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## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features four pages of news, including our **Beauty & Wellness** feature, plus a full page from **Pharmacy Own**.

## Value comes first

**PHARMACY Own**, new and exclusive to CH2, has a range of OTC medicines at affordable prices.

Ask about various pack sizes that can also help improve your pharmacy's margins.

See more on the **back page**.

## Beauty & Wellness

**WE RECENTLY** launched our dedicated beauty and wellness page for all pharmacy staff with news and trends across the sector.

We'd love to hear your feedback, and to submit news for the page, **CLICK HERE**.

## Brendan Murphy to retire

**THE** Secretary of the Department of Health, Brendan Murphy, (pictured) will step down effective on 06 Jul (*PD* breaking news).

Murphy has led our healthcare system through the most turbulent time in recent history, said PSA National President Dr Fei Sim, thanking him for his leadership and support of the profession.

"During his tenure as Secretary of the Department of Health, he not only navigated a global pandemic, but also led reforms in aged care, primary care and [the] healthcare workforce."

Under Murphy's leadership, the Federal Government made the largest investment in pharmacy outside of the Community Pharmacy Agreement, announcing \$345.7m to embed pharmacists in Residential Aged Care Facilities to improve medicine safety for our oldest Australians, Sim said.

Guild National President Trent Twomey said, "Murphy also faced the dynamic of the tyranny of



distance which presented supply chain issues in sourcing much-needed COVID-19 vaccinations, rapid antigen tests and other medicines and supplies needed to help combat the pandemic.

"He was unwavering in his commitment to protect communities as best he could."

Health Minister Mark Butler said Murphy led the Department during its biggest public health response in over 100 years.

"With Murphy's leadership the Department has responded to a renewed focus on Commonwealth-State health relations, including advising National Cabinet."

Merit-based recruitment for the next Secretary has started.

## Birth risk update

**TOPAMAX** (Topiramate) use in pregnant women has now been linked to an increased risk of neuro-developmental disorders and birth defects in children whose mothers were taking topiramate during pregnancy.

The increased risk of neuro-developmental disorders, including autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability, was identified in a large observational study.

Janssen-Cilag, the sponsor for Topamax (topiramate) products, is updating the Topamax data sheet and issuing a Dear Healthcare Professional Letter (see [HERE](#)) with information relating to this safety update.

The Topiramate data sheets already included information about the risk of congenital malformations.

Read up on the study on neuro-developmental disorders [HERE](#).

## Drop Everything! Liquid Supplements Are Here

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## Fortune top 100

**FORTUNE** Magazine has four pharma named in its 100 Best Companies to Work For List for 2023.

In order at 69th place was Horizon Therapeutics, 79th - AbbVie, 84th place - Vertex Pharmaceuticals, and 98th - Merck.

The companies had paid days off for volunteering with AbbVie and Merck having fully paid maternal and paternal leave.

## Great products Healthy margins

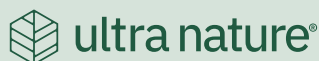
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## 'Run out of meds quick'

**CHEMIST** Warehouse Director Mario Tascone has weighed in on the debate over the changes to prescribing and dispensing rules being promoted by doctors, by warning that doubling prescription lengths and increasing the amount of medicine Australians can get with each script will result in "drug shortages".

Tascone said the changes being pushed by doctors could work, but only if pharmacies were given adequate time to prepare given they are already struggling with supply issues.

He told *3AW Radio* on Mon the proposal was a good idea "in principle".

"But there are a number of shortages of pharmacy medicines already and I think that doubling the supply of the common drugs will lead to even more shortages," he said.

"So as long as there was a long lead time it will work well, if you get the supply chain right.

"But today, to introduce double dispensing is just kicking a big own goal [from doctors] - you'd run out of medicines pretty quick."

The Royal Australian College

of General Practitioners and the Australian Medical Association have called on the Federal Government to allow the dispensing of 60 days supply and 12-month scripts for 143 medicines used to treat chronic conditions.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has challenged the proposal, writing to every Federal MP including Anthony Albanese to urge them not to introduce the changes.

