

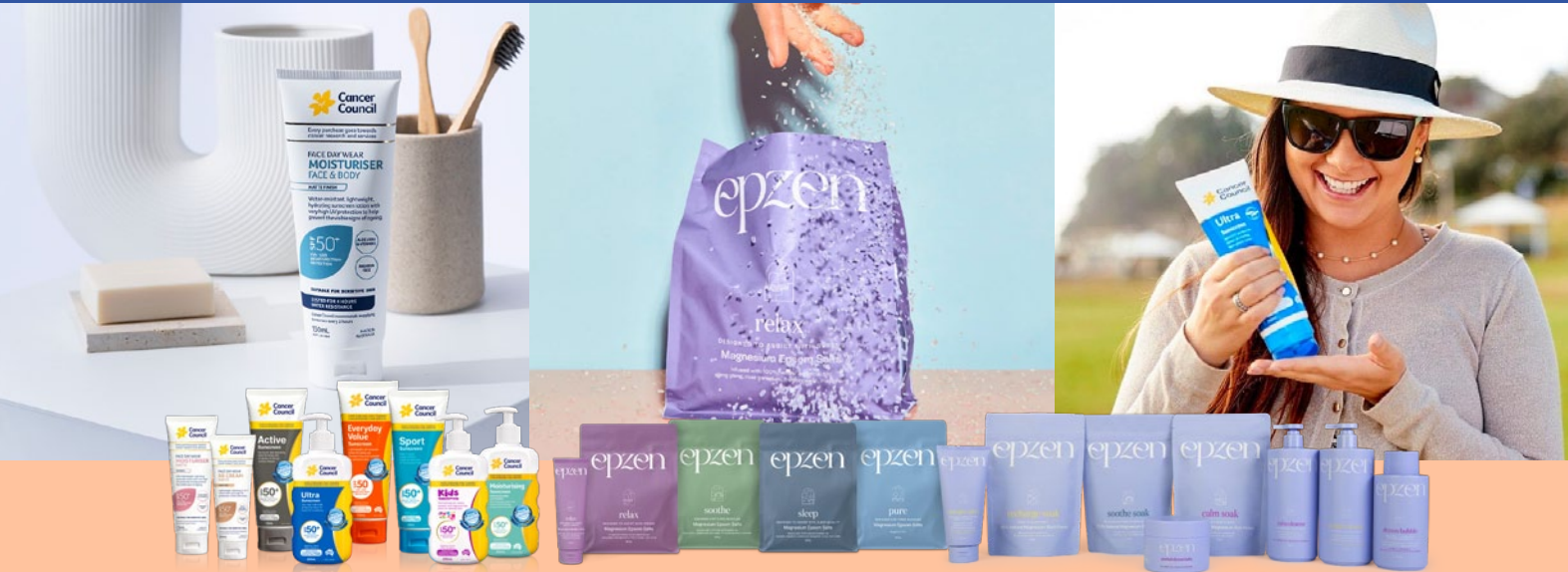


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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news plus a front cover wrap from Pharmabroker Sales and a full page from TerryWhite Chemmart.

SSSI: Penicillin V

THE TGA has made a Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument (SSSI) to manage the shortage of the antibiotic phenoxymethylpenicillin (Penicillin V).

The SSSI allows a pharmacist to offer to the patient or their carer an alternative phenoxymethylpenicillin oral liquid or suspension product when the prescribed one is unavailable; and phenoxymethylpenicillin 250mg capsules or 250mg tablets where the prescribed dose is divisible by 250mg.

The SSSI is in force from 17 Apr until 30 Sep.

TGA investigates vapes

THE company that sold vapes in Hubba Bubba flavours via TikTok "sponsored posts" without checking IDs is currently under investigation by the TGA.

A TGA spokesperson said the regulator will now "determine the most appropriate regulatory action" against the content and owners of the Ethically Enhanced website, which sells vapes containing cannabidiol (CBD) under the name Temple CBD Australia, *The Guardian* has reported.

The confectionery brand Mars, which makes the Hubba Bubba chewing gum, is also "considering legal action" against the company.

