



**Hartley's Gripe Water** helps reduce colic and wind in infants.

Available from Symbion, Sigma, API & CH2.

Australian made. Pharmacy only. Always read the label and follow the directions for use. **Petrus** PHARMACEUTICALS

## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features four pages of news including a special NUK feature, plus full pages from:

- Wizard Pharmacy
- Glucojel

## Bean battle is on

**GOLD** Cross Products & Services is making creative use of the underrated vomit emoji on a full page advertisement for its Glucojel jelly beans in today's *PD* - see the **last page**.

## AHPRA review

**THE** Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Boards are reviewing the current accreditation arrangements for the national health practitioner regulatory scheme, in preparation for the 2024-2029 accreditation cycle.

The current arrangements expire on 30 Jun 2024 for all professions, with the scheduled review aiming to be complete by the end of May next year to provide certainty.

The process includes a public consultation which closes on 14 Feb - see [ahpra.gov.au](http://ahpra.gov.au).

## Wizard Xmas

**WIZARD** Pharmacy is today wishing the industry "happy holidays and a prosperous new year" - more on **page five**.

# National Medicines Policy updated

**FEDERAL** Health Minister Mark Butler yesterday released an "updated and strengthened National Medicines Policy (NMP)", with the new document - the first revision in more than two decades - developed via an extensive review and public consultation process (*PD* 23 Aug) by the Department of Health and Aged Care over the last two years.

Butler (**pictured**) said it was vital that medicines are prescribed and used appropriately, that people have the information they need to make informed choices, and that their health care is well organised and based on their needs.

"Yet these goals are not being met for all Australians, such as those in rural or remote communities, or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people...governments, health professionals, industry, researchers, and educators need to work together so that all Australians can access medicines that improve their health," Butler said.

The second edition of the NMP is a high level framework which focuses on the availability and the use of medicines and medicine-related services, including research, manufacture, regulation, evaluation, supply, dispensing, storage and access to medicines.

"It promotes the quality use of medicines and medicines safety by focusing on the current and future health needs of people, and the responsibilities of all partners to achieve the best health, social and economic outcomes for all Australians," the NMP notes.

Key pillars include equitable,



timely, safe and reliable access to medicines and medicine-related services at affordable prices; quality use of medicines and medicines safety; ensuring quality, safety and efficacy; and collaborative, innovative and sustainable medicines industry and research sectors with capability to respond to current and future health needs.

Supply chains encompassed by the NMP include product sponsors, manufacturers, wholesalers, health software providers, hospitals, community and hospital pharmacies, Aboriginal Health Services and residential aged care facilities.

Industry bodies have strongly backed the refreshed NMP, including the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, with PSA National President Fei Sim saying the document is consistent with the *Pharmacists in 2023* plan developed by the Society.

"PSA has long advocated for the NMP to be reviewed so we are very pleased to see the Minister deliver on this today," she said.

"We welcome support for national pharmacovigilance systems, however it is crucial that these systems be nationally coordinated and real-time in order to significantly reduce harms which can be caused by medicines.

"We also welcome the recognition that clinical indicators will need to be used to evaluate policy," Sim added, also welcoming a government commitment to five yearly reviews to ensure the NMP stays up to date.

"PSA has long been concerned about the preventable harm caused by medicines and has driven the conversation on medicine safety in Australia," Sim said.

"We are excited to see changes in policy which should help drive solutions and improve medicine safety for all Australians and look forward to partnering with the government and other organisations to deliver on the goals of this policy."

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia also expressed strong support for the new NMP, with President Tom Simpson noting that when the policy was first developed in 2000 there was no overlap between public hospitals and the PBS.

"Now our hospital pharmacies in public and private settings are custodians of nearly one quarter of annual PBS expenditure," he said.

The full policy is available online at [health.gov.au](http://health.gov.au).

