

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Melrose
- Sigma Healthcare
- The Platform Alliance Group

Summit focus

SIGMA is holding its inaugural Pharmacist Summit to discuss the rapid changes facing the profession.

Headlined by past Guild President Kos Sclavos and other industry experts, hear about how to combat the impact of 60-day dispensing.

See more on page six.

UTI meds trial

TODAY the first stage of the NSW trial has started for pharmacists to prescribe meds for people with uncomplicated urinary tract infections.

PBAC to reverse kids meds' decision

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has recommended removing the limitations requiring specialist prescribing for asthma medications for children, and again allowing patients to receive a prescription from their GP.

The PBAC had previously recommended that 50mcg Axotide Junior and Flixotide Junior (fluticasone propionate) be restricted to children aged six years and under, be initially prescribed by a respiratory specialist, and only be prescribed with authority approval by Medicare.

These changes were made to the PBS on 01 Apr.

However, at this month's meeting, the PBAC acknowledged the concerns related to the restrictions, particularly for families living in rural and remote areas, as well as from clinicians.

Department of Health and Aged Care officials will now work with the supplier, GlaxoSmithKline, to finalise the revised listing details,

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and the Government will make further announcements when an agreement is reached.

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler explained, "I wrote to the PBAC in May, after health professionals and advocacy groups raised concerns with my office, and asked them to take another look at these issues.

"I am pleased that the PBAC has now reconsidered its advice about Fluxotide Jr and Axotide Jr and now patients will now be able to get their prescription from their GP.

"The original recommendation led to unintended consequences for GPs and families and young children who have limited access to alternative asthma treatment."

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Healthcare Professionals: Review the full Product Information (PI) before prescribing or recommending DermAid 1% cream, DermAid 1% solution, DermAid 1% spray. Full PI is available from Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd and can be accessed at ebs.tga.gov.au

References: 1. Grieve KA, Barnes TM. Increased bioavailability of hydrocortisone dissolved in a cream base. *Australas J Dermatol.* 2015; 56(2):e30–4. 2. Van Zuuren EJ, Fedorowicz Z, Christensen R, Lavrijsen APM, Arents BWM (2017) Emollients and moisturisers for eczema. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD012119. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD012119.pub2.

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Last chance

THE Platform Alliance Group (PAG) is holding webinars for all pharmacy owners on maximising opportunities in the face of the recent major health policy change.

It's your last chance to register for the 16 and 17 May webinars.

See more on the **back page**.

Smartwatch step

UNIVERSITY of Queensland (UQ) researchers have developed a roadmap for the integration of smartwatches into chronic disease management.

The roadmap will focus on three themes - building digital health prevention foundations, transforming preventive care using data and analytics, and harnessing learning systems to enable precise disease prevention.

Priceline checks heart risk

A NATIONWIDE effort to measure the blood pressure of as many Australians as possible in one week has found that almost 15% had high blood pressure, placing them at an increased risk of heart disease over the coming years.

The new data gathered during last week's Heart Week came from more than 6,000 people who had their blood pressure checked for free at a SiSU Health Station in Priceline pharmacies across the nation, as part of a partnership between SiSU Health and the Heart Foundation.

Data showed that two-thirds of people who had their check at a SiSU Health Station had never had their blood pressure checked before - a worrying statistic for the Heart Foundation.

Of concern was also the link between high blood pressure and diabetes risk, where almost 60% of people with high blood pressure also recorded a high risk of diabetes (also known as a high AUDRISK



score; calculated by the Australian Type 2 diabetes risk assessment tool), which is another risk factor for heart disease.

David Lloyd, CEO of the Heart Foundation, shared, "in Australia, having high blood pressure contributes to 50% of the burden of Coronary Heart Disease.

"An incredible one in three Australian adults suffers high blood pressure - that's 6.8m people."

Pharmacists can encourage their customers to find out their heart age using the Heart Foundation's calculator **HERE**.

