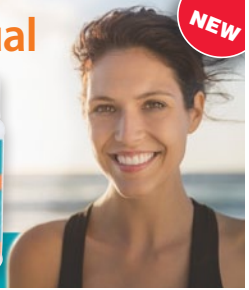


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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

Site visit flag fall

THE COVID-19 Taskforce has announced that the Residential Care Incentive payments will cease on 01 Feb, as part of streamlined arrangements.

The Incentive Payments will cease on the above date and transition into an increased Site Visit (flag fall) payment of \$118.15 that can be claimed by pharmacies who visit vulnerable patients and workers to administer COVID-19 vaccinations.

All remaining claims under these arrangements must be for services provided prior to 01 Feb 2023; and lodged with the PPA by 28 Feb 2023.

For more information about the Residential Care Incentive payments [CLICK HERE](#).

Alert on for signs of bacterial disease

PHARMACISTS should advise the community to be aware of the signs and symptoms of rare but severe, invasive bacterial infections following a recent increase in cases, NSW Health said.

Executive Director of Health Protection NSW, Dr Richard Broome said there had been increases in both meningococcal disease (IMD) and invasive group A streptococcus (iGAS) infections in recent weeks.

Cases of IMD were above average in NSW towards the end of last year, and cases of iGAS have increased in NSW, in other states, and overseas.

Dr Broome said it was important the community was aware while the infections are very rare, both can be very serious and can cause death or permanent disability.

"In their early stages, invasive bacterial infections including IMD or iGAS sometimes mimic symptoms of viral infections like COVID and influenza and can also follow or occur at the same time



as a viral infection," Dr Broome has warned.

"Rapid intervention and effective treatment for invasive bacterial infections are available and can be lifesaving.

"We urge people to pay close attention to symptoms, trust their instincts, and seek urgent medical care if symptoms worsen or if they or the people they care for appear very unwell.

"While notification data on iGAS has only recently become available

in NSW, the number of people unwell with the condition has clearly increased here and across the world," Dr Broome said.

Between Sep and Dec 2022, 137 cases of iGAS were notified in NSW, while there were 36 cases of meningococcal disease reported across the state last year.

Indicators of serious illness include fever, a fast heart rate, cold hands and feet or a mottled look to the skin, difficulty waking or increased lethargy or confusion.

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Dispensary Corner

THE beauty industry is about to see the launch of one of its most inclusive devices to date.

Using AI technology, Lancôme has designed a motion-stabilising device, which makes applying makeup with a disability easier.

Some disabilities see people struggle to apply makeup with unsteady hands - and this tool will help bridge the gap.

Called the HAPTA, it comes with customisable magnetic attachments and motion controls to help users open difficult packaging and apply products.

A brand spokesperson stated that "an estimated 50 million people globally live with limited fine motor skills.

"This makes some daily gestures, like applying makeup, challenging."

Tick for at-home tests

SCREENING for bowel cancer using at-home faecal immunochemical tests could help to reduce the frequency of colonoscopies for some at above-average risk individuals, with a new study finding there is a low risk of advanced tumours following multiple negative tests.

"Due to the risks, costs and burden on the healthcare system from surveillance colonoscopies for bowel cancer, we need to explore how we can further personalise screening intervals," said study lead author Dr Molla Wassie, an NHMRC Emerging Leadership Fellow in the Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute.

"While people at a high-risk are encouraged to undertake surveillance colonoscopies every one to five years depending on their family history and prior colonoscopy results, faecal immunochemical tests could be one way of identifying those who could extend their surveillance

interval out further."

Published in pre-print in the journal *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, the team conducted a retrospective study of more than 3,300 individuals enrolled in the Southern Cooperative Program for the Prevention of Colorectal Cancer.

The participants had no bowel cancer found in their previous colonoscopy and were asked to have another in three to five years, while also being sent a faecal immunochemical test annually.

"We found the risk of the follow-up colonoscopy identifying advanced neoplastic lesions including cancer following a negative FIT was around one in 10, with this risk decreasing further with every subsequent negative result, with the risk only 5.7% after four negative tests," said Dr Wassie.

The authors say this supports the use of faecal immunochemical tests in individual cases and reduces overall frequency of colonoscopies.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to *Pharmacy Daily's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is

Wayne Marinoff,
Executive GM Sales & Marketing, MedAdvisor



Our Year in Review

2022 was another successful year for MedAdvisor.

The team welcomed Linda Jenkinson as the new chair of the board and Rick Ratliff as CEO and Managing Director, both based in the US with extensive experience across tech and pharmacy including in Australia.

Our team also released the largest update to the MedAdvisor app and a new version of our Business Insights reporting portal. We developed new features to support the COVID vaccination program, with approximately 8.9 million COVID vaccinations recorded and claimed via PlusOne and GuildCare. Alongside this, flu vaccination increased by 82% from 2021, a trend that is expected to continue.

GuildLink was acquired and we are in the process of transitioning GuildCare pharmacies to MedAdvisor. Soon, we'll be offering Project Stop and UTIP (QLD) within PlusOne, allowing pharmacies to use a single platform.

This year promises to be another big year, with a focus on supporting the expanding scope of practice, transitioning PlusOne to the cloud, simplifying the patient sign-up process and improving eScript workflows.

'Body positivity'

A SMALL break from the barrage of posts on social media reinforcing societal beauty standards can make a difference to body satisfaction, according to new UNSW Sydney research.

The study, published in the journal *Body Image*, showed that following social media pages celebrating different body sizes, shapes, colours, and abilities - or 'body positivity' - can help improve young women's body image in everyday life.

For more information on this study [CLICK HERE](#).

Intermittent fasting not that beneficial

INTERMITTENT fasting extends lifespan and reduces inflammation in rodents, but whether it is equally beneficial in humans is unclear.

A new study in *Aging Biology* by Luigi Fontana, who is currently the Scientific Director of the Charles Perkins Centre Royal Prince Alfred Clinic at the University of Sydney, shows that intermittent fasting is not as effective in humans.

In this randomised clinical trial that was conducted at Washington University in St Louis where Fontana was a Professor of Medicine, overweight men

and women were assigned to either intermittent fasting or a Western-like diet for six months.

In the second six months of the study, all participants underwent intermittent fasting.

The findings were unexpected; while the intermittent fasting regiment induced an 8% weight loss and 16% reduction in total body fat, it did not alleviate inflammation, and modestly improved insulin sensitivity.

This underscores that results from animal models cannot be easily extrapolated to humans.

More studies are needed to explore the impact of such diets.



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Pharmacy Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

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