

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

Sales outlook up

ABBVIE has raised its 2025 sales forecast to more than US\$17.5b (up from US\$15bn) for its newer immunology drugs Skyrizi and Rinvoq, as it hopes to replace the loss of revenue from its rheumatoid arthritis drug Humira.

AbbVie also expects peak sales of the drugs to exceed US\$21b in 2027.

The two drugs are part of the company's long-term growth strategy to offset Humira's loss of exclusivity.

The drugmaker has been in contract negotiations with insurers and pharmacy benefit managers for Humira for this year that would determine the drug's sales in 2023.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Grit your teeth on sugar tax Australia!

AS DOZENS more governments around the world adopt a sugar tax and new evidence shows this tax can improve dental health, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) has renewed its call for Australia to implement a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB).

The AMA's latest report, *Why tax sugary drinks?* part of its #Sickly-Sweet campaign sets out why the tax is an effective preventative health measure that would reduce Australians' consumption of sugary drinks, which is associated with obesity, type 2 diabetes, and tooth decay.

The report shows an additional 40 countries and jurisdictions globally have adopted a sugar tax since the AMA's first research report in Jun 2021 and includes a new focus on oral health.

It details how sugary drinks decay and erode teeth and highlights shocking Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing findings including a prevalence of dental



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caries in the baby teeth of four in 10 Aussie children.

AMA Vice President, Dr Danielle McMullen said: "Australians drink enough sugary drinks to fill 960 Olympic swimming pools each year.

"We're recommending the federal government tax 40c on every 100g of sugar manufacturers add to drinks - that will mean just a 16c increase to the price of a regular can of fizzy drink, but for that, you'll get a great health outcome.

"Over a 25-year period, we estimate this would result in 16,000 fewer cases of type 2 diabetes,

4,400 fewer cases of heart disease, and 1,100 fewer cases of stroke.

"It would also generate revenue of up to \$814m annually which we say should be spent on preventative health measures.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Free assessment

THE Australian Pharmacy Council is offering a free skills assessment opportunity for migrants as part of the Australian Government's Migrant Skills Incentives Program.

To provide further access, the Australian Government has broadened the eligibility requirements.

Migrants who want to become registered pharmacists in Australia may be able to access a free skills assessment if they meet the eligibility requirements set out [HERE](#).

WIZARD pharmacy



“From my first conversation with Wizard Pharmacy, the sophistication of their Support Office was the biggest surprise. Their investment in IT and data analytics positions Wizard Pharmacy as a market leader in the retail environment. This support around the retail components of my pharmacy allows my team of pharmacists to focus on being the best pharmacists they can be. I wish I'd joined sooner!”

Andrew Stent | WIZARD PHARMACY FRANCHISEE
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Tainted syrup!

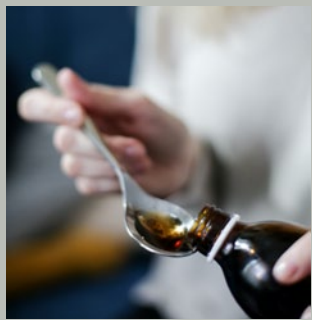
FAMILIES of Indonesian children who died because of tainted cough syrup demanded restitution as an Indonesian court this week started hearing their class-action lawsuit against government agencies and pharmaceutical firms.

About 200 children have died of acute kidney injury in Indonesia since last year and authorities have said two ingredients, ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol, found in some syrup-based paracetamol medications are linked to the illness.

The two ingredients are used in antifreeze, brake fluids and other industrial applications, but also as a cheaper alternative in some pharmaceutical products to glycerine, a solvent or thickening agent in many cough syrups.

They can be toxic and can lead to acute kidney injury.

The 25 families are suing the health and finance ministries, the drugs regulator and at least eight drug companies for up to 3.4b rupiah (US\$224K), *Reuters* reported.



Pop up AI for skin cancer

THE world's first pop-up skin cancer clinic that uses artificial intelligence to help detect suspicious skin lesions was launched at the Tour Down Under in Victor Harbor yesterday.

The free service, delivered by nurses, uses algorithms in conjunction with doctors' clinical expertise to detect skin cancer, which affects two out of every three Australians during their lifetime.

Thanks to a partnership between national health charity Skin Check Champions, the University of South Australia (UniSA) and The Hospital Research Foundation, the new nurse-led model delivered via pop-up clinics is being piloted to improve skin checks in regional South Australia, where skin cancer rates are up to 31% higher than people in metropolitan areas.

UniSA Professor in Cancer Nursing, Marion Eckert, said



distance is a big disadvantage when it comes to skin screening services.

"Skin cancer prevention programs are under-funded and under-resourced, especially outside large cities, despite melanoma being the third most diagnosed cancer in Australia and melanoma killing four Australians every day," Eckert said.

Skin Check Champions CEO Scott Maggs said the world-class AI technology has performed as well as dermatologists, even outclassing them in some experiments, although control trials and more research are needed to better validate the algorithms.