## Study Diabetes Education and Management

If you're a health professional, postgraduate study in Diabetes Education and Management will provide you with the knowledge and skills to care for people living with or are at risk of diabetes.

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## SHPA celebrates a "stellar year"

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has released its 2022 Annual Report, showcasing a range of achievements including "growing membership, thriving specialist communities, tangible advocacy impact and the thrilling return of its blockbuster annual conference".

SHPA CEO Kristin Michael said the Society had helped Australia chart a course through the pandemic while at the same time making the most of opportunities to extend the reach of specialist clinical pharmacist roles.

"SHPA provided unique support every step of the way, through our pre-eminent education program, outbreak to growing member cohorts of accredited and community pharmacists, and lending an expert voice to the most significant shake-up of medicines policy in decades," she said.

"We saw membership retention above 90% for the fourth straight year, a cumulative total of 10,000 delegates across more than 100 events, 13% growth in Practice Group membership within our dynamic Specialty Practice streams, and our medication safety advocacy translate into tangible recommendations at state, territory and national levels."

The Society also released a special issue of its *Pharmacy GRIT* journal



([CLICK HERE](#)), celebrating the leading moments from the return of Medicines Management 2022, the 46th SHPA National Conference.

Newly appointed SHPA President, Tom Simpson, wrote in his editorial that an exciting year lay ahead.

"Building on the very strong foundations of our recent past, where we go over the next few years will be even more important, as we work to embed our leading programs and frameworks into the future of our profession.

"The investments SHPA has made into Specialty Practice will continue to bear fruit as pharmacists are increasingly recognised for their detailed knowledge of medicines in a range of specialist fields of practice," Simpson said.

"Equally important, we must

make sure that as more is asked from us as pharmacists and technicians, we retain our capacity to practice in a manner that is safe for both patient and practitioner.

"We know from the last decade that asking our clinicians to do more with the same, or less, resources is simply not sustainable.

"It sounds so simple, but in the web of competing agendas, in Canberra and across all jurisdictions, we have to remain clear-eyed...and SHPA will continue fighting this fight," Simpson added.

The SHPA Annual Report notes the organisation now has over 5,000 members, with more than half enrolled in an average of seven SHPA Interest Groups each.

The full report is available for download at [shpa.org.au](http://shpa.org.au).

## Codeine use plummets 37%

WASTEWATER analysis undertaken by researchers from the University of Queensland and the University of South Australia has revealed the "dramatic effects of tough love on codeine addicts".

Switching codeine from OTC to prescription-only (PD 20 Dec 2016) has led to a 37% drop in consumption of codeine across the country, "cutting dependency and potentially saving lives," according to Associate Professor Cobus Gerber from the University of SA.

The study compared samples from 49 wastewater treatment plants covering catchment areas for 10.6 million Australians - or 45% of the national population.

Lead author, Ben Tscharcke from the University of Qld, said "less availability not only means less chance for codeine to be misused, but also changes the perception of codeine being a harmless drug".

"Making it prescription-only sends a clear message about how dangerous it is."

The biggest change in codeine concentrations in wastewater came from the Northern Territory, where consumption was down 51%.

During the study period national sales of codeine declined at different rates, with the researchers attributing the difference to consumption delays due to stockpiling.

Similar reductions were observed in monthly call rates to poisons information centres, where poisonings halved after the codeine rescheduling.

The study, titled *A wastewater-based evaluation of the effectiveness of codeine control measures in Australia*, is believed to be the first to evaluate a national drug policy change via wastewater sampling - access the publication by [CLICKING HERE](#).

## Travel reminder

THE NSW Branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has reminded holidaymakers of the importance of maintaining continuity with their medications, and taking appropriate steps to ensure they have prescriptions in order before travelling over the upcoming holiday period.

Overseas travellers are also urged to look into what travel medicine their destination may require, with the Guild reminding the community that "many travel vaccinations are now available in community pharmacies across NSW".

