain Community Pharmacy is raising funds for Dementia Australia by putting on her dancing shoes.

Diamantis, who is also PSA NSW Vice President and sits on the Pharmacy Council of NSW, will trip the light fantastic on stage at a special event taking place in late May.

Her efforts can be sponsored at caretodance.com.au.

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Dispensary Corner

THE stimulatory effects of caffeine on humans are well documented - but researchers in Japan now believe the compound can also make semiconductors work faster.

A new report from the country's Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) institute has found that depositing a very thin layer of caffeic acid on an electrode within an organic semiconductor was able to boost the device's current flow by up to 100 times.

The researchers said they used vacuum deposition to create the layer on a piece of gold, with the caffeic acid molecules apparently spontaneously lining up on the electrode surface, making the current flow faster.

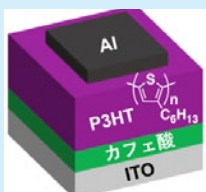
Unfortunately the breakthrough doesn't mean spilling a cup of coffee on your keyboard will speed up your computer, but practical applications could include the development of sustainable organic semiconductor devices created entirely with biomass-derived materials.

Current techniques include electrode modification layers which are not recyclable and "may adversely affect aquatic organisms", the researchers said.

Caffeic acid can be used instead regardless of the type of substrate, with the scientists noting that "even if we use molecules that are ubiquitous in plants, it will be possible to boost the performance of organic semiconductors in the same way as conventional materials".

The paper, including the clearly deeply insightful diagram below, was published in the

Advanced Materials Interfaces journal just last week.



Referrals will be required for PCR tests

FEDERAL Health Minister Mark Butler yesterday launched a \$2.8 billion plan towards "COVID normality", pledging to continue to support Australians who are impacted by COVID-19, but also transitioning to a requirement for a referral from a GP or nurse practitioner for PCR testing.

The new national plan "will ensure Australia's health system has the capacity and capability to respond to future waves and variants; promote uptake of vaccination and treatments; and slow the spread of transmission," Butler said, with a clear priority to minimise the incidence of death and severe illness with a particular focus on those most at risk.

Measures include a forward plan for vaccine procurement and administration, ensuring people can seek care in the community to take pressure off hospitals, and "empowering the community to make informed choices to protect themselves and their loved ones".

"Over 2023, Australia will transition to managing COVID-19 in a similar way to other respiratory viruses, moving away from COVID exceptionalism and bespoke arrangements," according to the executive summary in the formal National COVID-19 Health



Management Plan.

Chief Medical Officer, Professor Paul Kelly, noted that the pandemic continues to throw up new challenges, warning the community that new waves of COVID-19 can be expected on a regular basis for at least the next two years.

"While vaccinations, antiviral treatments and the continuing public health response have provided strong protection to Australians against severe illness and death, the threat posed by COVID-19 continues to evolve.

"The Australian Government will continue to respond to these waves as they occur - with a particular focus on protecting those most at

risk in our community," he said.

The document notes that the oral antiviral medications available on the PBS are being prescribed in increasing volumes to Australians who are most at risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19.

In particular, aged care services are urged to make sure their residents and care recipients can access antiviral treatment as soon as possible.

"Aged care services should have established links with primary care providers to rapidly assess residents and care recipients and community pharmacies to get rapid supply of medications," the paper urges.

The full plan is at [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au).

Ill health increases in Australia: AIHW

THERE has been an increase in ill health experienced by Australians for the first time in two decades, according to a new report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The *Australian Burden of Disease Study 2022* measures the years of healthy life lost by Australians, by converting the impact of diseases and injuries to "disability-adjusted life years".

AIHW spokesperson Richard Jukes said it was the first time the study had reflected the impact of COVID-19, which was one of the leading causes of health burden.

In 2022 just under half of the harm done by diseases and

other causes of ill health came from dying prematurely (48% of the total burden), while the remainder was from the consequences of living in poor health, Jukes said.

All cancers as a group of diseases caused the most burden (17%), followed by musculoskeletal conditions (13%), cardiovascular diseases (12%) & mental disorders (12%).

The top five individual diseases that caused burden were coronary heart disease (5.5%), dementia (4.4%), back pain (4.2%), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (3.7%) and anxiety disorders (2.9%), while COVID-19 ranked eighth among specific diseases - [aihw.gov.au](https://www.aihw.gov.au).

Canada scripts

PHARMACISTS in Ontario, Canada can now prescribe COVID-19 antiviral paxlovid.

Eligibility for paxlovid includes symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19, and a positive PCR or RAT test.

Patients must be aged 60-plus, or immunocompromised, or at a higher risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes, and prescribing must take place within five days of symptoms.

Ontario Health Minister Sylvia Jones said "This expansion of pharmacists' scope of practice is just one more way our government is making it easier for Ontarians to access health care right in their own communities".

