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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

### Weight loss drug

**DURING** a mid-stage trial, Eli Lilly's experimental pill orforglipron has led to 14.7% weight loss after 36 weeks, for people who were obese or overweight, setting a marker in the race to develop effective oral obesity drugs, said researchers last week in *Reuters*.

Results from a different trial, also presented in San Diego at the annual meeting of the American Diabetes Association, showed that Lilly's injected drug Mounjaro helped people with type 2 diabetes who were also obese or overweight lose an average of 15% of their body weight, or 14.8kg.

Lilly said the safety profile of orforglipron was similar to other incretin-based therapies.

## First stage of meds on 60DD out now

**THE** list of medicines in stage one of the 60-DD policy is now confirmed, with the legislative instrument to enable the policy change registered on the Federal Register of Legislation, ahead of being tabled in the Senate next month, the Federal Dept of Health has confirmed.

This first stage includes 92 medicines for a wide range of conditions, including cardiovascular disease, Crohn's disease, gout, heart failure, high cholesterol, hypertension, osteoporosis, and ulcerative colitis, as seen [HERE](#).

The Federal Dept of Health shared that the change means patients living with a chronic, stable condition will be able to buy two months' worth of these medicines for the price of a single prescription, rather than the current 30-day supply.

The decision to write a script with two months' worth of medicine will be made by a patient's GP or other prescriber, based on their



professional clinical judgement.

The option to prescribe a one-month supply remains.

People with a Medicare card buying one of these medicines could save up to \$180 every year, while Concession card holders may save \$43.80 a year for each eligible medicine.

The full list of medicines recommended for longer dispensing intervals will include more than 300 common medicines and will be implemented in three stages over 12 months, starting 01 Sep.

The Dept confirmed that "every single dollar saved by the Govt from lower dispensing fees will go back into pharmacy services".

"More than \$1.2 billion will be

re-invested into expanded services such as vaccinations, medication safety, and support for opioid-dependent patients, and increased financial support to pharmacies in regional, rural and remote Australia."

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said, "community pharmacists will be financially supported to deliver more advanced clinical services, so they can play an even more central role in the healthcare of Australians".

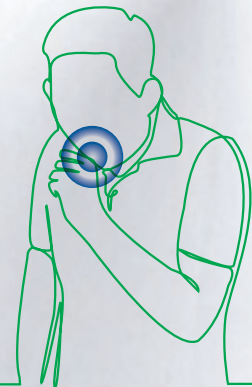
"The Govt continues to work with all parts of the pharmacy sector on the implementation of this policy.

"Australian pharmacies already do much more than just dispense medicine and the Govt is supporting our trusted pharmacists to play an even bigger role in the healthcare of Australians."

The 60-DD policy, when fully implemented, should see at least six million Australians halve their medicine costs and need fewer GP visits to get their medicines.

## DRAW THE LINE...

### When it comes to Cough, Cold and Flu relief



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## Dispensary Corner

**WEBSTER-PAK** and its inventor Gerard Stevens were recently 'locked in' to Australian pop culture by being the subject of a correctly answered question by a participant on Channel Nine's *Millionaire Hot Seat*.

Host 'Lock-it-in' Eddie Maguire asked his contestant, "created in 1985, the Webster-pak is an Australian product designed for what primary purpose?"

The contestant is offered four potential answers.

"I deal with these daily," said the senior medical receptionist. "Lock in A," she said without hesitation.

She chose "A. Dispensing medications".

After congratulating the correct answer, Eddie Maguire added further, "created by Sydney pharmacist actually, Gerard Stevens, the Webster-pak was one of the world's first multi-dose medication packs filled with...medications sorted into the times of the day".

As known to many, Webstercare is a company run by pharmacists for pharmacists, aiming to make the process of dispensing and taking medications as safe as possible.

The idea is to offer aged care facility staff, doctors, carers and patients 'peace of mind' by improving medication management.



## PATY NSW finalists shine

**PHARMACY** assistant Morgan Burnside (pictured left) from Priceline Pharmacy Beecroft in Sydney has been chosen to represent New South Wales at the national finals of the 2023 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY).

In a workshop held in New South Wales last week, Burnside was selected from 12 state finalists where participants demonstrated their pharmacy knowledge and showcased their skills in customer service and leadership.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's New South Wales Branch President, David Heffernan congratulated Burnside for his valuable contribution to community pharmacy in Australia.

"Morgan has demonstrated a strong commitment to her work and to the industry, and that is what this award is all about.



"I congratulate Morgan for standing out as the top pharmacy assistant in New South Wales," said Heffernan.

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

In addition to the main award, PATY features the Glucojel Super Star Award, which Danielle Davis (pictured right) from Terry White Chemmart Coffs Harbour took out this year for New South Wales.

## Opioid guidelines

**NEW** clinical guidelines have been developed by Australian researchers to support medical colleagues in reducing opioid use in their patients.

Published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, the evidence-based clinical guidelines will help health professionals with what is known as "opioid deprescribing".

Dr Aili Langford, Assoc Prof Danijela Gnjidic and Assoc Prof Carl Schneider and their colleagues at the University of Sydney have made 11 recommendations providing advice about when and how opioid deprescribing should be considered, **HERE**.

## Asthma hot spots

**WESTERN** Australia, parts of the Northern Territory, and Tasmania have been identified as asthma "hot spots" by recording the highest numbers of people with difficult-to-treat asthma in Australia, as per a study published in the *Journal of Asthma*.

The study also found, **HERE**, the greatest prevalence of severe uncontrolled asthma and/or more frequent use of oral corticosteroids was observed in South Australia, parts of Queensland and New South Wales.

The study also found overuse of medications with poor adherence and asthma control.

## Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Mark Churchill**, Director - Banking & Investment, Kizmet Capital



### Reluctant to pass on Merchant fees?

**I BOUGHT** a coffee the other day and noticed after tapping, my phone displayed the transaction as \$4.57. Merchant fee of \$0.07, passed on again to the consumer, simple.

GP appointment, same thing. Pharmacy transaction...no fee.

The consumer since COVID (in particular) has been conditioned to pay merchant fees, in fact, I can't think of the last time (except the pharmacy transaction) that I didn't pay a fee. With 60 Day coming, every business must look at cost savings.

Merchant fees are something the consumer has been conditioned to pay so why aren't you passing it on?

You now have an opportunity (if asked) to educate the consumer as to why you now need to pass on fees.

Things you can consider are ditching AMEX and asking instead about Lowest Cost Routing (LCR).

LCR is the ability of the EFTPOS terminal to process the payment in the lowest (fee) cost way for the Merchant.

When you contact your Merchant Provider about LCR question their pricing.