## MedAdvisor forecasts revenue increase

LISTED medication compliance technology firm MedAdvisor Limited this morning announced it expects its revenue for the six months to 31 Dec to be around \$60 million, up 60% on the previous corresponding period.

MedAdvisor CEO Rick Ratliff said the company's US team had accelerated its focus on the digitisation of the American pharmacy network and increasing support from major pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Additional US pharmacy organisations have recently adopted the MedAdvisor inMotion digital platform, he

said, enabling digital access to 60 million individuals "combined with MedAdvisor's ability to service this growth at scale through our technology platform".

"The success of our expanded US COVID-19 programs has continued the trend we saw at the end of Q1, and with additional pharmacies participating through inMotion we are seeing a significant growth in revenue," Ratliff said.

However he said MedAdvisor expected growth to moderate in coming months due to seasonal peaks in the US business.

Content produced  
in collaboration with  
NUK

# New study shows best shaped teat for soothers



**SUCKING** has a soothing effect on babies; it can relieve pain, help the baby fall asleep and encourages digestion, and a new study has examined the impact of different pacifier shapes on the palate, jaw and teeth of babies.

Experts have been critical of the negative aspects of soothers, such as malpositioning of the teeth and jaw or causing problems with breastfeeding.

The wrong pacifier can thus have a lasting effect on a child's health, therefore many parents are skeptical about whether they should even give their baby a pacifier – and if so, which one?

The question that arises here is: Which pacifier is the best?

A fascinating study on this subject has been performed by the University of Minho in Portugal.

Using computer simulations, the study examined the impact of different pacifier shapes on the palate, jaw and teeth of babies.

The simulations show that NUK

pacifiers with the orthodontic shape are the safest for the palate and jaw.

Pressure is distributed more evenly by the flattened shape of the teat during sucking, so reducing displacement of the incisors and molars and can help avoid malpositions of the teeth.

## A teat modelled on a mother's breast



**THE NUK First Choice+ teat** is modelled on a mother's nipple as she breastfeeds.

It is 95% accepted by babies\* and especially suited for babies who are both bottle and breastfed.

With its soft zone, the tip of the

silicone teat nestles optimally against baby's palate and the NUK Anti-Colic Air System ensures a natural flow to help baby drink without swallowing air for a happy little tummy.

*\*Independent market research among 205 mothers, Germany*

## Benefits of temp controlled bottles

**WHEN** providing milk to babies, it should never be served too hot or too cold, it needs to be just right.

Parents check the drinking temperature before every meal, however knowing when the right temperature is reached can be a challenge.

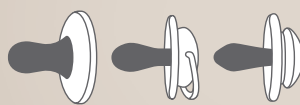
In response to this dilemma, NUK has developed the new Temperature Control indicator.

This innovation helps prevent feeding the contents of the bottle too hot to your baby.

It looks like a thermometer and is located within the graduation marks of the bottle itself, and the temperature of the contents of the bottle makes it change colour.

If the contents are too hot, the normally blue indicator will turn white.

**NUK IS  
BEST IN TEST!**



### Pacifier Study 2022

Four pacifier shapes in a scientific comparison.\*

\* "Soothers: the right shape is crucial", Pharmawissen aktuell, 2022



The original  
**NUK** Shape



## Dispensary Corner

**THIS** week's widely publicised baby spinach contamination scare has led to warnings from vegetable experts telling consumers not to seek out the recalled products in an attempt to get a cheap high.

The impacted green leafy vegetables have led to more than 130 people suffering symptoms including delirium and hallucinations, with authorities believing weeds accidentally harvested alongside spinach from the Victorian farm at the centre of the recall from major supermarkets are to blame.

Michael Coote, who is CEO of vegetable peak industry body Ausveg, noted that the spinach itself was not causing the health issues, but rather "another piece of plant matter from a weed that has been found on this particular farm that has made it through the harvest and packing process and then into products".