PBS fraudster forced to repay \$1.9m

A PHARMACIST in Brisbane has been ordered to pay almost \$2 million under an enforcement order from the Australian Federal Police's (AFP) Criminal Asset Confiscation Taskforce (CACT).

The move follows a referral from the Department of Health, which alleges the 43-year-old received PBS payments for pharmaceutical benefits which were not actually supplied to eligible recipients.

The pharmacist faced Brisbane Magistrates Court in Jul last year charged with a single count of "obtaining a financial advantage by deception", and following the criminal charge the Department referred the matter to the AFP to consider commencing confiscation proceedings.

The CACT worked closely with investigators from the Department of Health to identify "suspected proceeds of crime under the man's control", with restraints put on several assets as a result.

The items uncovered include a share trading account worth \$1.37 million, two houses in Brisbane and an unspecified quantity of cryptocurrency.

These assets will be liquidated,



with the money paid into the Government's Confiscated Assets Account, which is managed by the Australian Financial Security Authority on behalf of the Commonwealth.

The funds can be distributed by the Attorney-General to benefit the community through crime prevention, intervention or diversion programs, or other law enforcement activities across Australia, the AFP said.

Stefan Jerga, AFP National Manager Criminal Assets Confiscation, said fraud against the government undermines its ability to deliver services and support to all Australians.

"Defrauding the Government

is an affront to all honest and hard-working members of our community," Jerga said.

"Our highly-skilled Australia-wide CACT teams of police officers, financial investigators, litigators, forensic accounts and partner agency specialists will continue to be relentless in our pursuit of criminal assets and protecting the integrity of government measures which support the Australian community.

"Our action in this matter sends another strong signal to anyone trying to defraud the Government that in addition to the risk of being charged and jailed for their conduct, they also risk losing their home and other assets," he said.

New CSL CEO

CSL Limited this morning announced the appointment of Paul McKenzie as its new CEO and MD from 06 Mar 2023.

McKenzie is currently CSL Chief Operating Officer, and will succeed Paul Perrault who has advised the Board of his intention to retire after over a decade in the role.

CSL said McKenzie has over 30 years of leadership experience in the global biotechnology industry.

FIP releases new vaccination videos

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has produced a series of four videos focusing on the vaccination needs of special-risk population groups.

The guidance notes that while vaccines are recommended for almost everyone, there are specific groups of people who may be particularly vulnerable to severe forms of vaccine-preventable diseases.

These include older adults,

people living with diabetes, those with chronic respiratory diseases, and people living with cardiovascular diseases.

"There is still more that pharmacists can do to support these population groups," FIP said, adding "pharmacists can identify people belonging to special-risk groups based on their medicines and clinical situation and use every opportunity to recommend the most relevant vaccines to them" - [CLICK HERE](#).

Guild Update

Taking on a silent killer

THE Pharmacy Guild has partnered with a new taskforce to take on high blood pressure, with a goal to double Australia's rate of controlled blood pressure from 32% to 70% by 2030.

The *National Hypertension Taskforce* is the result of the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance joining forces with Hypertension Australia.

Alarming, one in three Australian adults have high blood pressure, which is the leading risk factor for heart disease, stroke and dementia.

According to the new taskforce, of the one in three Australians with high blood pressure, only half are aware of it and only 32% of those who are aware, have it under control.

Pharmacy Guild President Professor Trent Twomey says the Guild is proud to be a partner of the *National Hypertension Taskforce*.

"It's important as many people as possible are aware of their blood pressure and take action to control it, to prevent serious illness," he said.

The *National Hypertension Taskforce* was launched last week by the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Honourable Mark Butler MP and is co-led by Professor Alta Schutte and Professor Markus Schlaich.

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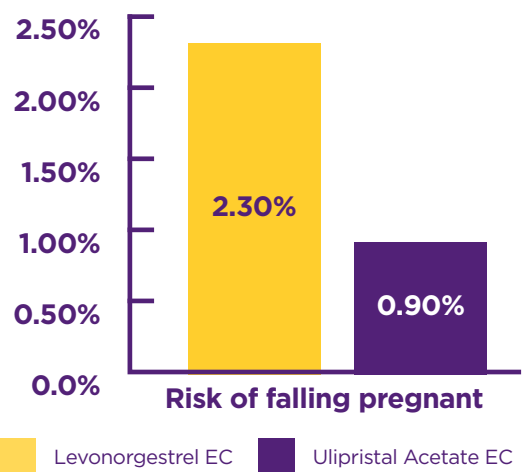
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[^] Source: IQVIA data 2022/07

LNG Vs UPA*



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"The PharmXchange platform is so easy to use, and the checkout process was a breeze. It's perfect for independent pharmacies and gives me access to special deals I wouldn't normally have access to. It's become an integral part of our inventory management process and has saved a lot of time."

Yenna, Leighton Beach Pharmacy