

4 ways to help build strong bones



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## LEAPP ahead

**SIGMA** Healthcare is today highlighting its LEAPP dispensary excellence program, which delivers additional workflow efficiencies giving pharmacists more time to optimise patient engagement - see **page four** for details.

## Cosmetic change

**THE** Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the Medical Board of Australia today confirmed they will implement all 16 recommendations from the recent independent review into cosmetic surgery.

Calls to a new AHPRA Cosmetic Surgery Hotline established in Sep have already resulted in the launch of 13 new investigations over allegations of unsafe or inappropriate practice - more details at [ahpra.gov.au](http://ahpra.gov.au).

## Blister pack recycling trial

**SOUTH** Australia's National Pharmacies has announced a three month pilot scheme under which selected stores will invite customers to return and deposit empty pill blister packs into special boxes.

The program will run across nine stores including Gawler, Golden Grove, Mitcham, Norwood, Victor Harbor, Blackwood, Findon, Glenelg and Middle Brighton (Vic), and if successful will expand across the group's 44-strong network.

The initiative was suggested by a National Pharmacies employee via the organisation's internal innovation hub, with the company saying it further strengthens a commitment to become more environmentally sustainable.

National Pharmacies CEO Vito Borrello said "we are excited about this initiative and thrilled to see such a wonderful idea come to life".

"It is fantastic that our employees are always exploring ways in which to be innovative, live our values and serve the community," he said.



Recycling organisation Pharmacycle will collect the instore boxes once full, then process and recycle the contents at a specialist facility in Australia.

The recycled blister packs will eventually be remanufactured as construction materials and thermal blocks, National Pharmacies said.

### Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today has three pages of news plus a full page from **Sigma Healthcare**.

## Fifth dose likely?

**EPIDEMIOLOGISTS** believe the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) may recommend a further COVID-19 booster dose, as new variants arise.

*News Limited* cited an unnamed "medical source" who works closely with the advisory body as saying a fifth dose was "almost certainly" going to be recommended as soon as Jan as officials monitor rising case numbers overseas.

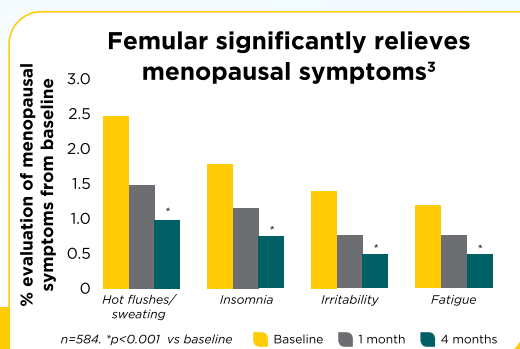
However the report also notes other experts urging a further uptake of existing opportunities for vaccination, with half of the people eligible for the fourth dose not having had it yet.

Last week NSW Chief Health Officer, Kerry Chant, urged people to stay home if they present any cold or flu-like symptoms amid concern over the CBB and BQ.1 sub-variants.



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\*#1 selling non-prescription menopause relief product in Switzerland. References: 1. Lopatka L et al, Journal of Menopause 2007; 2:16-21.  
2. IQVIA, national sales data Switzerland, sell-in (Pharmacy, Drugstore, Self-dispensing Doctors), turnover (ex-factory) in CHF, MAT June 2021.

## AIHW cardiovascular drug error alert

A **LARGE** proportion of Australians who suffer a heart attack do not receive the recommended medications when they leave hospital, according to a new report released this month by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The organisation has tracked patient pathways following coronary heart disease hospitalisations using data from the National Integrated Health Services Information Analysis Asset.

Of 67,800 people admitted to hospital with coronary heart disease (CHD) between 01 Jul 2016 and 30 Jun 2017, about half (35,200) had acute coronary syndrome (ACS), which includes heart attacks and unstable angina.

AIHW spokesperson, Mirium Lum On, noted that people who have been to hospital for ACS are at higher risk of having another cardiovascular event in the future. "However there are steps that they can take to reduce this risk,



including taking cardiovascular medicines," she said.

Australian clinical guidelines recommend that people who survive an ACS event are prescribed a multidrug regime that includes four medication classes - however only 61% of people with ACS had been dispensed three or more of the guideline-recommended preventive medicines within 40 days of leaving hospital, the data analysis found.

The inadequate medication was less common in women, as well as in people who underwent a bypass graft during their hospitalisation.

"Today's release provides a better understanding of some of the factors that affect medication use by people with CHD discharged from hospital," Lum On said.

"However further work is required to identify why some population subgroups were less likely to access preventive medications, or continue medications after hospital.

"The AIHW is working closely with our expert advisory group on further analysis examining the relationship between medication adherence and the risk of subsequent hospitalisations and death," she added.

## UK interchange

**BRITAIN'S** Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has updated its guidance on biosimilars, and is now allowing interchangeability if they use the same reference medicinal product (RP).

The guidance now notes that "once authorised, a biosimilar product is considered to be interchangeable with their RP, which means a prescriber can choose the biosimilar medicine over the RP (or vice versa) and expect to achieve the same therapeutic effect".

The MHRA said as a result, "switching patients from one product to another (RP or biosimilar) has become clinical practice...the decision rests with the prescriber in consultation with the patient, in line with the principles of shared decision making; both need to be aware of the brand name of the product received".

