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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus a fact sheet from GS1 and full pages from:

- TerryWhite Chemmart
- The Pharmacy Guild
- Sigma Healthcare

ODT to move to s100 HSD

THE way in which Opioid Dependence Treatment (ODT) medicines are currently listed on the PBS Schedule is changing.

From 01 Jul, Opioid Dependence Treatment medicines will become part of the Section 100 Highly Specialised Drugs (HSD) Program (Community Access) arrangements, the PBS has explained.

This means ODT medicines will be dispensed in the same way as other community access Section 100 HSD Program medicines from section 90 approved community pharmacies, section 92 approved medical practitioners, and section 94 approved hospital authorities (public and private).

Under the Section 100 HSD Program, PBS-eligible patients will pay the PBS co-payment to access their treatment (for up to 28 days' supply per pharmaceutical benefit prescribed) and the amount paid will contribute towards their PBS Safety Net threshold.

Additional private dispensing or dosing fees cannot be charged by section 90 community or section 94 hospital pharmacies to patients for ODT medicines under the PBS.

Supplying patients with

methadone liquid, buprenorphine sublingual tablets and buprenorphine + naloxone sublingual films often requires more frequent activities relating to in-pharmacy and takeaway dosing.

Therefore, also from 01 Jul, a community pharmacy program for ODT medicines will be established, including onsite pharmacist administration of injectable buprenorphine, which will introduce nationally consistent payment arrangements for ODT services provided by community pharmacists, explained the PBS.

ODT medicines currently listed on the PBS Schedule include methadone oral liquid, buprenorphine sublingual tablets, buprenorphine + naloxone sublingual films, and long-acting injectable buprenorphine products.

Pharmacists can register to participate in the ODT Community Pharmacy Program via the PPA website, [HERE](#).

Claims can be submitted to Services Australia to be reimbursed in accordance with the remuneration structure for community access Section 100 HSD Program medicines.

Positive learning

THE Sigma Pharmacist Summit was a "jam-packed weekend of learning and networking".

Delegates said several positives that can be implemented in businesses to offset the 60-DD policy came up. See more on [page seven](#).



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Grow your scripts

TERRYWHITE Chemmart brings 60 years of business experience to back its myTWC app that aims to grow script numbers, expand the customer base and increase average transaction value.

See more on the [page five](#).

Support the Guild

THE Pharmacy Guild is reminding members to renew their 2023-2024 membership or take out a new one.

The Guild provides advocacy, industry insights and expert support for your business.

See more on [page six](#).



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PATY 2023 ACT state finalists announced

PHARMACY assistant Anneliese Hoff (pictured left) from Discount Drug Stores Tuggeranong has been chosen to represent ACT at the national finals of the 2023 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY).



Hoff was selected from nine territory finalists at the ACT workshop held last week, where participants demonstrated their pharmacy knowledge and showcased their skills in customer service and leadership.

In addition, the Glucojel Super Star Award, which recognises outstanding customer service among the PATY state finalists was taken out by Susie Hillman (pictured right) from Discount Drug Store Franklin for ACT.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's ACT Branch President, Simon Blacker, congratulated Hoff for her valuable contribution to community pharmacy.

"Anneliese has demonstrated a strong commitment to her work, including the many patients she helps in her community in Canberra's south, which is what this award is all about.

"I'd like to congratulate Anneliese for her outstanding work as ACT's top pharmacy assistant," said Blacker.

By participating in the national finals, Hoff will be in the running to take home more than \$10,000 in prizes including a \$5,000 cash prize, a training package, educational opportunities and other rewards.

Side-by-side full support

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has acknowledged Adjunct Associate Professor Steve Morris (pictured) as incoming Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) at a time of "great opportunity to improve medication safety through advancing the specialised skills of Australia's pharmacists and technicians".

On behalf of the Board of Directors, branches and members across the country, SHPA Acting Chief Executive Nick Sharp-Paul welcomed Morris, who is a former SHPA Board Director and award winner.

"Steve has deep connections to SHPA as a former Director, recipient of our prestigious 2019 Fred J Boyd Award and the time in his career working in the hospital setting, during which he was integral in establishing SA Pharmacy.

"Since stepping down from the SHPA Board, Steve was a visionary leader of NPS MedicineWise,



dedicated to better clinician and consumer decision-making in health to improve both health and economic outcomes in Australia.

"This year we will welcome the pharmacy world to Brisbane for the 81st FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, a fantastic chance to showcase the inter-professional alignment between two of Australia's venerable pharmacy organisations.

Sharp-Paul thanked the outgoing PSA CEO Mark Kinsela on his tenure "whose leadership over the past few years has spanned several important collaborations".

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*Reference: 1. Lang C, et al., *Planta Med* 2015;81:968-974. Supported by Engelhard Arzneimittel GmbH & Co. KG.

*Chesty Cough W/E 2022-12-31





A helping hand

THE Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth South Australia has raised over \$8,000 with its charity walk on Sun 18 Jun for Adelaide's Homeless.