Climate stress traumatises our brains

THE long-term negative impact of climate stress on our brains is highlighted by new research led by NEATLabs at the University of California, San Diego.

Published in *PLOS Climate*, the study showed that exposure to traumatic climate like wildfires can have long-lasting effects on cognition, particularly the ability to process information in the presence of visual interference.

The researchers found that wildfire exposure was associated with subsequently greater

difficulty in sensory interference processing - quickly and accurately reporting information from a visual scene when it is surrounded by distracting or conflicting stimuli.

Simultaneous EEG recordings showed that those who were exposed to the wildfire also showed greater activity in the frontal cortices of their brains, indicating that they were putting forth more cognitive effort, and still not performing as well.

To learn more **CLICK HERE**.

Parents' webinar

THE Guild knows it can be difficult keeping up with legislation changes, managing staff and, in addition, having all the information a business owner needs for an employee that's an expectant parent.

It's not surprising that when faced with an expectant employee many small businesses choose to leave the planning for later.

However, the Guild said if a person gets this process wrong, the impact on the expectant staff member, and subsequently, the business can be enormous.

So, the Guild is holding a 'Supporting parents in small business' event on 23 Jan.

In this webinar, presented by Transitioning Well psychologist Vanessa Miles and partner at HR Legal Georgie Chapman, the Guild will discuss how to best manage the process from pregnancy announcement through to return to work, to ensure that a business owner is not just covering their legal obligations, but they are supporting the mental health and wellbeing of their staff members as well.



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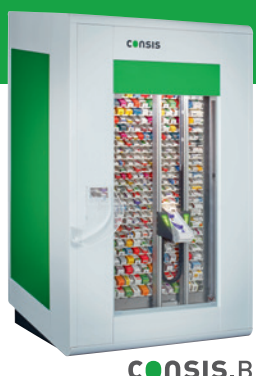
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Dispensary Corner

HEALTH workers who rushed to the aid of an “unconscious” woman in a British art gallery were somewhat surprised when they discovered she was part of an art installation.

Police broke down the doors of the Laz Emporium gallery in Soho after reports about a “person in distress”.

First responders spotted what appeared to be a woman slumped over a table, with concerns she had collapsed.

“Officers forced entry to the address, where they discovered that the person was in fact a mannequin,” according to a report in *Artnet News*.

The installation is a sculpture by American artist Mark Jenkins, depicting a woman wearing sneakers and a yellow hoodie, slumped forward into a bowl of soup with her long blonde hair concealing her face.

Apparently it’s extremely realistic, with the publication noting that paramedics had also previously been called in to assist the woman last Oct.

Gastro alert for children



PHARMACISTS should encourage people in NSW to stay on alert for symptoms of gastroenteritis, with testing and hospital data showing a significant rise in cases in recent weeks across the state.

Rotavirus is one common cause of viral gastroenteritis and can be severe in young children.

The latest testing data from NSW Health shows rotavirus notifications are at some of their highest levels of the last decade.

In the first two weeks of this year, 197 cases of rotavirus were identified, compared with about 40 cases during the same period usually.

Director of NSW Health’s One Health branch Keira Glasgow said

reducing the spread of gastro before schools returned in the next few weeks is important.

“Last week, there were more than 2,250 presentations to NSW emergency departments with symptoms of gastroenteritis.

“Presentations were particularly high in children under five years old, and in children aged five to 16 years old,” Glasgow said.

“The message to the community is clear - simple measures can help stop the spread of gastro.

“Maintaining good hand hygiene and keeping children at home when they are unwell will give us a good chance to slow the spread before Feb, when children will all be back together at school.”

FDA flags safety

A **NEAR** real-time surveillance system has picked up a ‘preliminary’ safety signal indicating that Pfizer and BioNTech’s Omicron-adapted COVID-19 booster vaccine is potentially linked to stroke in people 65 and older, the FDA and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported last week.

However, the agencies are not recommending changes to vaccination practice for now as the overall data suggests it is ‘very unlikely’ the signal represents a true clinical risk.

They noted that this preliminary signal, flagged by the Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD), has not been identified with Moderna’s bivalent shot.

The VSD is a collaboration between CDC and about a dozen healthcare organisations with electronic health records on 12m people.

Out of around 550,000 people aged 65-plus who received the Pfizer/BioNTech bivalent booster vaccine, 130 people had strokes (no deaths) in the first three weeks after being vaccinated.

Sleep music choices are energetic

WHILE a lot of us will listen to quiet and slow music while counting sheep to fall asleep, European researchers say that a lot of our Spotify playlists for sleep include faster, louder and more energetic tracks.

The team looked at 225,626 tracks from 985 playlists on Spotify that are associated with sleep, and say that only three of six discovered sub-categories

included ambient music, whereas the others had higher levels of energy, and often included several pop songs, including Dynamite by BTS, and Lovely by Billie Eilish and Khalid.

The researchers believe that despite the higher energy of the songs, the familiarity might in fact aid with relaxation and sleep.

For more information on the sleep study **CLICK HERE**.



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