Revise guidelines


WEIGHT loss drugs such as Novo Nordisk's Wegovy are not a "silver bullet" for addressing the rapid rise in obesity rates, the World Health Organization's (WHO) nutrition chief told *Reuters*, as the agency conducts its first review of obesity management guidelines in more than 20 years.

WHO is first revising guidelines for treating children and adolescents with obesity, and then for adults, said Francesco Branca, WHO Director of nutrition and food safety.

Branca said that other interventions, including diet and exercise, remain critical to help manage obesity.

The latest WHO data shows that the percentage of children and adolescents aged five to 19 who are obese or overweight has risen to just over 18% in 2016 from 4% in 1975, and this now represents more than 340 million people.

INTRODUCING NEW

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*Moderna's Spikevax Bivalent Original/Omicron BA.4-5 COVID-19 vaccine. **Pre-Filled Syringes** replace Spikevax Bivalent Original/Omicron BA.1 multidose vials.*1



Boosters provide additional protection against COVID-19

including against symptomatic infection and severe disease when given 6 months after a previous COVID-19 vaccine²⁻⁴

The Pre-Filled Syringe is now available to order for your patients

PBS Information: This product is not listed on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) or the PBS.

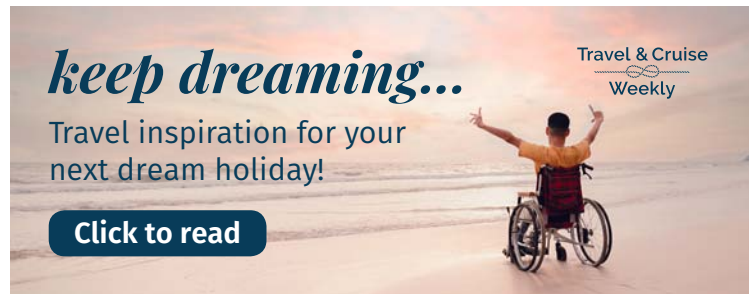
▼ This vaccine is subject to additional monitoring in Australia. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse events at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems.

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References: 1. Spikevax Bivalent Original/Omicron BA.4-5 Product Information, February 2023. 2. Chalkias S *et al*. A bivalent Omicron-containing booster vaccine against COVID-19. Available at: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.06.24.22276703v1>. Accessed April 2023. 3. Andersson NW, *et al*. Comparative effectiveness of the bivalent BA.4-5 and BA.1 mRNA-booster vaccines in the Nordic countries. *medRxiv*. Published online 2023:2023-01. 4. Link-Gelles R *et al*. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2022;71:1526-30.

moderna

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MDMA not a cure all for PTSD issues

FROM 01 Jul, authorised psychiatrists will be able to prescribe MDMA for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and psilocybin for treatment-resistant depression.

MDMA (commonly known as ecstasy or molly) and psilocybin (magic mushrooms) are psychedelic drugs that are otherwise illegal in Australia.

The response to the TGA's decision has been mixed.

There is excitement amongst patient advocacy groups about the potential benefits for Australians suffering from mental illness, for whom other treatments haven't worked.

However, many experts have voiced concerns.

Prof Colleen Loo, who is a clinical psychiatrist and researcher at UNSW Sydney and the Black Dog Institute, is one of these experts who shared

her concern that "psychedelic treatment isn't going to be rolled out in a way that represents good clinical practice, and that is in the patient's best interest".

According to Loo, mental illnesses like depression and PTSD are complex, with multiple possible treatments and "the best clinical approach for that person at that time might not always be psychedelics".

This is an important consideration as the cost of MDMA and psilocybin treatment will likely be in the five-figure range, with no planned government subsidy, she said.

"I'm concerned about the public being told clearly all the things that they should consider and know before they front up the money.

"It will be quite expensive - \$10,000 or more for a treatment course and those desperate will pay that," Loo concluded.

CSIRO's innovate to grow

AUSTRALIA'S national science agency, CSIRO, has launched a free program to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the growing health and medical technologies sector to develop new products and services.

Applications are now open for the 10-week Innovate to Grow program, which provides SMEs with the knowledge and tools to better identify and understand their research and development (R&D) opportunities, plus develop actionable business plans to advance their innovative idea.

