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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus a full page from Nova Pharmaceuticals and the May MIMS Update.

UTI trial decried

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in its Senate Committee submission warns that expanding pharmacy prescribing powers to treat UTIs in South Australia "is not the right call".

The organisation cited increased risk to patient safety, fragmentation of care, crowded retail settings not suitable for sensitive conversations, poor follow-through based on a survey, over-prescribing in the face of increased antibiotic resistance, and potential conflict of interest as prescribers and dispensers are the same, as some of their reasons.

Embed into aged care

THE Commonwealth Government's Medical Research Future Fund recently invested \$1.5m into investigating how pharmacists can work with other healthcare professionals to implement the new Department of Health and Aged Care Guiding Principles for Medication Management in Residential Aged Care Facilities.

The project, which is being led by the Centre for Medicine Use and Safety (CMUS) based at the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, is called Maximising Embedded Pharmacists in aGed cAre Medication Advisory Committees (MEGA-MAC).

It will involve pharmacists working as system-level knowledge brokers to optimise the structure and function of local medication advisory committees (MACs), and implementation of an innovative national quality improvement collaborative.

Project Lead and CMUS Director



Professor Simon Bell said the MEGA-MAC will act as a real-time clinical network to support embedded pharmacists and local medication advisory committees to deliver, monitor and evaluate quality improvement initiatives.

"Our project will support residential aged care facilities to implement the guiding principles and provide a framework for embedded pharmacists to share best practice and strategies between medication advisory committees across Australia," explained Bell.

Butler to 'monitor'

SPEAKING at the National Press Club in Canberra yesterday, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said his dept would only "monitor" the impact of the 60-day medication policy.

The Pharmacy Guild's economic modelling, using data provided by the Dept of Health, shows this policy will cut \$3.5b in patient care over the next four years.

This \$3.5b cut has a \$1.2b saving to the Budget in Govt dispensing fees, with community pharmacies expected to pay for a further \$2.3b in patient fees for the policy.

Guild President Trent Twomey said the Govt needed to return \$3.5b to community pharmacies.

"Put simply, he's giving on one hand and taking away with another and that's bad policy which means bad outcomes for patients."

Twomey said Butler also refused to guarantee there would be no medicine shortages under his policy.

"Using TGA information there are 158 medicines that are either in shortage or anticipated shortage when the policy begins," Twomey said.

"These include Trulicity and Ozempic for diabetes, Cadivast, Acetec Teveten for blood pressure, Simpral for Parkinson's, and Zolof for depression.

"Double of nothing is still nothing and patients will not get the medicine they need."



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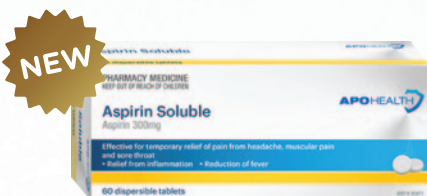
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See more on **page five**.

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Stelara on PBS

AUSTRALIAN adults with moderate-to-severe ulcerative colitis will now have subsidised access to a new treatment option, known as Stelara (ustekinumab), via the PBS.

The initial dose of Stelara is given via intravenous infusion, while all maintenance doses are given by injection every eight weeks with the option of self-injection.

Stelara belongs to a drugs class called 'monoclonal antibodies' or 'biologics', which are special kinds of proteins that see and bind to other unique proteins in the body.

First Optometrist Warehouse opens

CHEMIST Warehouse Co-Founder Jack Gance was joined by Optometrist Warehouse Managing Directors and optometry veterans Charles Horner and Peter Larsen (pictured), to celebrate the official opening of Optometrist Warehouse's first store over the weekend with a ribbon cutting in Malvern, Victoria.

Optometrist Warehouse offered customers branded coffees and balloons for kids, to commemorate the official launch.

Open seven days a week, Optometrist Warehouse has state-of-the-art, hospital-grade clinical technology designed to



assist with the early detection of eye conditions that often lead to sight loss or poor vision, discounted prices on all optical products and bulk-billing on all eye care services.

Horner explained that "there is a real public need for a new bulk-billed model for optometry in Australia that engages the whole community because currently, 35% of people are not engaging with a regular eye test.

"Our job is to consistently amplify the benefits of regular tests and the impacts achievable for individuals when you bring together our highly qualified optometrists with a suite of advanced clinical technology."

Larsen added that "literally from day one, our optometrists have recorded significant hard-to-detect eye disease and related conditions that have resulted in intervention and referral to eye specialists.

"The misconception is that optometry is just about correcting poor vision.

"It is just as much about the eye, the optic nerve and retina, the less tangible areas where problems

occur that do not manifest themselves in poor sight or vision, very often until it is too late to treat or manage successfully."