Ata-ul-Hadi, President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth, speaking to *The Wire*, said, "particularly with winter upon us, we see that many people are forced to go without a shelter over their head or a decent meal, and we are addressing it by providing warm meals to the homeless around Adelaide.

"We freshly prepare the food in our kitchen, pack it into boxes and deliver it straight to those who are in need.

"The food is warm and accompanied by other small items of necessity," explained ul-Hadi.

Natalis back on shelves



AFTER a one-year hiatus, the Australian-made pregnancy multivitamins brand Natalis is returning to shelves this month, with enhanced distribution through both community pharmacy and Chemist Warehouse stores across the country.

Endorsed by the Australian College of Midwives, Natalis is specifically formulated to meet the heightened nutritional needs of women throughout their motherhood journey, from pre-conception to pregnancy and breastfeeding and contains 19 important nutrients, including folic acid and iodine, which support the healthy development of babies and may prevent major birth defects of the brain and spine.

Iron, vitamins B, C, D and E and a range of other minerals are also included to support the increased nutritional needs of women who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

"By mid-Jun, with shelves restocked, Natalis will be available through our trusted community pharmacy partners in more than 4,000 stores, and an additional 500 doors through Chemist Warehouse locations across Australia," said Ornella Caiazza, Marketing Manager for Natalis.

"At Natalis, our goal has always been to provide a more affordable alternative to daily pregnancy multivitamins for Australian women, without compromising on quality or care.

"We are committed to this goal and to working with our pharmacy partners to rebuild and strengthen our brand presence across the country," she said.

To support its return to shelves, Natalis will be offering a gift with

purchase (a pink Natalis tote bag) and providing point-of-sale materials through its community pharmacy partners.

In addition, Natalis will continue to give back to the community through partnerships with Miracle Babies, an organisation that provides vital emotional support and resources to new parents with premature babies requiring specialised care, as well as The Australian College of Midwives.

"Natalis directly supports the valuable work of both organisations, making a meaningful difference in the lives of families across the country," said Caiazza.

Natalis will be available in two sizes upon its relaunch - a 30-tablet pack for RRP: \$26.99, and a 100-tablet pack for RRP: \$59.99.

Barcodes tech

GS1 recommends looking at your pharmacy's scanning equipment and technology as 2D barcodes on products are growing in healthcare.

GS1 has a fact sheet on its camera scanning technology. Find out more on [page eight](#).

Anaemia & aspirin

A NEW study analysing data from the Monash University-led study's ASPREE trial has found that prolonged daily aspirin use increases the risk of anaemia by 20% in people aged 70 and older.

The results suggest that regular monitoring for anaemia be considered for older adults who take low-dose aspirin, and if concerned about their health or medications they should discuss it with their healthcare practitioner, said the researchers.

In addition to a higher risk of anaemia, blood tests revealed a faster decline of haemoglobin and ferritin levels in the aspirin group compared to the placebo group.

Learn more [HERE](#).



1 Best selling Lip balm product* In Australian Pharmacy



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* IQVIA Sell Out Total Pharmacy Value Sales to MAT W/E 2023-05-06.

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Dispensary Corner

POLICE in the USA have charged a former employee at the Harvard Medical School morgue with selling human remains from donated bodies.

According to court documents, the alleged offender was part of a "massive nationwide network" which traded in body parts stolen from the facility.

Between 2018 and 2022 he and his wife conspired to dismember the cadavers and sell items on demand via social media platforms, accepting payments amounting to thousands of dollars on PayPal.

Heads, brains, bones and skin were all sought after by some of the purchasers, with prosecutor Gerard M. Karam from the Middle District of Pennsylvania saying "some crimes defy understanding".

FORGET medication - managing inflammatory bowel disease could involve being infected with hookworms, according to a New Zealand research team.

The Malaghan Institute of Medical Research has for some years been looking at the potential therapeutic benefits of human hookworms in patients suffering from allergic and inflammatory diseases.

A pilot study has found the parasites were well tolerated, safe and long-lasting in patients with ulcerative colitis in remission, paving the way for wider clinical studies.

A paper in the *Inflammatory Bowel Diseases* journal concludes that one-day treatment could be as simple as "infect and forget".

Sleep clues on head hits



A **SMALL**-scale new study led by Flinders University points to the importance of sleep quality in the aftermath and recovery process of mild traumatic brain injury such as sports-related concussion.

Results from a study in South Australia found that sleep appears to 'improve' in the eight weeks after concussion, including longer duration sleep, better sleep efficiency, and even longer deep sleep as the recovery progresses.

"Little is known about sleep after a concussion, despite sleep arguably being the more important process to allow the brain to function optimally," shared Flinders University sleep researcher Dr David Stevens, who treats

and researches sports-related concussion.

"The results of this study gives credence to previous studies in animals showing that improving sleep supports recovery from brain injury and, therefore, should be explored and monitored in detail for recovery and other effects of concussion such as loss of cognitive function, alertness and depression and anxiety.

"We hypothesise sleep can be a key indicator of the the brain trying to repair or recover from the concussion," Stevens said.