Temple CBD's targeted "sponsored posts" were active on TikTok for at least a week, despite Australia not allowing medicinal cannabis products to be advertised to the public.

After being contacted about the advertisements, TikTok banned the account for breaching its policies, but said it was the "responsibility of the advertiser to ensure that all

ads posted on TikTok are legally compliant, in accordance with our advertising policy and appropriate for our community".

"We have strict policies and guidelines relating to all content on our platform including ads," Jed Horner, TikTok's country policy manager, said in a statement, *The Guardian* has reported.

New sales team

VITALITY Brands has announced that it has appointed Pharmabroker Sales as its national sales team.

The company that distributes the Cancer Council sunscreens and the EpZen products is also offering you a chance to win Apple AirPods.

See more on the cover page.

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PSA statement at the heart of care

RECOGNISING that culturally safe care and equity of healthcare access are critical drivers to improving health outcomes, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) launched its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' healthcare position statement, last week.

Reaffirming the importance of genuine partnerships and shared decision-making, the statement was drafted in consultation with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

PSA National President Dr Fei Sim said that in collaboration, the PSA and NACCHO have pioneered onsite pharmacists within their network, "a program that has been successful and we will continue to work to make this service available to as many patients as possible."

"In co-design with NACCHO, PSA has delivered key initiatives including the IPAC trial and development of the Deadly Pharmacists Foundation Training Course to equip pharmacists with the skills needed to work within Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services."

Sim said that the statement



demonstrates pharmacists' commitment to enhancing the life expectancy, health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"The 2022 *Closing the Gap Annual Report* highlighted that the target to close the health and life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation, while trending in a positive direction, is not on track.

"This is something that needs to be urgently addressed not only by providing best practice care but also increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation in the pharmacy workforce.

"The PSA has reaffirmed our strong commitment to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander bodies to provide the best

support for our patients," Sim said.

The statement also reaffirms PSA's longstanding support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which calls for a First Nations Voice to be enshrined in the Constitution and for a Makarrata Commission as a process for agreement-making and truth-telling.

"We wholeheartedly stand by our endorsement of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and continue to work closely with NACCHO and other Indigenous-led health organisations to equip our profession with the skills and tools to deliver appropriate care for all Australians," Sim said.

Read the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' healthcare position statement **HERE**.

Stop, swap, vape

DESPITE health warnings over the dangers of e-cigs, pregnant women in the UK who smoke will get up to £400 (A\$589) in shopping vouchers and vape 'starter kits' to be handed out for free, in a bid to make the country smoke-free.

A million smokers will be offered vape 'starter kits' in a world-first policy to make England smoke-free, the *Daily Mail* has reported.

Despite extensive evidence on the health risks of vaping, the free kits are set to be offered to almost one in five of all smokers in England.

The NHS has long advised that vaping can help smokers quit - but hasn't given people the equipment to start it.

The stop-to-swap scheme is estimated to cost around £45m (A\$83m) over two years.

Officials say 9% of women smoke during pregnancy in England and it's hoped all will stop by the end of the year with a financial incentive and behavioural support.

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Monkeypox virus detection kit

THE TGA has approved the first commercially supplied test kit for the detection of the Mpox (monkeypox) virus.

Monkeypox Virus RT-PCR Diagnostic Kit (NAT-17) is manufactured by HA Tech.

The test must be performed in an accredited pathology laboratory and uses real-time polymerase chain reaction methodology to detect DNA from the Mpox virus in clinical samples collected from people with suspected lesions.

Since May 2022, there has been a global increase in Mpox infections.

Mpox symptoms are like smallpox symptoms, but milder and rarely fatal.

Most people will recover in two to four weeks.

More severe cases, while rare, can occur, requiring medical care.

Bulk billing Tas clinics

TO EASE pressure on hospitals both the Federal and Tasmanian Governments have established an additional Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (Medicare UCC) in Tasmania, taking the total number of Medicare UCCs to be established in the state to four.

Health Minister Mark Butler said, "Medicare UCCs are just one way the Australian Government is strengthening Medicare."