Initial expansion plans include the opening of a handful of stores in 2023, followed by a mass network rollout.

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Inhaled oxytocin

A PHASE one clinical trial led by Monash University to assess the safety and performance of a novel oxytocin inhaler in healthy, non-pregnant female volunteers has commenced in Melbourne.

The Inhaled Oxytocin Project, led by Prof Michelle McIntosh from the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has developed a heat-stable powder formulation of oxytocin that, when inhaled, aims to provide protection against postpartum haemorrhage comparable to existing gold standard injection products.



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NEW



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OSA link to IBD

AS MANY as one in five people with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) may also suffer from obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA).

A new Flinders University-led study recommends people with IBD be screened for OSA, a common and debilitating respiratory condition, to improve their long-term health.

OSA is linked to a variety of medical conditions including cardiovascular disease, stroke, obesity, Parkinson's, anxiety and depression and gastroesophageal reflux disease, with Flinders and SA Health researchers developing a new screening tool to identify possible OSA in IBD patients.

The study findings were published in *Crohn's and Colitis 360* journal that have recommend OSA screening. Learn more [HERE](#).

Priceline kicks up a pink

PRICELINE Pharmacy has successfully trademarked the magenta Pantone, joining a prestigious club of iconic brands in Australia that've secured trademarks for their signature colour, including Cadbury, Tiffany, and Australia Post.

The health and beauty retailer was established in 1982 and turned to its recognised shade of pink during a rebrand in 2008.

Priceline General Manager, Andrew Vidler, said pink is now part of the brand's DNA.

"For over 40 years, Australians have trusted Priceline for its inspired range of health and beauty products, delivered with real, classic care.

"The magenta Pantone was originally selected to ensure our shopfronts stood out in the marketplace and to communicate that our brand was for women and everything that was important to them.

"It became clear that the pink



colour stirs a deeper connection in our customers and store teams, who associate it with being accepted, feeling better and experiencing a touch of magic.

"We wanted to bottle that," he said.

The trademark registration prevents businesses in certain classes from using similar Pantones to promote goods or services.

Tracking activity

THE Bureau of Health Information (BHI) has today released its latest *Healthcare in Focus* report, which reflects on the pandemic's effects on key aspects of the public health system performance throughout 2020 to 2022.

Healthcare in Focus - New South Wales and the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2022 examines public hospital activity and performance, including patients' experiences, across multiple sectors of the healthcare system focusing on ambulance services, emergency departments, admitted patients, elective, or planned, surgery, and virtual care.

The report uses patient survey results to track the impacts of COVID-19 on patients' experiences of care, and looks at patients' experiences of virtual care, and transport by ambulances.

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Dispensary Corner



LONELINESS has been announced as the latest public health epidemic in the USA, where Surgeon General Dr Vivek Murthy says it's just as deadly as smoking half a packet of cigarettes every day.

A new report from Murthy's office says loneliness costs the health sector billions of dollars a year, with the medical leader saying "millions of people in America are struggling in the shadows, and that's not right".

Americans have become less engaged with religious groups and houses of worship, community organisations and even their own families in recent decades, according to Murthy's new report.

The Surgeon General is calling on the entire community to make changes that will boost "connectedness", urging people to join community groups, reconsider remote work policies and use their mobile phones less when catching up with friends.

Murthy also urged health educators to provide additional training to help health professionals recognise the health risks of loneliness.

"There's really no substitute for in-person interaction... as we shifted to use technology more and more for our communication, we lost out a lot on that in-person interaction," he lamented.

The Surgeon General also suggested that social media and other technology providers should implement protections around online activity, particularly for children.

Get started in research

THE world of academic research is closer than ever for more Australian pharmacists and technicians with the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) yesterday introducing a new category to its flagship journal and launching a suite of resources and publishing opportunities to support residents, technicians and early career pharmacists.

The new 'Emerging Insights' article category of the *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research* (JPPR) is now accepting submissions, and the Getting started in research information hub is live on the SHPA website, pooling information on JPPR for emerging researchers, non-peer-reviewed publishing and expert advice by elected pharmacy research leaders from the SHPA membership.

SHPA Vice President Dr Kate O'Hara said the broadening of publishing opportunities and supports meets growing demand from speciality pharmacists and technicians.

'As pharmacy roles diversify and increase in complexity, academic publication is integral to building the evidence base for specialisation and team-based care, enabling the broadening of practice scope and improved medication safety in Australian healthcare.

"It's important to extend publishing accessibility to SHPA's pharmacy journal while maintaining its academic rigour, which has seen the average citations per paper in the two years after publication skyrocket from five in 2021 to 30 last year."