**MEANWHILE**, Australians with acute or chronic graft versus host disease, chronic rhinosinusitis, and oesophageal cancer or gastro-oesophageal junction cancer now have access to new and updated medicines under the PBS.

Jakavi (ruxolitinib) will be listed for the treatment of patients with graft versus host disease.

Nucala (mepolizumab) is being expanded for the treatment of chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps.

Opdivo (nivolumab) will be expanded for adjuvant treatment of patients with oesophageal or gastro-oesophageal junction cancer.

Kanuma is on the Life Saving Drugs Program for the treatment of infantile onset lysosomal acid lipase deficiency.

## Prison sentence

A **VICTORIAN** medical receptionist was sentenced last month to two years imprisonment, with a minimum term of 12 months by the County Court of Victoria after pleading guilty to charging more than \$181,000 in fraudulent Medicare payments.

Following a successful referral to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, Sarah Ward from Clyde North entered a guilty plea.

Ward will be eligible for release after 12 months, subject to good behaviour for 12 months and payment of a pecuniary penalty to the Commonwealth of \$1,000.

During the period of 29 Jul 2017 and 27 Mar 2020, Ward made false claims relating to 1,610 Medicare Benefits Schedule items with 783 claims made in her name and 827 claims in her husband's name.

As a result Ward received \$181,121.75 in Medicare benefits she was not entitled to.

All monies have been repaid in full.

## PCA rollout starts

**THE** national rollout of Provider Connect Australia (PCA) began last month in a staged manner.

The rollout initially focuses on GPs and pharmacies who provide vaccine services, to ensure they are equipped to manage their services ahead of the winter season.

This will be followed by a broader national rollout for all healthcare organisations from Jul onwards.

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## Editor's Choice: slip a bit of Hippy into your facial routine

**AN ENTIRE** generation of 20-somethings have swapped out the nine-to-five grind and fast food for wellness retreats and plant-based diets.

But a healthy lifestyle doesn't end on the plate.

A bit Hippy makes skin and hair care that's good for your skin and the planet.

CEO of A bit Hippy, Melody Livingstone, says their philosophy is simple: clean, vegan and non-toxic skincare that is fuss-free.

"Our definition of 'clean' skincare is a product range that is healthy for you, your skin and the environment.

"We say no to nasty ingredients and with skin sensitivities on the



rise, it's more important than ever to cater to those with sensitive skin," said Livingstone.

The brand's Face Oil has rosehip oil to moisturise, promote skin regeneration and flexibility, with added vit C and vit E to nourish

and protect, and retails for \$26.90.

The range also consists of a hair care collection with an aerosol-free natural Dry Shampoo made with Australian olive clay to absorb excess oils, with products packaged in cardboard.

## Invest in skincare

**WITH** BWX's collapse this month, many have wondered about the fate of the popular Go-To Skincare brand.

Its founder Zoe Foster Blake (pictured) has recently announced that the brand will continue to operate independently.

In a statement, she said, "Go-To Skincare has always been a separate and autonomous company to BWX, and we will continue to operate as such.

"Our focus remains on providing effective, affordable, and fun skincare for everyone."

However, Go-To Skincare has announced that it is currently looking for a new potential buyer for the 50.1% controlling stake.



This decision comes after Foster Blake sold the company in 2021, in the hopes of taking a step back from its day-to-day running.

While the future of Go-To Skincare may not be directly tied to BWX, the collapse of the parent company may still have a significant impact.

BWX's financial troubles may mean a decline in resources and support for Go-To Skincare, and this may result in the overall running and marketing of the brand being affected.

## Spirulina skin lift

**ELLA** Baché has celebrated the launch of its upcoming new skin solution, SpirulinesLift, via an afternoon at Saint Cloche Gallery in Paddington, Sydney.