"Instead of spending hours in an emergency department, local patients will be able to visit a Medicare UCC, be seen by highly trained doctors and nurses, get X-rays or blood tests, and they will be bulk billed."

Premier Rockliff added that "the Tasmanian Government understands the important role that the primary healthcare sector plays in caring for our community and we look forward to seeing the establishment of Medicare Urgent Care Clinics across all regions of Tasmania."

"By providing more affordable, accessible healthcare in the community, we can reduce the number of people needing care coming into an acute hospital setting, relieving some of the demand pressures we are now seeing in our hospitals."

Medicare UCCs will provide bulk-billed care for locals with urgent medical needs over extended hours, seven days a week.

These clinics, to be established in Devonport, Launceston and two in Hobart, could see patients as soon as the middle of the year.

More than 41% of presentations to emergency departments in Tasmania are classified as semi- or non-urgent.

The Medicare UCCs will accept walk-in patients and offer people ways to get affordable medical care at short notice.

Providers are being identified through a tender process, which follows an Expression of Interest that closed earlier this year.

Perinatal healing

MORE than \$5.1m in Govt grants will go to organisations to support high-quality bereavement care to women and families following stillbirth or miscarriage.

Each day in Australia, six babies are born stillborn and two die before they are 28 days old, equating to around 3,000 perinatal deaths yearly.

Up to one in five confirmed pregnancies end in miscarriage before 20 weeks.

The funding comprises:

- \$3.2m to Red Nose Australia to implement its Healing Through Community project.
- \$980,000 to the Centre for Research Excellence in Stillbirth to enhance and expand the IMPROVE education program.
- \$850,000 to Rural Health Connect to deliver telehealth psychology sessions.

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Dispensary Corner

ELAINE Lebar is a 95-year-old with significant dementia who has gone viral on TikTok for performances of classics like Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*, Debussy's *Claire de Lune*, and Chopin's *Waltz In C# minor, USA Today* has reported.

Elaine's daughter, Randi Lebar, began recording her mother after moving her into a memory care facility near her home in Sagamore, Massachusetts, US.

During the pandemic, Lebar realised the recordings could be therapeutic.

Lebar continued posting old recordings of her mother on TikTok until one fateful day, a viewer requested the third movement of the *Moonlight Sonata*.

Her mother's first response was, "I don't know it".

Then, magic happened.

"I remember I posted it in the morning, and my phone started to blow up.

"I couldn't even open TikTok because it just crashed every time I tried to open it," Lebar said.

"By that evening, that video had four and a half million views. And the rest is history."

Since Elaine has gone viral on TikTok, Randi has been able to spread awareness to millions about dementia education, music therapy, and the magic of the human brain.

"There was a whole cadre of music therapists that were chiming in," Lebar said.

"Isn't it magical what music can do, even with a fairly debilitating brain disease?"

Woman dies of tetanus

NSW Health is urging pharmacists to remind people to make sure they are up to date with their tetanus vaccinations after three cases in NSW, including one death.

Dr Christine Selvey, Director of Communicable Diseases, NSW Health, urged the community, particularly older Australians, to ensure they are up-to-date with their tetanus vaccinations.

"Tetanus is a rare, but potentially fatal disease.

"Vaccination is the best protection against tetanus," Selvey said.

"In Australia, the disease mostly occurs in older people, usually women, who are inadequately immunised."

Sadly, NSW Health can confirm a woman in her 80s from Sydney died on 01 Apr from tetanus.

This death follows two other notifications of tetanus reported in NSW this year, a woman in her 80s, also from Sydney, and a woman in her 70s from Northern NSW.

These are the first tetanus cases reported in NSW since 2019, and the death is the first due to tetanus since 1993.

"This serves as a reminder for all older Australians to check their tetanus vaccination status.



"If there is any doubt, speak to your general practitioner about whether you should have a tetanus vaccine," Selvey said.

In all three cases, tetanus was acquired from a minor wound on the woman's lower leg that was contaminated by garden soil.

Two of the women had no record of tetanus vaccination and the third woman had a vaccine more than 30 years ago.

A three-dose primary course of tetanus vaccinations is offered in infancy under the National Immunisation Program.