Learn more [HERE](#).

Change of hands

THERAPEUTIC Guidelines Limited has announced that it has been selected by the Department of Health and Aged Care as the new publisher of *Australian Prescriber*.

Therapeutic Guidelines also publishes *Therapeutic Guidelines*.

The *Australian Prescriber's* bimonthly publishing schedule will be maintained, with the next issue scheduled for release in Jun.

The podcast series will continue and will be available from Sep 2023.

Australian Prescriber will remain advertisement-free, commented the pleased CEO, Dr Leigh-Anne Claase.

Keep up-to-date [HERE](#).

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

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New Products

- **LetibotulinumtoxinA (Letybo)** blocks cholinergic transmission at the neuromuscular junction by inhibiting the release of acetylcholine from peripheral cholinergic nerve terminals. This inhibition occurs according to the following sequence: heavy chain of toxin binding to cholinergic nerve terminals, internalisation of the toxin within vesicles into the nerve terminal, translocation of the light-chain of the toxin molecule into the cytosol of the nerve terminal and enzymatic cleavage of SNAP25, the presynaptic target protein essential for the release of acetylcholine. Complete recovery of endplate function/impulse transmission after intramuscular injection normally occurs within 3-4 months as nerve terminals sprout and reconnect with the muscle endplate and the presynaptic neurotransmitter release mechanism becomes functional again. *Letybo is indicated for the temporary improvement in the appearance of moderate to severe glabellar frown lines in adults.* Letybo is contraindicated in generalised disorders of muscle activity (e.g. myasthenia gravis, Lambert-Eaton syndrome, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) and in infection or inflammation at the proposed injection sites. Letybo powder for injection contains letibotulinumtoxinA 100 units and is available in packs of 1 vial.
- **Pneumococcal 20-valent polysaccharide conjugate vaccine (Prevenar 20)** contains 20 pneumococcal capsular polysaccharides all conjugated to a CRM₁₉₇ carrier protein, which modifies the immune response to the polysaccharide from a T-cell independent response to a T-cell dependent response. The T-cell dependent response leads to both an enhanced antibody response and generation of memory B-cells, allowing for an anamnestic (booster) response on re-exposure to the bacteria. Vaccination with Prevenar 20 induces serum antibody production and immunologic memory against the serotypes contained within the vaccine. Protection against pneumococcal disease is conferred mainly by opsonophagocytic killing of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. *Prevenar 20 is indicated for active immunisation for the prevention of pneumococcal disease caused by S. pneumoniae serotypes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 8, 9V, 10A, 11A, 12F, 14, 15B, 18C, 19A, 19F, 22F, 23F, 33F in adults 18 years of age and older.* Prevenar 20 is contraindicated in individuals with hypersensitivity to diphtheria toxoid. Prevenar 20 suspension for injection contains 2.2 micrograms each of serotypes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 7F, 8, 9V, 10A, 11A, 12F, 14, 15B, 18C, 19A, 19F, 22F, 23F, and 33F, and 4.4 micrograms of serotype 6B, conjugated to 51 micrograms of diphtheria CRM₁₉₇ protein and adsorbed on aluminium phosphate (0.125 mg aluminium per dose). It is available as a 0.5 mL prefilled syringe in packs of 1.

New Indications

- **Darolutamide (Nubeqa)** is now indicated, in combination with docetaxel, for the treatment of metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer.
- **Ipilimumab (Yervoy)** is now indicated, in combination with nivolumab, for the first-line treatment of patients with unresectable advanced, recurrent, or metastatic oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma with tumour cell PD-L1 expression \geq 1% as determined by a validated test.
- **Nivolumab (Opdivo)** is now indicated, in combination with ipilimumab or fluoropyrimidine- and platinum-based combination chemotherapy, for the first-line treatment of patients with unresectable advanced, recurrent, or metastatic oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma with tumour cell PD-L1 expression \geq 1% as determined by a validated test.
- **Pneumococcal 15-valent polysaccharide conjugate vaccine (Vaxneuvance)** is now indicated for children from 6 weeks of age.
- **Zanubrutinib (Brukinsa)** is now indicated as monotherapy for the treatment of adult patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia or small lymphocytic lymphoma, including patients with deletion 17p and/or TP53 mutation.

New Contraindications

- **Lanthanum (carbonate hydrate) (Fosrenol)** is now contraindicated in bowel obstruction, ileus, and faecal impaction.
- **Nevirapine (Viramune XR)** is now contraindicated in total lactase deficiency.

Safety Related Changes

- **Atezolizumab (Tecentriq)** is no longer indicated for triple negative breast cancer.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.