*The Guardian* quoted Dr Brett Summerell, Chief Scientist at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney, saying people should not pick and eat unidentified weeds in the hope of a euphoric experience.

"People might be tempted to go out picking weeds thinking that they'll get some sort of high [but] it's really important to remember yes, there might be a hallucinogenic side to this, but there's a whole lot of really horrible health issues," he said.

Farmers are facing significant outbreaks of weeds, after the recent rain and flooding.

## Blister pack recycling trial success

**NATIONAL** Pharmacies has seen a massive response from customers for its empty medicine blister pack recycling initiative (*PD* 08 Nov), with an initial pilot scheme in nine stores seeing about 60,000 packs diverted from landfill in just six weeks.

The program, conducted in partnership with pharmaceutical recycler Pharmacycle, will be expanded to all 44 National Pharmacies stores, with the group's CEO, Vito Borrello, saying the huge consumer support was heartening.

"Members and customers clearly want to do the right thing and we will give them the means to do just that," he said.

"We are, therefore, excited to extend blister pack recycling to all our stores in South Australia, Victoria and NSW," he added.

"It is an initiative that aligns



with our purpose at National Pharmacies," he added, with customers vocal on social media in their praise - including many who said they had been saving blister packs at home for years not knowing what to do with them.

Pharmacycle collects full boxes from participating pharmacies to process the contents at a specialist facility that separates plastic from

aluminium, with the components then repurposed as construction materials and thermal blocks.

Pharmacycle's Jason Rijnbeek said the business had the capacity to recycle over 1 billion blister packs each year.

"We need to build partnerships with forward-thinking organisations like National Pharmacies to build our network of collection points."

The trial ran at stores in Gawler, Golden Grove, Mitcham, Norwood, Victor Harbor, Blackwood, Findon and Glenelg in SA, and Middle Brighton in Vic, with the initial idea to participate coming from an employee via National Pharmacies' internal innovation hub.

Pharmacist Dina Maiale is **pictured** at National Pharmacies store in Norwood, one of the outlets which trialled the scheme.

## HEALTH & BEAUTY

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### Revive Tears - now PBS listed

Revive Tears lubricant eye drops provide long lasting and soothing relief against burning, irritation and discomfort due to dry eye. Moisturises, comforts and refreshes dry, tired and strained eyes. Revive Tears helps lubricate, hydrate & protect dry eyes.

Suitable for use with contact lenses.

Contains hypromellose 3mg/g.

**Supplier:** Available from Symbion, Sigma & API.

**RRP:** \$4.32 (available in 10ml packs)

**Website:** [www.petrus.com.au](http://www.petrus.com.au) for more information.





# Merry Christmas!

**WIZARD** *pharmacy*

## Happy holidays and a prosperous new year from all of us at Wizard Pharmacy

We wish you, your family and your team a very merry Christmas and a new year filled with good health and good rewards. The new year brings the opportunity for

new beginnings and a chance to reassess where you're at and where you're going. Discover how a Wizard Pharmacy franchise can support you into the new year and beyond.

**Better Care - Better Returns - Better Lifestyle | Better Get In Touch**

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**FIND OUT MORE HERE** [➔](#)

# THE REVIEWS ARE IN



**Oliver Campbell**

I tried these and I definitely don't like them.

🤢 Lucky other chemists are still keeping the Glucojel one. I will get them for them.

**Neil Duffin**

They are disgusting 🤢 glad I only purchased the small bag!!

**Wendy Brown**  
These are disgusting and not worth buying compared to the other brand. Worst decision swapping brands

**Marie Stogren**  
Some of these flavours are feral and horrible. Wont buy them again



**Lisa Brown**



**Wendy H Brown**



**Tracy MacCormack**

Yuck. Awful texture.  
Bring back Glucojel please!!



**GLUCOJEL™**

The Original Pharmacy Jelly Bean

## But customers still love the Original Pharmacy Jelly Bean