Adults who have had a primary course of tetanus vaccine should receive booster doses at 50 and 65 years if it has been more than 10 years since the last dose.

Adults who have never received a primary course should receive three doses of tetanus-containing vaccine, followed by booster doses after 10 and 20 years.

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Amit Saha, Innovation Manager, LaCorium Health.**



Redefining acne treatment approach?

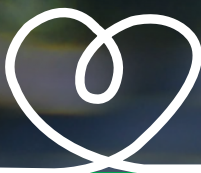
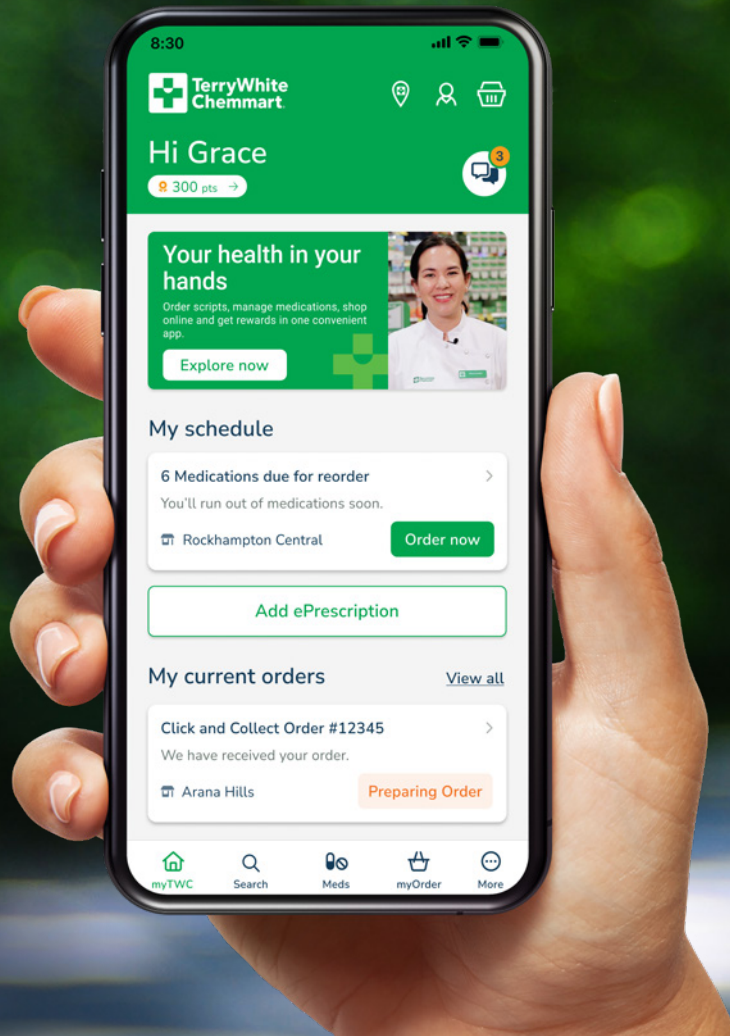
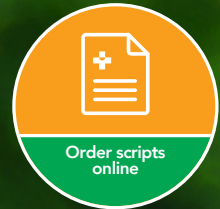
ACNE treatment in the over-the-counter space hasn't seen innovation for years. It has always been the use of either salicylic acid or benzyl peroxide which primarily focuses on clearing blocked pores and killing acne-causing bacteria.

But this approach sometimes does more harm than good in the long run. It is time to acknowledge the fact that alternate treatment approach without these two so called "staples" can provide better clinical outcome. Also, worth focusing on unique ingredients that can offer sebum control and microbiome balance to make the acne management journey more holistic with less side effects.

While controlling the overproduction of sebum addresses the root cause of the problem, balancing the skin's microbiome can also play a key role by ensuring that certain strains of acne-causing bacteria remain less pathogenic, reducing the chance of an infection in an acne lesion.

Finally, never underestimate the effect of post-acne scarring which can cause significant impact on a person's self-esteem and quality of life. A treatment regime that addresses scarring while treating is surely innovative and very impressive!

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