The event merged worlds of art, food and skincare where guests learnt about the transformative anti-ageing benefits of spirulina for skin through a spirulina and maca-inspired culinary demonstration by food artist Seasonal Simone.



## Clean sensitive areas without harsh rubbing



**BIODERMA** has launched its Sensibio H2O Eye Makeup Remover.

The addition to the French brand's Sensibio range, Sensibio H2O waterproof remover cleanses and nourishes the sensitive skin around the eyes and also lips.

It removes even the most

stubborn makeup while caring for those delicate areas and improving lash density.

Different from other bi-phase cleansers that feature a 50% split between the oil phase and micellar, in Sensibio H2O Eye Makeup Remover (RRP: \$24.99) the oily phase only accounts for 30% of the formula.

Therefore, Sensibio H2O Eye thoroughly removes makeup while offering maximum sensory appeal, leaving the skin feeling cleansed and nourished.

Tip: Shake the bottle to combine the oil and water formulation, and activate the micelles, then soak a cotton pad and place on the area to be cleansed.

Hold for a few seconds then gently wipe away, no need to rinse.

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## Dispensary Corner

**FALSE** anti-vax claims, misogyny and anti-LGBT rhetoric, and the denial of the 2020 US election result all saw an increase on Twitter after Elon Musk's takeover, *BBC* reported. But he denies this, saying in an one-hour interview with *BBC* this week that "my experience is there is less misinformation rather than more".

Adding that if he did sell, Musk said it would be more important to find a buyer who cherishes the "truth" rather than how much they'd pay because, as he says, "I don't care about the money".

He also said he has appointed new leadership.

"I did stand down," he said. "I keep telling you, I'm not the CEO of Twitter - my dog is the CEO of Twitter," with a tweeted photo of his dog Floki.

Musk said he sleeps at the Twitter headquarters sometimes.

"There's a library nobody goes to on the seventh floor and there's a couch there and sometimes I sleep there."

## Gift of life's baton here



**THE** World Transplant Games is known as the largest sporting event for organ transplant recipients in the world.

From Sat 15 to Fri 21 Apr, Perth will host over 1,500 athletes and supporters from more than 50 countries.

The Games is a global celebration of the gift of life - organ and tissue donation.

It will provide an opportunity to showcase the success of transplantation through the lives and athletic feats of transplant recipients.

This event aims to not only help raise awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donation, it

will also promote a second chance of life as transplant recipients compete in high exertion and low-impact sports.

The seven-day program features 17 different sporting competitions, ranging from athletics to tenpin bowling.

This will be the third Games in Australia, with previous events held in Sydney in 1997 and the Gold Coast in 2009.

This event is one of many major sporting events coming to Australia as part of the green-and-gold decade of events.

For more information about the World Transplant Games, or to get involved, **CLICK HERE**.

## Gee gets award

**MURDOCH** Children's Research Institute researcher Dr Graham Gee has received a national award for his work supporting healing and recovery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survivors of childhood sexual abuse and improving practices to better suit their needs.

Announced by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Gee received the 2022 NHMRC Sandra Eades Investigator Grant Award, given to the highest ranked successful Indigenous applicant in the Council's Investigator Grants Emerging Leadership scheme.

Gee said, "it's humbling and an honour to be given an award named after such an inspirational woman and researcher as Sandra Eades.

"This research will generate knowledge about survivors' lived experiences of healing and recovery, identify current therapeutic practices, and build training and education resources that support Aboriginal organisations to better meet the healing and recovery needs of survivors."

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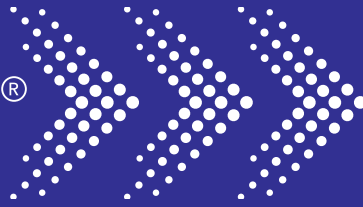
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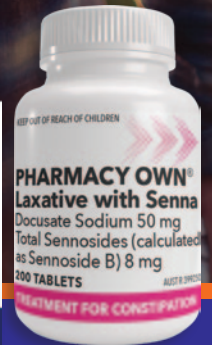


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