## Sandoz boosts antibiotic manufacturing

**SANDOZ** has announced a €50 million investment in a key manufacturing facility in Austria, to support increased global demand for essential antibiotics.

The expanded facility at Kundl will make finished dosage form penicillins, with technology upgrades to also partly offset the impact of high energy costs.

Sandoz also last year spent a further €100 million on boosting the Kundl site's capacity to

make active pharmaceutical ingredients for amoxicillin.

"Antibiotics remain the backbone of modern medicine and we are seeing rapidly increasing demand following the unprecedented market swings of the past few years," said Sandoz CEO Richard Saynor.

He said the investment would help meet the growing need as well as support the creation of hundreds of new jobs in Austria.



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## Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

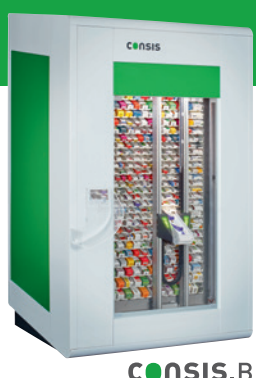
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## Dispensary Corner

**THERE'S** been a medical breakthrough of a kind in the USA this week, where a Philadelphia man who ate nothing but a whole roast chicken daily for 40 days in a row has concluded it was not good for his health.

The so-called "chickenman" tracked his quest by simply posting photos on Twitter of his daily chook consumption - developing somewhat of a following along the way.

31-year-old Alexander Tominsky said he was motivated to eat the chickens because of the "world's pain".

"I must do something that brings me pain to make others smile...sounds weird, but I just felt like I was doing this for a very important reason," he told the *New York Post*.

He said he had originally planned a month-long chicken-eating project, but extended it by 10 days because he felt he hadn't gone far enough.

Tominsky said after eating his 40th bird he felt "really gross".

During the 40-day period he lost about 7kg and began to have frequent bouts of dizziness and achiness.

"Never, never again," he said.

His more than 30,000 social media followers avidly tracked the chicken consumption, with one commenting that he found the project "refreshing".

However another noted "there's no broader meaning here. I don't think there's anything to take out of it as far as a moral lesson, it's just a guy eating chicken".

## Pharmacy to fill UK breach

**THE** UK Government has proposed new legislation which would formalise arrangements for the supply of free medications via pharmacies in the event of future major pandemic incidents.

An updated *Health and Care Act 2022* would see certain items supplied by the Government and centrally stocked in community pharmacies, such as vaccines, medicines used for the prevention or treatment of pandemic disease, and accompanying products such as syringes.

Under the proposal new powers would be delegated to standardise National Health Service (NHS) procedures so pharmacies could receive designated products free of charge, eliminating the need for NHS reimbursement.

The UK Department of Health said if made law the proposal would "strengthen the legal basis for scenarios where the usual supply routes are bypassed".

Under current arrangements, the only practical way to achieve centrally stocked free supplies on a secure legal footing would be for

the NHS to sell stock to wholesalers - who would in turn sell to community pharmacies, which are then reimbursed by the NHS - a clearly inefficient process.

The Department noted that the provision is only to create the "enabling powers" for such arrangements in the future, with no immediate impacts expected, as the exercise of such powers would be subject to other legislation which may or may not be implemented in the future.

The UK Government stressed that it did not intend to "radically change NHS pharmaceutical service provision or payment mechanisms to community pharmacies or the pharmaceutical supply chain that they use", but was aiming to provide a legal basis for such an arrangement in the event of a future health emergency.

The wide-ranging Act also covers a range of other amendments relating to hospital food standards, licensing of cosmetic procedures, medicines information systems, eradicating human trafficking and slavery and climate change.

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## Guild Update

### APP program

**EXCITEMENT** about next year's APP conference just went up a notch after its program was released.

The event's website says the upcoming conference will be "offering something for everyone from pharmacy students and interns to pharmacy owners and managers".

Apart from the already announced headline act of inspirational athlete, Turia Pitt, the conference will also host sportsman, businessman and motivational speaker Michael Crossland. He's also a survivor having beaten a rare form of cancer.

Conference Convenor, Kos Sclavos AM says the conference will focus on the future of Pharmacy.

"In recent years the APP program has focused on community pharmacy's role in the COVID-19 pandemic and managing the ever-changing health environment," Mr Sclavos said.

"Now, our thoughts turn to what is next, with the program addressing key issues such as pharmacists' scope of practice, preparation for the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement and the future pharmacy workforce."

To view the APP full program, [CLICK HERE](#).



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The LEAPP Dispensary Excellence Program delivers dispensary workflow efficiencies that provide pharmacists the time and skills to optimise engagement with their patients.

### Benefits to your pharmacy

- + Can build dispensary workflow efficiencies and increase pharmacist's availability, allowing pharmacists more time to spend with their patients.
- + Aims to improve the quality of patient engagement through upskilling pharmacists in counselling techniques.

“After more than two decades as a pharmacist, I was still surprised by some of the things that I learnt during LEAPP. Since completing the Program, I still use those tips on a daily basis to help get the most out of my dispensary, team and customer interactions.”

**Karen**  
- Amcal Wilsonton

**TO FIND OUT MORE CONTACT**  
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