Pictured: Former SA NFLW player Maya Rigter who is still recovering from three concussions, the last of which forced her to retire on 19 Mar.

Leave BBQs and outdoor heaters outside

NSW Health is reminding pharmacy customers to never use outdoor heaters or BBQs inside their homes due to the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

NSW Poisons Information Centre's Medical Director Dr Darren Roberts said outdoor heaters and BBQs produce carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas you can't see, taste or smell.

"Last year, we received an

increase in the number of calls related to carbon monoxide poisoning so we are warning people to be safe in how they heat their homes this winter," Dr Roberts said.

Symptoms of poisoning include headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness and weakness.

People with more severe poisoning may faint or lose consciousness.

Guild Update

Scope of practice gains momentum

THE Guild continues to work to ensure the best possible outcomes for its members and one area is for pharmacists to be able to work to their full scope of practice.

Momentum in this area is building as State and Territory Governments respond by announcing practical measures to see patients treated for everyday health conditions in their local community pharmacy.

This will help ease the pressures and challenges facing the Australian healthcare system as it faces increasing demand driven by a growing and ageing population, rising rates of chronic disease, and the projected increase in the utilisation rate of health services.

Community pharmacists are a key component in the Australian healthcare system and help support the health of the communities they serve.

Individuals, on average, visit a pharmacy 18 times each year, which is more frequent than visits to a general practitioner.

Pharmacists are highly trained health professionals, experts in medication management, and knowledgeable in disease management and prevention and removing the restrictions on pharmacists working to the full scope is good health policy.

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Elevate your Education

Pharmacist Summit

It's a wrap!

Congratulations to everyone who took part in our inaugural **Sigma Pharmacist Summit** earlier this month. It was a jam-packed weekend of **learning and networking** which has continued with **new ideas already being executed** in delegates' pharmacies.

Pharmacists heard from a range of sought after key speakers including: Kos Sclavos, Vanessa Lontos, Peter Saccasan and Morris Misel.

Take a look at what delegates had to say about the event.

“Excellent event, highly relevant, great content. Looking forward to Pharmacist Summit 2024.”

“Very well organised. Relevant and informative content covering all aspects of pharmacy. Great exhibitors as well. Thank you for organising the summit.”

“I think the content was excellent. Yes, we are all worried about 60-day dispensing, but the Summit focused on positives we could achieve in our businesses.”

“Absolutely phenomenal event! The content was relevant, diverse & engaging and I came away with many new & achievable ideas and concepts to implement within our pharmacy. The whole weekend was impeccably organised. The venue, stands, speakers and structure of the Summit were first class and I met so many great people. In all, this has been one of the best events I've attended in my career as a pharmacist so far and I am so excited for years to come.”

“Great diversity of very relevant topics – all speakers covered their own unique topic and did not step on each other's toes. Content was exceptional in showing a new perspective/positive light on double dispensing but this definitely did not hijack the fact that the topics are all just as important independent of double dispensing. Kos was just wow wow wow, the Summit made me so proud to be a pharmacist.”





System recommendations for Australian Pharmacy Camera-based scanners and standards capability

The use of '2D' barcodes has been increasing organically within healthcare for many years, with a significant focus on traceability and batch management driving this change. With the introduction of new regulations by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), an increased focus on product authentication and the greater focus on inventory management and supply chain due to shortages increased 2D barcodes are appearing on prescription and OTC products. Being sure that all systems in pharmacies can handle these

barcodes is a must, this means there is a need to look at scanning equipment and systems to ensure that can manage the barcodes and the data they hold.

Choosing camera-based scanning technology and ensuring that solutions or applications can read data from the 2D barcodes and can parse the data string following global data standards should now be included in the digital strategies across healthcare.

What's in the barcode?



(01) 0 9312345 531370
(17) 201231
(10) ABCDEF123456
(21) 10022337269ABCDEF

(01)09312345531370

(01) The Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) formerly the EAN. A 14-digit system capability is a must to be able to process this correctly

(17)201231

(17) The Expiry Date in a 6 digit machine readable format of YYMMDD. It can be presented within a system or for staff in a more human friendly field

(10)ABCDEF123456

(10) The Batch/Lot Number of up to 20 Alpha Numeric characters

(21)10022337269ABCDEF

(21) The Serial Number of up to 20 Alpha Numeric characters

The barcode is a GS1 DataMatrix. Its format and the data within it are all based on standards used globally

What do your technology solutions need?

All Inventory, Dispensing and Point of Sale systems need to be able to interpret the data from these barcodes. You can check your systems, report issues and source advice by [visiting here](#)

Need Advice?

E healthcareteam@gs1au.org T 1300 227 263

Do you have camera-based scanners?

Whilst traditionally we have had linear barcodes being used and these only needed linear scanners, these new barcodes need camera-based, imaging scanners. Though a camera or Charged Coupled Device (CCD) based scanner can still read a linear code for traditional barcodes unfortunately the reverse is not true, therefore with any upgrades to scanners, a change to camera-based scanners is recommended.