Michelle Armistead, CSIRO's Innovate to Grow Coordinator said the program is a great opportunity for businesses looking to turn an idea into a viable research & development opportunity, and provides invaluable connections to industry experts.

"With assistance from experienced researchers and innovation experts, participants in the program will work with

a mentor to examine their technical and business challenges, explore their research and development opportunities, learn tips for partnering with research organisations and develop strong funding applications," Armistead explained.

"After completing the program, eligible participants may be able to access continued support through CSIRO, such as being connected to national research expertise or dollar-matched R&D funding to keep moving their ideas forward."

Innovate to Grow: Health and Medtech, a self-paced and virtually delivered program, is open to SMEs working in health and nutrition, digital health, botanical pharmaceuticals & nutraceuticals, diagnostics, biosensors & biomedical devices, biopharmaceuticals, drug discovery, vaccines, and biologic therapeutics.

Applications close 12 Jun and places are limited.

Learn more and apply [HERE](#).

Pharmacy Daily 2023

PHARMACY CAREERS SUMMIT

Discover the endless possibilities of a career in pharmacy at the annual Pharmacy Careers Summit. Join industry leaders and peak bodies in Australia to learn about the latest trends and opportunities in pharmacy practice. From high school to experienced professionals, the summit offers actionable steps to build a resilient and exciting career in this rapidly evolving industry. Don't miss out on this unique and informative event!

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Dispensary Corner

IT'S not clear what sort of health professional kept signing his medical certificates, but a senior information technology worker who has been on sick leave since 2008 has sued his employer, IBM, because he didn't get any pay rises during the 15 years he's been off work.

The UK *Telegraph* has detailed the strange case of Ian Clifford, who has allegedly been employed by the computer company for that time despite being unable to work.

IBM's health plan sees him receive about £54,000 annually (A\$101,000) until he turns 65, but he is claiming to be a victim of "disability discrimination" because that payment is not indexed to inflation.

Clifford initially went on sick leave in 2008, raising a grievance five years later when he was in his mid-thirties, as he had not received any pay rises, and was also complaining about a lack of holiday pay.

A compromise was reached by putting him on the company's disability plan which is available to any IBM staffer, paying them 75% of what they were earning annually at the point they become unable to work.

He believes these arrangements are not generous enough, but a British employment tribunal did not agree, with a recent ruling noting that when he reaches retirement age he will have received more than £1.5m (A\$2.8m) despite not having done any work for the company for more than three decades.

A must-have overlooked

LACK of washroom dignity is impacting productivity, with more than half of the women, surveyed by hygiene services provider Rentokil Initial, saying they have had to take time out of a workday to buy sanitary products.

Nearly one-in-five working Australians take a sick day because they aren't confident their workplace has the right products or disposal solutions to meet their menstrual or incontinence needs.

With governments across Australia now investing in the provision of free period products in public schools, Rentokil Initial is encouraging employers to break the taboo around menstruation and incontinence in the workplace and transform the washroom for working Australians.

"With many employers focusing on mental health in the workplace, it's shocking that so little has been done to support washroom dignity at work, yet it's impacting employees every day," shared Andrew Stone, Managing Director Pacific, Rentokil Initial.

"We want employers to create more inclusive washrooms, remove the stigma around menstruation and incontinence at work and offer free and easy access to products and waste disposal solutions."

The survey of 1,030 working Australians (self-identified as 522 females, 504 males and four non-binary) revealed that without the right washroom facilities at work, employees are staying at home.

Around 60% said they are more likely to work from home on days they need to access menstruation or incontinence products and bins.

"Not everyone has the option to work-from-home and with so many businesses looking for creative ways to encourage their employees



back to the office post-pandemic, providing adequately stocked washrooms seems like a simple way to reduce unnecessary absence," Stone explained.

Gender Equity Researcher Sarah Duffy agrees that period and incontinence products should be offered as a minimum standard in the workplace.

"My research has found that product provision reduces tension and anxiety and also helps women and people who menstruate to feel seen and included," Duffy said.

"Lack of washroom dignity is not only impacting women, with 37% of Australian men saying they feel stressed or anxious about not having adequate access to washroom dignity products in the workplace."

More than half of the men surveyed also shared that they are more likely to work from home on days they need access to incontinence or disposal solutions.

Duffy asserted that the time is now for employers to make this positive change, challenge taboos and reduce the stigma around menstruation and incontinence by investing in the right products.

Learn more **HERE**.

Weekly Comment

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



Preparing for the road ahead

60 DAY dispensing is coming and data providers have responded with useful tools to estimate the variance in revenue. Having an insight as to how revenue is impacted is a start to rebuilding a Profit & Loss projection to help you think about your business.

You need to ask yourself, what CAN I control?

Revenue - include sales and services that can be charged, this might include rebates and government incentives.

Cost of Goods - are you on the best deal in market?

Expenses - Largest items are rent and wages. Rent being obvious as there is now a reason to educate your landlord as to the impact and seek to renegotiate. Wages can be emotive, but you have time to consider changes. Owners commonly overlook amortisation (possibly extend loan terms with bank), insurance, electricity, printing and banner and marketing fees.

By recreating your P&L it will not only help you prepare but also help you process what is coming and help you consider both your businesses future and your mental wellbeing.

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743321	Pre-order	Melrose Liposomal Vitamin C Oral liquid 100mL	\$ 37.95	2
Pre-order	Pre-order	Melrose Liposomal Vitamin C Oral Liquid 200mL	\$ 62.00	2
743194	Pre-order	Melrose Liposomal Nicotinamide Riboside 50ml	\$ 54.95	2



Elevate your Education

Pharmacist Summit

An event not to be missed!

Register now for the
Sigma Pharmacist Summit 2023.
Registrations close 19 May 2023.

Sigma Healthcare invites franchise partners and pharmacists of Amcal, Discount Drug Stores, Guardian and PharmaSave to attend the inaugural **Sigma Pharmacist Summit, hosted in Melbourne from 2 to 4 June 2023.**

The must-attend immersive event comes as the **industry faces rapid changes, including the pending introduction of 60-day dispensing and expanded scope of practice.**

Pharmacists will hear from industry-leading speakers and experts to learn the latest in clinical knowledge, dispensary profitability, workflow efficiencies, and team development to better support franchise owners and pharmacists to achieve sustainable success and professional satisfaction.

The Summit will be headlined by industry titan, **Kos Slavos AM, previous President of The Pharmacy Guild of Australia**, who will be presenting a discussion on cultivating dispensary loyalty and diversified professional services revenue streams to better combat the impact of 60-day dispensing.

Some must-experience sessions include:



Kos Slavos AM

The Dispense Change:

Maximising patient loyalty and compliance; building a diversified dispensary and; health services revenue opportunities.

Exploring the importance of focusing on dispensary loyalty, plus scope of practice opportunities and remunerated professional pharmacy programs to help combat the impact of 60-day dispensing.



Vanessa Lontos,

BPharm, Industry-leading pharmacy coach and team development expert

The Culture Plan

An interactive workshop examining evidence-based frameworks for building team culture and workplace wellbeing using best-practice principles, helping your team to easily overcome barriers, navigate change, and achieve meaningful results for your pharmacy.



Vicki Ibrahim,

Australian Digital Health Agency

Electronic prescriptions:

Today and tomorrow

This session will discuss e-scripts integration into pharmacies' workflow, and will examine future functionalities, including the next release of the *Active Script List*, and reaffirm electronic prescribing benefits for consumers and healthcare providers.



Morris Misel

Future Shock or Future Success?

How to Navigate the Uncertain and Exciting Future of Community Pharmacy

Futurist Morris Misel shares his insights and foresights based on his experience, industry-specific pharmacy research and analysis.

KNOWLEDGE TODAY, CONFIDENCE TOMORROW.

Registrations close on Friday 19 May. Spaces are limited, register now at

<https://www.pharmacistsummit.com.au/summit-registration/>



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To register for these member events, please go to your member support portals.